

Donors had

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 as \$156 million. At least 40 donated more than \$100,000 each, and 20 gave more than \$1 million.

The AP report, however, said the meetings between the Democratic presidential nominee and foundation donors do not appear to violate legal agreements that Clinton and former president Bill Clinton signed before she joined the State Department in 2009.

But the frequency of the overlaps shows the intermingling of access and donations, and fuels perceptions that giving the foundation money was a price of admission for face time with Clinton.

One of the donors is Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus who is believed to be a friend of the Democratic presidential nominee.

American affiliates of Grameen Bank has been working with the Clinton Foundation's Clinton Global Initiative programmes from as early as 2005, pledging millions of dollars in microloans for the poor.

Grameen America, the bank's non-profit US flagship, which Yunus chairs, has given between \$100,000 and \$250,000 to the foundation - a figure that bank spokeswoman Becky Asch said reflects the institution's annual fees to attend CGI meetings.

Another Grameen arm chaired by Yunus, Grameen Research, has donated between \$25,000 and \$50,000.

Money came

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 Metropolitan Police, told reporters at the DMP media centre.

Replying to a query, Monirul said Tamim Ahmed Chowdhury was the main coordinator of the attack and the collected funds from various sources.

On July 1, armed militants stormed the Holy Artisan Bakery at diplomatic zone in the capital's Gulshan area, killing 20 people, mostly foreigners. Two police officials were also killed.

A commando operation next morning ended the siege, killing all five militants.

Monirul also told reporters that police have information about the buyer and supplier of firearms used in the attack.

Investigation is still underway to pinpoint the individuals who placed the requirement for weapons and explosives for the attack; who acquired and transported the items into the capital; and finally, who delivered those to the attackers, staying at a flat in Bashundhara Residential Area, he added.

Meanwhile, a bail petition of Hasnat Karim, the lone arrestee in the Gulshan café attack case, was rejected yesterday by a Dhaka court.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Sajjadur Rahman passed the order after hearing the bail petition filed by Hasnat, a former teacher of a private university.

He filed the petition on Monday when police produced him before another court in Dhaka on completion of a total of 16 days' remand in two phases.

Hasnat was shown arrested in the case on August 13.

On August 4, Hasnat and a Canadian university student Tahmid Hasib -- both survivors of the July 1 attack -- were taken on remand for eight days. Later, Hasnat was remanded again for eight days.

Tahmid was sent to jail on Saturday after completion of his remand for 14 days in two phases.

Janmashtami

FROM PAGE 1
 Hasina have greeted members of the Hindu community on the occasion.

The president will host a reception to eminent Hindu citizens at the Bangabhaban today.

National dailies will publish special articles while Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television and other private TV and radio stations will air special programmes highlighting different aspects of the eventful life of Sri Sri Krishna.

The Mohanagar Sarbojanin Puja Committee has taken up a two-day programme at the Dhakeshwari National Temple from today to mark the birth festival of Lord Krishna. The traditional Janmashtami procession will be brought out from the national temple at 3:00pm today.

Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu will attend the programme as chief guest while Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sayeed Khokon will formally inaugurate the procession.

As part of the central programme, a discussion meeting will be held at Dhakeshwari National Temple at 4:00pm on Saturday.

In a statement, leaders of Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad and Mohanagar Sarbojanin Puja Committee yesterday conveyed their greetings to all citizens of the country on the occasion of Janmashtami.

Police have requested the devotees not to carry bags to the temples during the Janmashtami and Krishna Puja. They also suggested installing CCTVs and making separate entry and exit points for men and women.

Stop Rampal power

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 BNP chief came up with strong opposition at a press conference at her Gulshan office.

In a written statement, Khaleda unequivocally protested against implementation of the power plant by an Indian company and placed information and data to substantiate her statement.

Terming the government "autocratic" and "anti-people", Khaleda said the ruling Awami League is going to implement the project ignoring public interests. She alleged such interests of the government are not only doubtful but also a concern for the people.

"If the project is implemented, our beloved motherland will no longer remain a place worthy of living ... no citizen of the country will accept it," said Khaleda, adding that it would reduce employment opportunities of the people who depend on the Sundarbans.

"There are many alternatives to generate power and there are many alternative sites as well, but there is no alternative to the Sundarbans ... it cannot be destroyed," she noted.

On the project's financial aspects, Khaleda said the Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) and Indian company National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) would invest 15 percent of the total cost each. The rest 70 percent would come in the form of bank loan, she added.

But Bangladesh alone would have to repay the bank loan if the joint venture company is shut down or fails to pay it, Khaleda observed.

On the other side, the Indian company would count 50 percent profit of the project under tax-free advantage despite investing only 15 percent, she said.

Pointing to three other ongoing coal-based power plants, she said the PDB would buy per unit electricity at Tk 8.58 from Rampal, although it would pay Tk 4 per unit for electricity from local Orion Group's project at Mawa and Tk 3.8 for power from plants in Khulna and Chittagong.

"To bring a balance in the price, the

PDB would have to consider subsidy that would eventually cause a great loss to this company, she added.

"People want to know why the government is moving forward despite knowing that it is a loss-making project," said Khaleda, alleging that the government is carrying out attacks on protesters upon finding no answer to their queries.

She further said the Indian government cancelled a coal-based power plant of the NTPC in Madhya Pradesh's Narhingshapur for three reasons, including the site being in a densely populated area and restriction on collecting 32 cusecs of water per hour from the river.

However, population density in Rampal is 382 per square kilometre, while it was 187 per square kilometre in Narhingshapur. Besides, the Rampal plant would collect 144 cusecs of water per hour, she added.

She also claimed that Indian Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has identified the NTPC as an organisation that pollutes the environment the most in India.

In an oblique reference to the Farakka Barrage, she alleged that the water level of the rivers has declined and several areas in the country have been experiencing serious drought.

"We cannot allow anyone to implement its plot to destroy the Sundarbans. It is a timely demand to resist the evil efforts of making profit and gaining unethical interests sacrificing the country's existence and interests," she added.

For any coal-based power plant it is mandatory to follow the zero emission rule, but the NTPC is going to install the Rampal plant without that. But the same company had earlier committed to following this rule before setting up a plan Chhattisgarh in India, added Khaleda.

Apart from reading out the statement, the BNP chief neither talked about any other issues nor accepted any question from journalists. "This is a national issue. So, I request you [journalists] to properly highlight the Rampal issue without asking me any questions on any other matter."

Gunshots, blast

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 escaped, told Reuters. He injured his ankle making the leap.

"We were in the class when we heard a loud explosion followed by gunfire. It was very close. Some students were crying, others were screaming," he added.

No group has so far claimed responsibility for the assault, but the attack comes as Taliban insurgents step up their summer fighting season against the Western-backed Kabul government.

"Many students have been evacuated," said interior ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqqi, adding that there were no immediate reports of any hostages taken by the attackers.

"We are not sure about the number of attackers... but our special forces have started clearance operations."

Kabul-based journalist Ahmad Mukhtar, a university student, tweeted that he managed to escape but "several of my friends and professors (are) trapped inside".

Earth-like planet

FROM PAGE 16
 Because of its location, the researchers hope that it provides an opportunity to "attempt further characterisation via ongoing searches by direct imaging and high-resolution spectroscopy in the next decades, and possibly robotic exploration in the coming centuries."

"The good news is that it is so close," study author Ansgar Reiners said. "It is not only nice for having it in our neighbourhood, but it's a dream come true for astronomers if we think about follow-up observation."

Proxima Centauri coexists with a binary star in Alpha Centauri, a well-studied star system that serves as a neighbor to our sun.

Proxima b is a mere 4.2 light-years away from our solar system, or 266,000 times the distance between the Earth and the sun, which are 92.96 million miles apart. Previous rocky exoplanet discoveries, like those orbiting ultracool

Stalker stabs schoolgirl

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 Shopping Complex. She had gone there to have her dresses stitched.

A week later, the youth stopped stalking the girl after her mother complained about the matter to the shop owners at the mall.

However, on Tuesday, Obaidul intercepted the girl as she was returning from school and tried to talk to her, said the mother, quoting the victim.

The father of the victim, who runs a clothing store at Siddique Bazar, said he would file a case.

Moshiure Rahman, officer-in-charge of Ramna Police Station, said they detained four people, including two siblings who run the tailoring shop, for questioning.

Obaidul, however, was one the run, he said, adding that they were trying to catch him.

Aid package

FROM PAGE 1
 late summer and Rabi season at a press conference at her office.

"The assistance will be provided to the farmers as necessary input support for crop production. The stimulation is also a kind of investment. It is like we are giving Tk 1, against which the farmers would get around Tk 12 in return," she added.

"The farmers will get all the support free under the agriculture rehabilitation and subsequent incentive programme of Tk 42.1 crore," she said.

The minister also said 7.5 lakh hectares of crop land have been submerged, while various types of standing crops on another 1.58 lakh hectares of land were damaged due to recent flooding in 16 districts.

The flood affected districts are Bogra, Faridpur, Gaibandha, Jamalpur, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Madaripur, Manikganj, Munshiganj, Nilphamari, Rajbari, Rangpur, Shariatpur, Sirajganj, Sunamganj and Tangail.

As many as 17,211 flood-affected farmers will get different varieties of paddy seedlings and different vegetable seeds under the rehabilitation programme.

Besides, 15,000 farmers will get vegetable seeds including amaranth, radish, spinach, eggplant and sweet guard.

Moreover, 4,01,003 farmers in all 64 districts would get paddy seedlings, different crop seeds and fertilisers worth Tk 41.56 crore for 4,01,003 bighas of land under the stimulus package.

Each farmer will also get necessary seeds and fertiliser support for cultivating wheat, maize, mustard, felon, khesari, maskalai, summer moog, sesame, peanuts and Boro crops.

The minister said that under the scheme, 70,000 farmers would get wheat seeds, 97,300 farmers maize seeds, 1,50,000 farmers mustard seeds, 30,000 farmers summer mung seeds, 2,000 farmers felon seeds, 5,000 farmers peanuts seeds, 15,000 farmers sesame seeds, 14,000 farmers maskalai seeds, 6,000 farmers khesari seeds and 12,000 farmers will get Boro paddy seeds.

She added that all the money for the two packages would be disbursed from the ministry's own budget.

Ambulances rushed to the scene as erratic gunshots rang out from inside the campus.

Some of the 26 wounded were in serious condition, said health ministry spokesman Waheed Majroh, who also reported one fatality.

The foreign professors at the university were seized from their vehicle on August 7, as the kidnappers smashed the passenger window and hauled them away at gunpoint.

It appeared to be the first reported abduction related to a private university in Afghanistan.

Their whereabouts are still unknown and no group so far has publicly claimed responsibility for the abductions, the latest in a series of kidnappings in the conflict-torn country.

The Afghan capital is infested with organised criminal gangs who stage kidnappings for ransom, often targeting foreigners and wealthy Afghans, and sometimes handing them over to insurgent groups.

Turkey

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 "Euphrates Shield", named after the river running nearby, is Turkey's first major military operation since the abortive coup. A military source said the Turkish-backed rebels had seized control of four villages as they pushed towards Jarablus.

The offensive by Turkey comes four days after a suicide bomber suspected of links to Islamic State killed 54 people at a wedding in the southeastern city of Gaziantep.

Syria's foreign ministry condemned what it said was a breach of its sovereignty and accused Ankara of launching the incursion to replace Islamic State with "other terrorist groups".

TESTING TIME
 A senior US official travelling with Biden said the United States wanted to help Turkey to get Islamic State away from the border, and was providing air cover and "synching up" with the Turks on their plans for Jarablus. The shelling was hitting Islamic State, not Kurdish forces, he said.

Biden's visit comes at a testing time for Turkish-US relations. Turkey says the failed putsch was staged by Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen, who has lived in self-imposed exile in Pennsylvania for the past 17 years.

Erdogan wants Gulen extradited but Washington says it needs clear evidence of his alleged involvement, sparking an outpouring of anti-Americanism from Turkey's pro-government media. Gulen denies any involvement in the attempted coup.

The Turkish army began firing artillery rounds into Jarablus at around 0100 GMT and Turkish and US warplanes pounded Islamic State targets with air strikes.

It was the first time warplanes from Turkey have struck in Syria since November, when Turkey downed a Russian warplane near the border.

51 indicted in Destiny

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 On August 17, the High Court directed the lower court to pass an order by August 24 on charge framing against Amin and others.

On May 4, 2014, the Anti-Corruption Commission pressed charges against the 51 people accused in the two cases.

They were charged with misappropriating funds through Destiny Tree Plantation project and from Destiny Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd, according to the ACC.

The group's irregularities came under the spotlight in early 2012 after the central bank found that it had been involved in illegal banking.

In July 2012, the ACC filed two cases against 22 Destiny officials on charges of laundering money.

Top officials of Destiny misappropriated about Tk 4,200 crore through its tree plantation project and the cooperative firm and laundered this money abroad, the charge sheets state.

The officials embezzled the money in the name of paying salaries, honoraria, commission, incentives and promotional costs. They transferred the money to their bank accounts and those of the 20 companies under the group.

At the same time, they also misappropriated Tk 2,433 crore from 17.5 lakh investors by claiming that they had sold 6.18 crore saplings under the tree planta-

tion project. In reality the group planted only 32 lakh trees, according to the ACC's findings.

In another development, the Supreme Court yesterday extended until October 31 its earlier orders that stayed the bail of two Destiny Group top officials, including its Managing Director Rafiqul Amin, in two money laundering cases.

The other official is Destiny Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd Chairman Mohammad Hossain.

On July 20, the High Court granted bail to the duo in the cases on condition that they will submit their passports to the trial court so that they cannot leave the country before completion of the trial proceedings of the cases.

Yesterday, a five-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha passed the extension orders during hearing of two separate leave to appeal petitions filed by the ACC against the HC orders that granted bail to Rafiqul and Hossain on July 20.

The apex court also fixed October 31 for resuming hearing of the leave to appeal petitions.

Following two stay petitions of the ACC, the court on July 31 stayed the HC orders of bail until August 11 and then it extended the stay orders until yesterday.

Anwara sees signs

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 90's, said if the ammonia mixed water ends up in the Karnaphuli, it would not have any long term impact. "The damage to the environment has already been done."

The fish in the adjacent canal and pond died due to high concentration of ammonium. When the effluent reaches the Karnaphuli, it would dissipate quickly. So there is not much to worry about, he said.

Although the DAP authority claimed that around 260 tonnes of ammonia ended up in the environment, a source in the committee that is probing the matter said they found that 361 to 367 tonnes ended up in the environment due to the explosion.

The department of environment yesterday tested the water of two nearby ponds and a drain from the factory and found their pH levels to be higher than normal.

"They are not treating the water before dumping it in the canal. Since the accident, chemical mixed water

120 dead in Italy quake

FROM PAGE 1
 in the 12 hours following the initial quake, the strongest measuring 5.5.

It hit a remote area straddling Umbria, Marche and Lazio at a time of year when second-home owners and other visitors swell the numbers staying there. Many of the victims were from Rome.

All three regions are dotted with centuries-old buildings susceptible to earthquakes. And most of the deaths occurred in and around the villages of Amatrice, Accumoli and Arquata del Tronto.

"I was blown away by what I saw. We haven't stopped digging all day," said Marcello di Marco, 34, a farmer who travelled from the town of Narni some 100 km away to help with emergency services' rescue efforts in the hamlet of Pescara del Tronto.

In the nearby village of Accumoli, a family of four, including two boys aged 8 months and 9 years, were buried when their house imploded.

As rescue workers carried away the body of the infant, carefully covered by a small blanket, the children's grandmother blamed God: "He took them all at once," she wailed.

The army was mobilised to help with special heavy equipment and the Treasury released 235 million euros (\$265 million) of emergency funds. At the Vatican, Pope Francis dispatched part of the Holy See's tiny firefighting force to help in the rescue.

Rescue workers used helicopters to pluck survivors to safety in more isolated villages cut off by landslides and rubble.

Aerial photographs showed whole areas of Amatrice, last year voted one of Italy's most beautiful historic towns, flattened by the quake.

"It's all young people here, it's holiday season, the town festival was to have been held the day after tomorrow so lots of people came for that," said Amatrice resident Giancarlo, sitting in the road wearing just his underwear.

"It's terrible, I'm 65 years old and I have never experienced anything like this, small tremors, yes, but nothing this big. This is a catastrophe," he said.

Scores of people are believed unaccounted for, with the presence of the holidaymakers making it difficult to tally.

Patients at the badly damaged hospital in Amatrice were moved into the streets and a field hospital was set up.

"Three quarters of the town is not there anymore," Amatrice mayor Sergio Pirozzi told state broadcaster RAI. "The aim now is to save as many lives as possible. There are voices under the rubble, we have to save the people there."

Accumoli's mayor, Stefano Petrucci,

Hindu trader

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 Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Hours after the attack, global terror outfit Islamic State claimed responsibility for the incident, terming the victim "a Hindu priest", according to a report of Site Intelligence Group that monitors jihadi websites.

Police and the victim's family, however, said Chittaranjan is not a priest. He runs a grocery store next to a Hindu temple in Raghunathpur area of Madhabdi upazila, reports our Narsingdi correspondent.

Mohammad Ilias, officer-in-charge of Madhabdi Police Station, said they found in primary investigation that Chittaranjan was attacked over personal feuds.

Riding a motorbike, three masked men stormed Chittaranjan's grocery shop around 9:00pm, hacked him indiscriminately and immediately left the scene, said Mohsin Kabir, assistant sub-inspector of Panchdona Police Outpost.

The victim was whisked off to a private clinic. As his condition deteriorated, he was shifted to the DMCH, said the police official.

Quoting Amaq news agency, which supports IS, Site Intelligence Group reports, "Yesterday, fighters belonging to the Islamic State targeted a Hindu priest with blade weapons in Bangladesh's Narsingdi district."

The Daily Star could not independently verify the claim.

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