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The fire at the Tampaco Foils Ltd factory in Tongi continues to burn and a fireman is seen spraying water yesterday, a day after the fire began. *Top left*, relatives cry holding a photo of a missing person, and locals along with firefighters conduct the rescue operation.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



**PM leaves for US, Canada on Wednesday**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will leave Dhaka on Wednesday to attend the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly in the US and the 5th Global Fund Replenishment Conference in Canada.

Following a 22-hour stay in London the PM will fly to Montréal in Canada where she will attend a global conference on fighting AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. The conference will be held on September 16 and 17.

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TRIP HOME ON EID VACATION  
**Rush clogs up rails, roads**

STAR REPORT

With just a day remaining before Eid, the rush of holidaymakers heading home was nearing its peak yesterday and the home-goers got stranded for hours on highways, ferry terminals and railway stations.

The mass exodus of Dhaka city dwellers started gaining momentum since Thursday but passengers suffered on highways and ferry terminals.

Things were not better for travellers of trains yesterday as a breakdown of a locomotive delayed several trains leaving the capital. Bangladesh Railways had been maintaining schedule until Saturday but it virtually collapsed yesterday due to excessive rush of passengers and the breakdown and its aftermath.

Meanwhile, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday expressed regret for the sufferings of holidaymakers.

**RAILWAY**  
Trains starting from the capital's Kamalapur Railway Station fell behind schedule after the locomotive of Parabat Express heading for Sylhet developed a fault at Airport Railway Station around 7:10am.

It took around one and half hours to get the train going again, said railway officials.

But by then, the damage was done.

Subarna Express heading for Chittagong, Sundarbans Express heading to Khulna, and Teesta Express going to Jamalpur got stuck behind Parabat Express on their way to the Airport Railway Station.

Passengers were seen waiting for hours at the Kamalapur Railway Station as the delays trickled down and affected the departures of other trains.

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**No armed pvt guards**

*Govt rejects foreign missions' pleas, offers alternative options for security*

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday turned down requests for allowing armed private security personnel for diplomats and their facilities but offered a set of new options to further strengthen their safety following the July 1 terror attack that left 17 foreigners killed in Dhaka.

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali said the foreign missions could hire armed Ansar Battalion personnel if they wanted additional security forces.

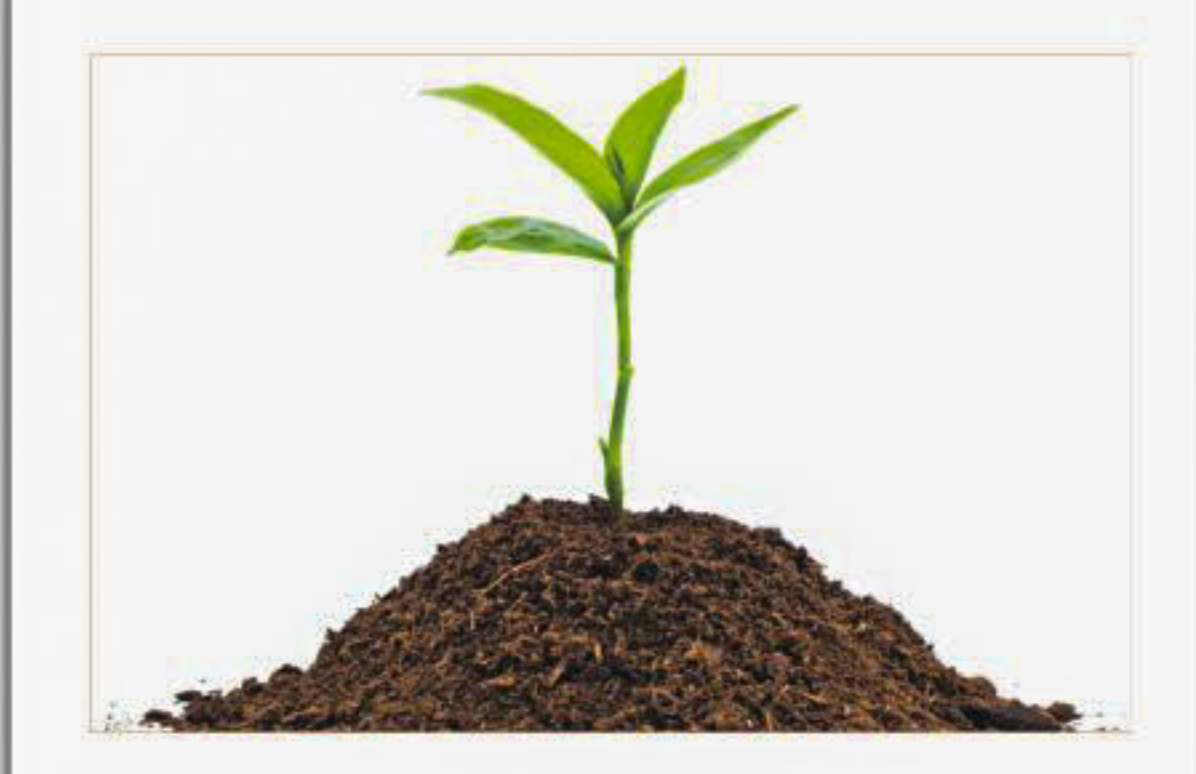
The government, however, said the diplomatic missions would have to pay for he hired Ansar, an armed auxiliary force.

The foreign embassies and high commissions can also bring bulletproof vehicles with prior permission and can also use white number plates for their vehicles along with yellow plates.

Diplomatic sources said the foreign minister offered diplomats the use Kurmitola Golf Club as many of them were refraining from outdoor recreational

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**'Magic beans' can heat homes**



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A mineral used by gardeners for potting plants could be used to heat homes in the winter using the power of the summer sun, scientists have discovered.

When a type of salt is added, vermiculite, which is normally used to pot cactus and similar plants, takes on an extraordinary property.

Blow warm air over it — breathing will do — and it dries out. But if you then expose it to cold, damp air, it absorbs the water and releases heat.

Dubbed "magic beans" by researchers at Swansea University, the material can be used to store heat energy for months in this way.

A fridge-freezer-sized box of it could be used to provide effective heating for a domestic house for potentially months during the winter.

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**AL leader shot dead**

UNB, Chittagong

Unidentified criminals shot a local Awami League leader dead at Kanchana of Satkania upazila on Saturday night.

Jahirul Islam, 48, was a leader of Kanchana union parishad Awami League.

Officer-in-Charge Sharif Uddin Khandakar of Satkania Police Station said the criminals fired at Jahirul in Bashirkhil area of Kanchana around 10:15pm.

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**PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 12**

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN	4-35	12-45	4-30	6-14	7-45
JAMAAT	5-10	1-15	4-45	6-17	8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

**CLINTON ON 9/11**  
**The closest thing to 'hell' I have seen**

CNN ONLINE

Fifteen years later, the scene is still seared into Hillary Clinton's memory.

"We saw this curtain of black smoke that was stretched across the island," Clinton recalled.

"Occasionally it would be broken by a firefighter coming out. I remember one image so indelibly, dragging his ax, and it was as close to depiction of hell that I've ever personally seen."

Those were the things Clinton saw as she approached Ground Zero on September 12, 2001 -- the day after the country's worst terrorist attacks brought down New York City's World Trade Center and left thousands dead.

On September 11, 2001, 19 al-Qaeda operatives crashed four passenger jets into the Twin Towers in Manhattan, the Pentagon and a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania -- killing nearly 3,000 people and

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Yusuf Farjee, in white Punjabi, showing local agriculture officers the seedbeds he made atop the roof of his three-storey building in Jhalakathi.

**Rooftop paddy seedbeds offer new hope**

M. JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL with ANDREW EAGLE

When Yusuf Farjee's Aman paddy seedbeds were destroyed by floodwaters this season, the farmer from Galua village in Jhalakathi's Rajapur upazila didn't sit idly by waiting for water to recede. Nor did he seek assistance from the local agriculture office. Rather, Yusuf found an innovative solution: he made new seedbeds atop the roof of his three-storey building.

"It only needs a one-inch layer of soil," he says. "People in flood-prone areas can make these rooftop seedbeds easily."

The local agricultural office is suitably impressed.

"It's common to grow fruit and vegetables on building roofs," says Rajapur's agriculture extension officer Tilok Ghosh. "But to plant paddy seeds there no doubt represents the start of a new chapter in paddy cultivation."

He believes the innovation can save farmers from worry in areas at risk of flooding during the monsoon months. "It's an idea that can bring new hope to all farmers," he says.

Safe from floods and other natural disasters, rooftop seedbeds promise greater outcome surety. "I used to grow fruit and vegetables on the rooftop all-year-round," explains Yusuf. "This is how I came upon the idea of planting paddy seeds there when the recent flood destroyed my seedbeds, with the land remaining submerged for a long while."

"I have allocated a hundred square feet of rooftop to Aman seeds, and the result is finer paddy plants than I used to get in the field," he adds.

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