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Businesses urge foreign countries; say govt doing all for security

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The country's business community has urged foreign countries not to put a red alert on Bangladesh, assuring them that the government is doing everything to root out militancy and make it a safe place.

"Bangladesh is now much safer than it was before July 1," said FMCGI President Abdul Matlub Ahmad yesterday.

The Bangladesh government has been making relentless efforts to track down and try militants. However, some countries still have red alert that is hurting businesses in Bangladesh, said Ahmad said.

"We strongly urge them to kindly see that the Bangladesh government is doing its best...it [militant attacks] happens not only in Bangladesh but in some other countries [too]," he told a memorial meeting at the Radisson Hotel in the capital.

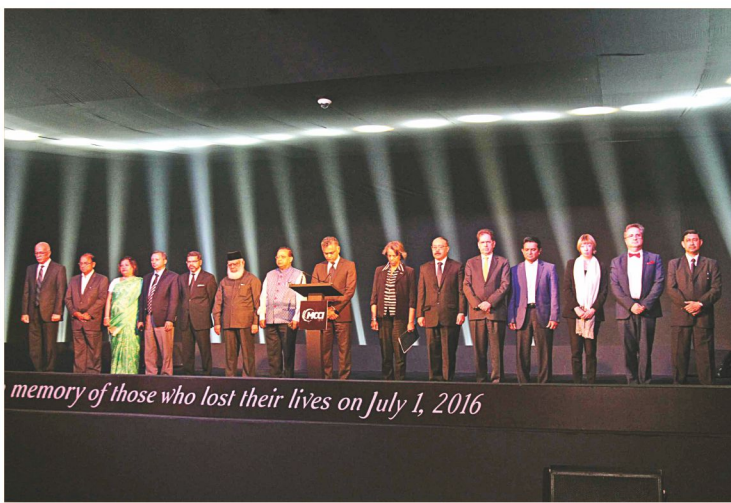
The Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Dhaka, organised the event in memory of Faraz Ayaz, Hossain and the other victims of the July 1 Gulshan café attack.

The attackers killed 20 hostages, 17 of them foreigners, and two police officers during the 12-hour siege.

Since then, there have been fears that many foreigners would move away from Bangladesh.

In response to Ahmad's call, European Union (EU) Head of Delegation Pierre Mayaudon said the EU was determined

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memory of those who lost their lives on July 1, 2016

Dignitaries observing a minute's silence at Hotel Radisson in the city yesterday in memory of those who lost their lives in the terrorist attack at Holy Artisan Bakery last month. The Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka organised the event.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

A freedom fighter living on handouts

War tribunal expresses shock at society's indifference

TUHIN SHUBHA ADHIKARY

Miron Sheikh took part in the Liberation War and played a vital role by spying on Razakars and feeding the freedom fighters with information.

One day Razakars shot him and took him to their camp at Chingra in Jessore. They also tortured him to glean information about the freedom fighters.

But Miron, ever committed to his fellow fighters and the motherland, would not give in. At one stage, Shakhawat Hossain, commander of the Razakar camp, twisted his left leg until it broke completely.

The country won independence and moved on, but no-one remembered Miron. Ignored by the society, he had to go from door to door seeking alms to run a family in the bordering areas of Jessore.

A tribunal trying the war criminals yesterday expressed shock at the society's indifference to Miron's contributions and the dismal state he's currently in.

The tribunal was delivering its verdict in a case, in which Miron was a witness as well as a victim of torture that constituted one of the five charges proved against eight Razakars including Shakhawat.

"We are shocked and surprised. It is not understood why the society and

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Trump in mess over Clinton 'gun threat'

REUTERS, Washington

Pressure from high-profile Republicans and rank-and-file voters

mounted yesterday to reject Donald Trump's candidacy as his campaign dealt with fallout from his remark that gun rights activists could stop Hillary Clinton from nominating liberal US Supreme Court justices.

Nearly one-fifth of 396 registered Republicans in a Reuters/Ipsos Aug 5-8 poll released on Wednesday

swart to drop out of the race for the White House and another 10 percent "don't know"

whether the Republican nominee should or not.

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Ctg BNP grapples with rift over committee

DWAIPOYAN BARLA, Ctg

The formation of Chittagong city BNP committee has led to discontent within the party as many leaders feel they are not valued in the party.

Leaders are also frustrated that the city unit's full-fledged committee could not be formed in the last twelve years.

Several BNP leaders said the party high command formed the new three-member committee without evaluating the contributions of dedicated and trusted leaders.

Party insiders expressed concern that the organisation would be weakened in Chittagong if the entire committee was not named soon.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on August 6 named Shahadat Hossain, Abul Hashem Bakkar and Abu Sufian as the president, general secretary and vice president of the committee.

Shahadat and Sufian were the general secretary and vice president of the previous committee.

Sufian has already signalled reluctance to participate in party activities. He did not show up at a reception accorded to the new leaders at the party office on Monday.

Talking to The Daily Star, Sufian said the party chief a couple of months ago had assured of making him the president.

"I don't know why I have been denied the post. Many BNP leaders, who

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10 medicine cos defy HC order, continue sales

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Defying a High Court order, 10 out of 34 pharmaceutical companies that have been ordered to stop marketing of substandard medicines continue to sell their products.

Officials at the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) yesterday said products of the 10 companies were still available in the market.

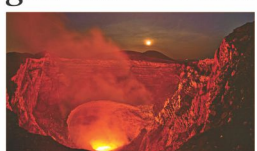
The High Court on Monday ordered the government to take measures so that sales of substandard drugs of 20 medicine companies and antibiotics of 14 others would be stopped. It also asked them to withdraw those products from the market.

The 10 companies are Avert Pharma Ltd, National Drug Pharma Ltd, Sparak Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Today Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Kafna Pharmaceuticals Ltd, North Bengal Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Millat Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Save Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Indo Bangla Pharmaceuticals Ltd and Pharmatik Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

DGDA Director General Maj Gen

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'Mouth of Hell' gets internet link



MAIL ONLINE

The Masaya Volcano, otherwise known as the 'Mouth of Hell', is an active volcano in Nicaragua which regularly erupts, posing a real danger to people in the area.

Predicting when the volcano may erupt is difficult. But researchers are now connecting it to the internet to allow them to keep a closer eye on its activity.

A team led by a man who describes himself as a 'volcano diver', is installing dozens of Wi-Fi sensors inside Masaya to monitor the volcano's activity in real time.

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PRAYER TIME AUGUST 11
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 05:12 04:45 04:11 03:30
JAMAAT 5:00 1:15 5:00 6:44 8:30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Snarl-ups as bad weather disrupts ferry crossings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of vehicles are stranded on both sides of the Padma River at Patuakhali and Mawa.

Keokananda ferry ghaats since yesterday after authorities were forced to suspend ferry and launch services at places due to inclement weather caused by the monsoon depression in the Bay of Bengal.

It rained all day yesterday because of the depression which was active and strong over the northern part of the bay in Khulna.

Meanwhile the met office has warned that rainfall may continue for the next two days. Heavy rainfall is expected today at several places including Dhaka, Mymensingh, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet areas.

Bangladesh meteorological department has advised boatmen to avoid carrying signal number 3 to maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Mongla and Payra.

Our Manikganj correspondent reports, bad

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Special rickshaws in front of Police Plaza in Gulshan-1. Bottom left, AC buses that will ply in Gulshan, Banani areas. Right, LGD Minister Khander Mosharrar Hossain and DNCC Mayor Anisul Haq inaugurating the new bus service yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



Exclusive bus, rickshaw for Gulshan area

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Commuters in the city's Gulshan, Banani and Niketon areas can let out a sigh of relief as the authorities yesterday launched 500 special rickshaws and 20 air-conditioned buses to operate there.

On the back of these rickshaws, painted yellow and black, a list of fares for road to 20 destinations is attached to spare the passengers the hassle of bargaining. For example, the fare from Road No-1 to Road No-14 in Gulshan-1 is Tk 15, from Gulshan-1 intersection to Kakoli intersection Tk 40 and Gulshan-1 intersection to Banani Bazar Tk 30.

The list also contains a set of directives from the authorities.

The directives say rickshaw-pullers must not demand additional fares; they must carry passengers to wherever they want to go within the areas; must wear particular uniform and put their ID cards, provided by the authorities, around their neck; and must not carry more than two adults.

Besides, the rickshaw-pullers have been asked to call hotline number 01715882117 to inform anything they consider suspicious.

The AC buses are expected to mitigate the transport crisis that ensued as the police banned bus operations in Gulshan and Banani over security concerns following the murders of 22 people, including 17 foreigners, in the July 1 café attack.

Of the buses, some will operate from Natunbazar to Kakoli while others will ply between Police Plaza near Hatijheel and Gulshan-2. Each passenger will have to pay Tk 15 for travelling on any of the routes, Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) Mayor Anisul Haq told The Daily Star.

The DNCC yesterday introduced the services with the help of community-based welfare organisations of Gulshan, Baridhara, Banani and Niketon.

Each bus has the capacity to carry 36 passengers at a time, the mayor said, adding that 20 more buses would be

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