PM Sheikh Hasina joins half a dozen world leaders as conference begins

AGENCIES

An international donors conference kicked off in Montreal yesterday with a goal of raising another US\$13 billion for the fight to eradicate AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria -- by 2030.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is hosting the fifth triennial Global Fund replenishment conference to fight against these diseases, with UN Secretary General Ban Kimoon and a half dozen heads of states also in attendance.

arrived in Montreal on a four-day visit on Thursday afternoon at the invitation of Trudeau to attend the confer-Created as a public-private initia-

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

tive, the Global Fund has so far spent US\$30 billion on programs to fight the three deadly diseases around the world, with most of it going to Africa.

It has been credited with helping to save 22 million lives and preventing decade as it pursues a UN target of

eradicating AIDS by 2030 and the other diseases even sooner.

During the Montreal conference, donor nations will publicly announce their contribution. The goal is to have collected US\$13 billion in pledges by the end of the conference Saturday night.

Joining political leaders will be Microsoft founder and philanthropist Bill Gates, whose foundation has contributed a total of US\$1.6 billion to the Fund since its inception, as well as U2 frontman Bono. While more than 100 countries have

has gone to African countries, according to Global Fund spokesman Seth Faison. Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania

The Fund has brought enormous heft in the fight against disease, with encouraging results. Since 2005, the 300 million infections over the past number of deaths from AIDS has SEE PAGE 13 COL 4

and Uganda have received the most.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is presented with a bouquet as she is welcomed by Bangladesh High Commissioner Mizanur Rahman and his wife on her arrival at Hotel Omni Mont-Royal in Montreal, Canada, on Thursday.

PHOTO: PID

One million Samsung smartphones in US recall

AFP, San Francisco

The US Consumer Product Safety Commission on Thursday announced a recall of around one million Samsung Galaxy Note 7 smartphones plagued by incidents of batteries bursting into flames.

The move by the US safety agency formalizes the recall underway in 10 countries after reports of faulty batteries that caused some handsets to explode during charging.

Samsung meanwhile announced replacements for the faulty phones would be available to US customers next week.

In the United States, there have been 92 reports of batteries overheating, including 26 reports of burns and 55 reports of property damage, including fires in cars and a garage, the

commission said in a notice. The US notice affects around one million of the global total of 2.5 million handsets being recalled, which has cast a cloud over the South Korean electronics giant and world's largest smartphone vendor.

Tanvir

FROM PAGE 1 The two other women suspects include Afrin alias Priyoti, wife of key militant suspect Nurul Islam Marzan.

Khadiza, who completed honours and master's from mass communication & journalism department at Dhaka University, is so radicalised that she still believes they were on the right path, an investigator told The Daily Star yesterday.

She left a lucrative job at an international NGO at the end of April. She was the manager of corporate partnership at Save the Children Bangladesh, said Abdul Quayyum, senior manager (communications and media) at the organisation.

Her husband also left his job at a private bank last year, saying he would no longer associate himself with an organisation that lends

money on interest. Using different names he rented flats at different parts of the city for the militants and the Bashundhara flat was one of those. Gulshan attackers lived at the flat immediately before the attack on July 1,

police say. Bangladeshi-Canadian Tamim accompanied the attackers up to a certain point in Gulshan from the Bashundhara hideout and left after bidding them farewell minutes before the café siege, according to investiga-

Tamim along with his two associates were killed during a raid in

Narayanganj on August 27. He had identified himself as Shaykh Abu Ibrahim Al-Hanif, the "Amir of the Khilafah's Soldiers in Bengal," in the 12th issue of Islamic State's propaganda magazine Dabiq in November last year.

Meanwhile, Tanvir's father Abdul Baten Kaderi, a retired government employee, said he was completely son and daughter-in-law.

shocked to know what became of his

"Tanvir was a very good man who never lied and committed a crime. I demand punishment of those who

brainwashed him," he told The Daily

Star.

Hazaribagh reels from pollution

FROM PAGE 1

According to government estimates, some 21,000 cubic meters of untreated effluent is released in the Buriganga from the Hazaribagh leather industry every day.

Apart from the hides, traders have

also been piling bones, heads, horns and hoofs of the sacrificial animals as these parts are used for different purposes as well.

Tannery industry causes multiple Merchants Association. health hazards for workers and the people living around it.

New York-based Human Rights in Hazaribagh," he said. Watch published a report on the Hazaribagh situation in 2012, saying, "Residents of Hazaribagh slums complain of illnesses such as fevers, skin diseases, respiratory problems, and diarrhoea caused by extreme tannery pollution in the air, water and soil."

This year, the rawhides are coming mainly from Posta, Mirpur, Mohammadpur and Sayedabad, said

Raja Mia Bepari, a trader, on Thursday. Tanners have stored around five lakh pieces of rawhides in Hazaribagh, he added.

"Hides from outside of Dhaka are yet to arrive. They usually start coming 10 days after the Eid," said Raja, who exports processed leather to different far eastern countries.

Tanners are now collecting hides from in and around the capital. Some traders have stored rawhides in Savar, but most of them are being stored in Hazaribagh, said Delwar Hossain, president of Raw Hides and Skins

"I think nearly one lakh raw hides have been stored in Savar and the rest

According to him, traders collected at least 75 percent of the rawhides in Hazaribagh and the rest in Savar.

As a huge number of animals are sacrificed during Eid-ul-Azha, tanners collect almost half of the total rawhides during this time of the year.

Asked about the relocation, Tanners Association President Shaheen Ahmed said, "I think we need at least six months to relocate all the tanneries from Hazaribagh to Savar. Already, six tanneries have started production in Savar leather town and another 30 have com-

pleted setting up equipment there." Currently, 95 factories are in opera-

tion in Hazaribagh while 65 others have stopped operation there, he added. Contacted, Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu said the relocation

be relocated much earlier, Inshalallah [God willing]." He said he would take steps for quick relocation once government

would not take six months. "They will

offices opened tomorrow. After the tanners have failed to relocate within repeated deadlines and sought time again and again, the Supreme Court has ordered the Hazaribagh tanners to pay a daily fine of Tk 10,000 for damaging the environ-

ment until they relocate to Savar. Between August 11 and 16, tanners have deposited Tk 55.9 lakh with the national exchequer in compensation for polluting the environment.

Owners of 98 out of the 154 tanneries deposited the money in line with the SC order, according to a report submitted by the industries secretary to the apex court on August 22.

SITUATION IN SAVAR

During a visit to Savar leather industry just days before the Eid, it was seen about 100 owners somewhat completed construction of their factory buildings. Construction of the rest of the 154 buildings was underway.

The construction work of the second unit of the Central Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) was going on in full swing.

"We were ready for the test operation of the CETP," said Project Director Abdul Qaiyum. "Already, 47 tanners have set up

wooden drums to process rawhide. We

need at least 48 units to conduct the test run.' Qaiyum said the water treatment plant in the area got power supply on June 30 and that they were ready to pro-

vide water connections to the factories. Already, 50 industries have applied for the water connection. Also, 40 industry owners have applied for electricity supply, and 20 of them got it, he

(Aklakur Rahman, a correspondent from Savar, contributed to this story.)

handle an increased flow of traffic.

DHAKA SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 2016, ASHWIN 2,1423 BS

both ends of the bridges during the Eid rush.

Moreover, ongoing construction of overpasses at level crossings, including those at Feni-Mohipal, Chouddagram in Comilla and Elenga on Dhaka-Tangail highway, narrowed down the

vehicles there. Mozammel also said some 80,000 cattle-laden trucks entered the capital from different districts before the Eid,

"We also saw unfit vehicles ply the highways, violating the traffic rules.

Siddique, secretary at the Road Transport and Highways Division, said there were long tailbacks on Dhaka-Tangail highway and at Daulatdia-

Paturia ghats. He blamed it on disruption to ferry

services on Daulatdia-Paturia route. Asked about the two-lane Kanchpur, Meghna and Gomti bridges, Siddique said, "We are upgrading

Eid holidaymakers travelling to south and south-western districts suffered badly during the Eid rush, as ferry services were disrupted on Daulatdia-Paturia route due to strong

current in the Padma.

vacation that began on September 9. As the landing stations, which had been out of service for several months, could not be reinstalled before the Eid rush, many of the vehicles took Dhaka-

Mozammel said the authorities must see that the traffic rules are strictly enforced on highways. It would help ensure smooth vehicular movement on busy highways during the Eid rush.

He also suggested making stricter traffic rules.

Abdul Haque said toll plaza staffs have to be trained to efficiently deal

Besides, drivers need to be given proper training on how to drive on

"Kung Fu" nuns bike Himalayas

FROM PAGE 16

Five hundred nuns from the Buddhist sect known as the Drukpa Order will complete a 4,000-km (2,485 mile) bicycle trek from Nepal's Kathmandu to the northern city of Leh in India today to raise awareness about human trafficking in the remote region.

"When we were doing relief work in Nepal after the earthquakes last year, we heard how girls from poor families were being sold because their parents could not afford to keep them anymore," 22-year-old nun Jigme Konchok Lhamo told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"We wanted to do something to change this attitude that girls are less than boys and that it's okay to sell them," she said, adding that the bicycle trek shows "women have power and strength like men."

The bicycle trek, from Nepal into India, is nothing new for the Drukpa

nuns. This is the fourth such journey they have made, meeting local people, government officials and religious said. leaders to spread messages of gender equality, peaceful co-existence and respect for the environment.

They also deliver food to the poor,

dubbed the "Kung Fu nuns" due to their training in martial arts. Led by the Gyalwang Drukpa, head

help villagers get medical care and are

of the Drukpa Order, the nuns raise eyebrows, especially among Buddhists for their unorthodox activities.

"Traditionally Buddhist nuns are treated very differently from monks. They cook and clean and are not allowed to exercise. But his Holiness thought this was nonsense and decided to buck the trend," said Carrie Lee, president of Live to Love International, a charity which works with the Drukpa nuns to support mar-

ginalised Himalayan communities. "Among other things, he gave them leadership roles and even introduced Kung Fu classes for the nuns after they faced harassment and violence from monks who were disturbed by the growing shift of power dynamics," she

Over the last 12 years, the number of Drukpa nuns has grown to 500 from 30, said Lee, largely due to the progressive attitudes of the 53-year-old Gyalwang Drukpa, who was inspired by his mother to become an advocate for gender equality.

The Gyalwang Drukpa also participates in the bicycle journeys, riding with the nuns as they pedal through treacherous terrain and hostile weather and camp out in the open.

The Drukpa nuns say they believe they are helping to change attitudes.

"Most of the people, when they see us on our bikes, think we are boys," said 18-year-old nun Jigme Wangchuk Lhamo.

"Then they get shocked when we stop and tell them that not only are we girls, but we are also Buddhist nuns," she said. "I think this helps change their attitudes about women and maybe value them as equals."

South Asia, with India at its centre, is also one of the fastest growing regions for human trafficking in the

world.

Gangs dupe impoverished villagers into bonded labour or rent them to work as slaves in urban homes, restaurants, shops and hotels. Many girls and women are sold into broth-

Experts say post-disaster trafficking has become common in South Asia as an increase in extreme events caused by global warming, as well as earthquakes, leave the poor more vulnera-

The Drukpa nuns said the earthquakes were a turning point in their understanding of human trafficking and that they felt a need to do more than travel to disaster-hit mountain villages with rice on their backs.

"People think that because we are nuns, we are supposed to stay in the temples and pray all the time. But praying is not enough," said Jigme Konchok Lhamo.

"His Holiness teaches us that we have go out and act on the words that we pray. After all, actions speak louder than words," she said.

One killed in chopper crash

FROM PAGE 1

Limited told The Daily Star. Details of the three other injured could not be known immediately. However, locals and police said they suffered minor injuries. Omar Faruk, sub-

inspector of Cox's Bazar Sadar Model Police Station, said Shakib flew to Tulip Sea Pearl Beach Resort, near Inani Sea Beach, for a

television commercial shoot around 9:30am. The helicopter crashed with a loud bang near Rejukhal Sea Beach area some 10 to 15 minutes after it took off for Dhaka with four passen-

gers, said Abdul Malek, deputy assistant director of Cox' Bazar fire station. Fishermen and locals rescued the

injured and took them to hospital. Abul Bashar, an eyewitness, said the condition of one of the injured seemed critical.

Three of the other passengers looked alright and got inside a car on foot while the pilot was saying he had high blood pres-

Shah Alam

sure, he said. Rafiqul Islam, a physician at Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital, said Shah Alam was brought dead there.

After the accident, firefighters rushed to the spot and stopped spillfire station official Abdul Malek.

The chopper had crashed on water added.

seen gathering debris of the helicopter at a nearby place. Sadhan Kumar Mohanta, manager of Cox's Bazar airport, said the

accident spot was out of the purview of their control tower through which they communicate with flights and helicopters.

before the tower started its day's operation, he said, adding, that was why they could not determine the reason behind the accident immediately.

Saiful Alam, flight operations officer of Meghna Aviation Limited,

"Once the investigation is over, the reason behind the crash will be before it receded during ebb tide, he known," he said adding that the chopper was Robinson R66, a tur-Around 3:00pm, labourers were bine-powered helicopter designed and built by US-based Robinson

Aviation Limited, an enterprise of

days to find it out."

told The Daily Star yesterday afternoon that a six-member team comprising officials of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh visited the age of fuel from the helicopter, said spot to investigate the incident.

Helicopter Company.

Meghna Group of Industries, is a helicopter transport provider, according to its website.

Aviation Limited, claimed that the helicopter was flying ensuring all the necessary safety measures. Meanwhile, quoting the family

"We will have to wait for some members of the deceased and locals, a correspondent from Satkhira reports that Shah Alam was the youn gest among his three siblings. He got married in 2015 and his wife is expecting a child. He was living in Jatrabari area of

the capital, his cousin Anisur Rahman said. "I had asked him [Shah Alam] to

come home during this Eid but he did not as he had work... now I'll never be able to see him again," said his mother Latifa Begum, as tears rolled down her cheeks. Following his death, Ogilvy

Established in 2011, Meghna Bangladesh on its Facebook page said, "We mourn with great sorrow the demise of our beloved colleague Shah Alam who passed away in a tragic accident earlier this morning. Contacted, Khorshed Alam, chief He was a very kind and gentle per-Besides, the accident happened marketing officer of Meghna son. He would smile always "

secretary general of Passenger Welfare Association of Bangladesh (PWAB), said the three highways were upgraded to four lanes from two lanes, but the

Why home-goers

"The highway police failed to check

Mozammel Haque Chowdhury,

it, and the violators of traffic rules went

long tailbacks on the highway.

unpunished," he said.

FROM PAGE 1

number of private vehicles plying those also rose in recent times. According to a PWAB estimate, some 70,000 private vehicles left the capital a day through these highways in the three days before the Eid

whereas the number usually hovers around 20,000. The problem, however, lies with the drivers of private cars and vehicles running on the outskirts of the capital, as they don't have experience of driv-

ing on highways, he told The Daily The Dhaka-Chittagong highway has four lanes but the connecting bridges

have only two lanes that are unable to Referring to the Meghna, Gomti and Kanchpur bridges, he said thousands of vehicles remained stuck on

roads, slowing down movement of

adding to long tailbacks on the high-

Things got even worse, as many of those broke down and got stuck on the highways," he said. Talking to this correspondent, MAN

those bridges to four lanes and the work is expected to complete by 2018."

River erosion and strong current frustrated the authorities' attempt to reinstall two landing stations at Daulatdia ferry ghat before the Eid

Tangail road, resulting in long tailback on the two-lane highway. The landing stations were put in operation a day before the Eid.

with an increased flow of vehicles.

highways, he added.