

PM leaves for US

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 The PM will be visiting Canada at a personal invitation of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to the Replenishment Conference to be attended, among others, by nine heads of state and government, UN Secretary General and Microsoft founder Bill Gates.

She will leave Montréal for New York on September 18 to attend the UN General Assembly (UNGA) and a number of vital sideline events with world leaders.

In Canada, according to Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali, the PM will hand over the "Friends of Liberation War Honour" award to Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau. The Bangladesh government had posthumously awarded the honour to Justin's father Pierre Trudeau, then PM of Canada, for his outstanding support and contribution during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971.

Bangladesh awarded 129 foreign citizens and organisations for their extraordinary role during the 1971 Liberation War.

In November 1983, Pierre Trudeau received a hero's welcome when he visited Bangladesh along with his son Justin Trudeau, the present PM of Canada. Pierre Trudeau died on September 28, 2000.

Addressing a press conference, Mahmood Ali, the foreign minister, said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during her bilateral meeting with Canadian PM Justin Trudeau will discuss a wide range of issues including security cooperation, countering terrorism and militancy, climate change, development cooperation and repatriation of Bangabandhu's killers.

At the Replenishment Conference, the PM is expected to deliver a speech at a panel discussion titled "Removing

Barriers to Health through Empowering Women and Girls and Reaching the Most Marginalised". There will be another session on 'Engaging and Mobilising Youth to Meet the Sustainable Development Goals', he added.

Turning to the UNGA, Mahmood Ali said this year the UNGA carries a special significance for a number of reasons including global migration and refugee problems, the rise of terror attacks around the world, climate change and challenges ahead in implementing the sustainable development goals.

At the UNGA, the PM will lead a 70-member official delegation consisting ministers for LGRD and cooperatives, expatriate welfare and overseas employment, foreign Affairs; and state ministers for foreign affairs and labour and employment, he added. "World leaders will remain active to take more effective efforts under the UN to overcome the challenges following the rise of terror attacks in various parts of the world including militant attacks in Dhaka."

He said a number of member countries, including Bangladesh, will ratify the historic Paris Climate Agreement that will come into effect once 55 member countries ratify it.

On September 19, PM Sheikh Hasina will deliver a statement, addressing large movements of refugees and migrants at the UNGA at UN headquarters.

She will co-chair Roundtable 5 'Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration: Towards Realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Achieving Full Respect for the Human Rights of Migrants'.

On September 20, Sheikh Hasina will attend the opening session of the General Debate of the 71st session of the UN General Assembly. She will later join the Asian Leaders' Forum on Countering Terrorism to be hosted by Japanese Prime

Minister Shinzo Abe at Hotel Marriot Eastside.

On the sidelines, the PM will also attend an event on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Scaling up Innovation in Public Service Delivery to be organised by Bangladesh.

She is expected to attend the Leaders' Summit on Refugees to be organised by US President Barack Obama.

On September 21, Hasina is scheduled to join the launching event of the Global Deal Initiative (on enhanced social dialogue for decent work and inclusive growth) to be organised by Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven.

The same day, she will attend the Meeting of High-level Panel on Water. She will deliver the statement at the General Debate of the 71st Session of the UNGA in the afternoon.

Hasina is also scheduled to attend a reception to be organised by the Bangladesh community at Hotel Grand Hyatt, New York on Sept 21.

On September 22, the PM will address a press briefing at the permanent mission of Bangladesh in New York.

On the sidelines of the UNGA, Hasina will hold bilateral talks with a number of heads of state and government, including State Counsellor and Foreign Minister of Myanmar Aung San Suu Kyi, President of Switzerland Johann Schneider-Ammann, Commonwealth Secretary General Patricia Scotland, the Executive Chairman of World Economic Forum (WEF) and the World Bank president.

Hasina will leave New York for Virginia by road on September 22 and on September 25 she will depart Dulles International Airport, Washington DC for home by an Emirates Airways flight. She is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka on September 26.

Ripon could

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 start of a new shift at that time.

Nine workers are still taking treatment, DMCH sources said.

Of them, Mir Shipon, 40, and Jahangir Hossain Mridha, 50, are in a critical condition, Dr Uzзал Sadhu Kha, a neurologist, told The Daily Star.

Shipon, who worked in the painting department, suffered injury as walls and rubbles hit his head following the blast, his wife Abida Sultana told The Daily Star.

After completing his duty at 6:00am, Shipon was coming out of the factory, she added.

Hospital sources said Shipon had been lying on the DMCH floor for two to three hours after being shifted from Tongi General Hospital as he had no attendants at that time.

Another patient Abdus Salam, a machine operator, is also groaning with injuries to his head and chest, said his relative Abdus Salam.

TALE OF TWO MISSING VICTIMS
 Of the missing persons, Azimuuddin Mollah of Magura worked as an assistant operator.

His wife Shamima Parvin said they looked into hospitals and police stations for Azimuuddin but could not trace him. The family has been living in Gazipur for about five years.

He was supposed to be in the factory as his shifting duty started 6:00 in the morning, she added.

"He earns small amount of money. If something happens to him we will be in dire state," she added.

Another missing victim Masum Ahmed, 30, came out of his residence early Saturday morning telling his wife that it was quite late to reach his workplace of Tampaka foiling factory in BSCIC industrial area of Tongi in Gazipur.

"Shut the door. I'm in a hurry," he told his wife Rupali Begum while their three-year-old daughter Lamia was asleep.

That was the last Rupali, a housewife, had some words with her husband as he had been traceless following explosions at the factory that left at least 29 persons dead.

FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11 'Shock, awe' response helped jihad's spread

AFP, Paris

While 9/11 failed to bring America to its knees as al-Qaeda hoped, it ushered in an era of instability, especially in the Middle East, that Islamic extremists have skillfully exploited, analysts say.

By reacting with a doctrine of "Shock and Awe" and invading Iraq in 2003, the US committed a series of missteps that indirectly helped foment jihadism, say critics.

Founded in the 1980s, al-Qaeda was gravely weakened after being expelled from Afghanistan in 2001 by the US-led invasion of the country that had harboured the terror group's leader Osama bin Laden.

But the occupation of Iraq offered them a new opportunity, underlining how jihadist groups have resisted attempts to vanquish them and have now expanded into franchises in the Middle East, Asia, the West and parts of

Africa.

"September 11 was the culmination of several years of planning by Al-Qaeda of 'the big one'," Didier Le Bret, who recently resigned as France's national intelligence coordinator to run in next year's parliamentary election, told AFP.

"Above all it marked the start of a realisation (by the Americans) of their vulnerability on home soil. And that is something they cannot bear."

He said the invasion illustrated the dangers of acting first and worrying about the consequences afterwards.

Among the consequences was the damage done to America's reputation by the torture of prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq and Guantanamo Bay, the camp opened by George W. Bush at a US base in Cuba to hold "enemy combattants" captured around the world.

Waste disposal a big challenge

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 include taking waste management preparations and raising public awareness simultaneously, said the councillor.

Also, a committee on waste collection and removal and cleanliness would have to be formed at every ward, led by a councillor and officials of city corporations as per the directives of the prime minister.

The committee would ask people through texts to bring their cattle to the designated spots at least two weeks before the festival.

City corporations and municipalities would make public the lists of slaughter sites, imams and butchers, and upload them on their respective websites at least 10 days ahead, according to a decision of the meeting.

However, many of the decisions were not implemented until yesterday.

Mesbahul Islam, chief executive officer of Dhaka North City Corporation, a week ago said they would provide marquees, water supply,

824 enlisted imams and 755 butchers, (available on payment), to the city dwellers for slaughtering.

"I do not know exactly," he said when asked whether they would launch any awareness campaign through the mass media.

They would distribute 2.5 lakh biodegradable bags at cattle markets and through the ward councillors to help collect sacrificial animal wastes.

Over 20,000 tonnes of wastes are estimated to be generated on the Eid-ul-Azha in Dhaka north, he said, adding that they have 150 trucks and an additional 100 would be hired for waste removal.

Along with 3,500 regular cleaners, an additional 3,700 workers would work to clean the city within 48 hours of the slaughtering.

During last year Eid-ul-Azha, the two Dhaka city corporations removed a total of around 45,000 tonnes of wastes with 13,000 workers.

Dhaka South City Corporation held

a gathering of waste management workers on August 6 and launched an awareness campaign on September 1.

"We started awareness campaign earlier this year," Mayor Mohammad Sayeed Khokon told The Daily Star.

Khokon said the number of slaughtering sites was inadequate compared to the number sacrificial animals.

According to the local government minister meeting, the estimated number of sacrificial animals in south city corporation area this year is 2,60,000 while it is over one lakh in north.

Chief waste management officer of DSCC MK Bakhtiar said 150 trucks and 98 articulated lorries would be used on the Eid day.

An estimated 2.85 lakh sacrificial animals will be slaughtered in Chittagong, Sylhet, Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Barisal, Gazipur, Narayanganj and Comilla and the major challenge for the city corporation there would be cleaning some 6,400 tonnes of waste quickly.

One child tells

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 back to their temporary accommodation or home at night. They have families.

Thirdly, there is another category of children, who live with their families in streets, said Muzammal.

"Different categories of street children have separate life styles. But they all are the victims of deprivation of child rights," he viewed.

Most of the female children living in streets often fall victim of sexual exploitation. In many cases, they are caught by sexually transmitted diseases, he said.

Feeding facilities, education, raising awareness, counselling, life-skill training, vocational training, medical support, recreation and reintegrating them with their families are crucial to rehabilitate them, said child rights activist.

Both their number and vulnerabilities are increasing with rapid urbanisation, they viewed.

Talking to the news agency, Nasima Begum, secretary to the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, said the government has taken initiatives to rehabilitate the street children, adding, "We are chalking-out a project to rehabilitate them."

The evil people amass money by using street children in different crimes like drug-peddling, smuggling or prostitution, she said.

Rush clogs up rails, roads

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 "My train was scheduled to start at 1:20pm. But the train has not come yet," said Khalilur Rahman around 5:30pm. He was waiting for Dhumketu Express heading for Rajshahi.

"I have bought train tickets to avoid traffic jams on the highways. But now I am suffering more here," said Emdad Hossain, who was waiting for a train to Khulna.

Many passengers were seen travelling on roofs of trains.

Many express trains were delayed for around two hours on average. But some short-distant trains suffered more than three hours of delays, said Syed Jahurul Islam, director (traffic) of Bangladesh Railway.

The Kamalapur Railway Station was flooded with passengers. Many people, who bought bus tickets, came to the station to go home on train because the highways were jammed.

Because of the huge rush of passengers and overloaded trains, the trains were moving slowly and there were delays at every station, he said.

"We are trying ... But it will be very difficult for us to maintain schedule because of the excessive rush of passengers," Jahurul said.

HIGHWAYS
 There was a massive 13km-long tailback on Dhaka-Tangail highway, from

Bhogra to Chandra intersection of Gazipur around 10:00am. There was another 7km-long tailback from Nabinagar to Kaliakoir.

A three-vehicle pileup in Solla area of Tangail around 5:00am created a 15km tailback between Pouly of Tangail and the east end of Bangabandhu Bridge.

Meanwhile, one person was killed after a truck turned turtle in Hatia of Tangail around noon. It worsened the traffic situation there.

Vehicles on Dhaka-Tangail highway were moving very slowly. The rush of vehicles increased as the day progressed.

"Usually it takes around 2 hours to reach Mirzapur of Tangail from Dhaka. Today, I have crossed the same distance in more than four hours," said Zahidul Islam, who was going to Bogra yesterday.

On Dhaka-Mymensingh highway, passengers had to endure a 2km tailback between Bhogra and Board Bazar area of Gazipur in the morning.

On Dhaka-Chittagong highway, traffic was crawling all day but there were no major jams, reports a correspondent from Daudkandi of Comilla, the area that witnessed huge traffic jams over the last three days.

FERRIES
 In Paturia ferry ghat of Manikganj, hundreds of passengers had to wait for several hours to board ferries, reports

our correspondent there.

There was a 4km-long queue of vehicles at Paturia waiting to cross the Padma and there was a 2km queue at the other end in Daulatdia.

"I reached Paturia around 3:00am. I have been waiting here for around 10 hours, but could not board a ferry," said Sazzadur Rahman, who was going to Jessore.

Sixteen out of 19 ferries were in service yesterday. Three ferries were in for repairs, said Shafiqul Islam, manager (commerce) of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) at Daulatdia.

Although three landing stations out of four were in service during the day, the authorities managed to put the fourth into service in the evening.

At Shimulia ferry terminal in Munshigaj, around 500 vehicles were waiting to cross the river as of yesterday evening, reports our correspondent.

The capital's single river port, Sadarghat Launch Terminal was teeming with passengers since morning. Many reached the terminal much earlier to secure spaces on launch decks.

"My launch is scheduled to start at 5:00pm. But I have come at 2:00pm to save space on deck," said Golam Faruk, who was travelling to Barguna.

General's forces seize key Libya oil terminals

AFP, Tripoli

Forces loyal to a Libyan general on Sunday said they had seized two key oil export terminals as a UN-backed unity government struggles to assert its authority over the oil-rich country.

If confirmed, the seizure of the ports would deal a major blow to the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord (GNA), which had hoped to rely on oil exports for its revenues.

General Khalifa Haftar's forces took control of the Al-Sidra and Ras Lanuf ports, the LANA news agency loyal to a

rival authority reported a spokesman as saying.

"Clashes are now ongoing near the Zuwaytina port" further east in the same oil-rich area seen as key to the country's economy, Colonel Ahmad Mesmari said.

Haftar, one of the most powerful military figures in Libya, has refused to endorse the GNA and remains loyal to the authority based in the east of the country.

UN Libya envoy Martin Kobler on Twitter said he was worried about the reported fighting in Libya's so-called

"oil crescent".

"Oil belongs to ALL Libyans," he tweeted. "Conflicts can only be solved through dialogue, not violence. Urge all parties to sit 2gether."

Haftar's forces took the Ras Lanuf and Al-Sidra terminals -- together capable of handling 700,000 barrels of oil per day -- from installation guards loyal to the GNA.

In late July, the oil installation guards announced the reopening of the two ports after an agreement with the unity government to resume oil exports.

AL leader

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 Being informed, police went to the spot and took the injured to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where doctor declared him dead.

Rooftop paddy

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 The rooftop seeds he has planted can be used to cover an acre of paddy field later. "I couldn't imagine how successful this idea would be at the start," says Yusuf.

"Everyday farmers arrive from different places to inspect the rooftop seedbeds," he continues, "which makes me happier still!"

Rajapur's upazila agricultural officer Md Riay Bahadur agrees the new approach to paddy farming can benefit Aman cultivators at times when paddy fields are submerged. "His success will contribute a lot to paddy farming in the region," he says.

Riay also suggests that government building rooftops could be harnessed to provide additional rooftop seedbed space during times of flooding.

"It's a strategy that can greatly reduce the stress of farmers about the fate of their crops at such times," he says.

No armed pvt guards

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 activities following the July 1 attack.

They said a number of foreign missions, especially the US, Japan, India and Spain, had expressed their interests in exploring the option of armed Bangladeshi private security personnel following a series of recent killings of bloggers, minorities and foreign nationals.

The demand for such security facilities became stronger following the July 1 deadly terror attack in Holey Artisan Bakery. The foreign missions, however, said the Bangladesh police provided outstanding and professional protection to their diplomats and facilities but they wanted arms for Bangladeshi security companies as a secondary protection.

Elaborating on the number plates, the foreign minister told the mission chiefs at a diplomatic briefing at the state guesthouse Padma that they could use white number plates for their vehicles instead of yellow ones.

In reply to a question from the media, the minister said in many countries diplomats use "armoured or bullet-proof vehicles". "This is not new in Bangladesh."

He said the government was doing everything to strengthen the security of the diplomats and they were happy to see the robust measures.

"They're very satisfied ... they've appreciated the government steps," the foreign minister said, adding that all foreigners in Dhaka and outside have been brought under adequate security coverage.

Earlier, he briefed the diplomatic corps at the state guesthouse Padma on the recent measures adopted by the government to beef up safety and security of diplomatic missions.

The minister said the strengthened security had brought back confidence among the foreign nationals living in

Bangladesh.

This had also been reflected on the high-level visits in the last few weeks, he added.

Mahmood Ali highlighted the actions taken and progress achieved in detecting and apprehending criminals behind the recent attacks, including the Gulshan attack.

He expressed the hope that the ongoing drives against violent extremists by the law-enforcement agencies would continue and there would be no let-up.

The minister also reiterated that the government was determined to rooting out terrorism and militancy from the country and was putting up all-out efforts to find the mentors, masterminds, financiers as well as trainers of the extremists.

The minister expressed his satisfaction over the work of the Task Force on the Security of Diplomats and Diplomatic Premises that convenes regularly to review further means to strengthen security and protection.

Replying to another question, he said there was nothing wrong if any country wanted to help Bangladesh deal with militancy. "The entire world stood behind Bangladesh after the July 1 attack."

Around 60 diplomats, mostly ambassadors and high commissioners of different countries, attended the briefing, according to a foreign ministry press release.

The envoys thanked the government for the enhanced surveillance and security measures taken around the country and shared their views on possible future measures to protect diplomats and missions.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam, MP, the principal secretary to the prime minister, foreign secretary and other senior officials of the foreign ministry and other agencies were present during the briefing.