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AIR STRIKE KILLS 20 UN suspends Syria aid convoys

18 of 31 vehicles destroyed; Red Crescent employee among dead; Russia, regime forces deny role

AFP, Aleppo

The United Nations suspended all humanitarian convoys in Syria yesterday following a deadly air strike on aid trucks, as fighting intensified after the regime declared an end to a week-long truce.

Both Syria and Russia denied they were behind the raid on the convoy near northern city Aleppo, which the Red Cross said killed "around 20 civilians" including an employee of the Syrian Red Crescent.

Air raids and shelling meanwhile pounded key battlefronts across the country -- dimming hopes that the fraught ceasefire brokered by Moscow and Washington could be revived.

Key players including the United States and Russia were meeting in New York yesterday in an effort to salvage the peace process, which US Secretary of State John Kerry had warned could be the "last chance" to end Syria's civil war.

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Aid is seen strewn across the floor in the town of Orum al-Kubra on the western outskirts of the northern Syrian city of Aleppo yesterday, the morning after a convoy delivering aid was hit by a deadly air strike. A burnt down aid truck, inset, after the air strike. The UN said at least 18 trucks in the 31-vehicle convoy were destroyed en route to deliver humanitarian assistance to the hard-to-reach town.

PHOTO: AFP/REUTERS

HC summons UNO, OC over sentencing schoolboy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned the Sakhipur upazila nirbahi officer and the officer-in-charge of Sakhipur Police Station in Tangail to appear before it and explain why a schoolboy was sentenced to two years in jail over alleged threats made to a lawmaker via Facebook.

Sakhipur UNO Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, also an executive magistrate, and Sakhipur Police Station's OC Mohammad Maksudul Alam have been ordered to appear before the HC by 11:00am on September 27 and explain as to why Sabbir Shikder was punished under the Information and Communication Technology Act through a mobile court.

Under the Mobile Court Act, 2009, a mobile court has no jurisdiction to try any

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Chinese president to visit Dhaka in mid-October

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chinese President Xi Jinping is to arrive in Dhaka on a two-day visit in second week of October.

Dhaka is expected to seek financial support for over two dozens large projects.

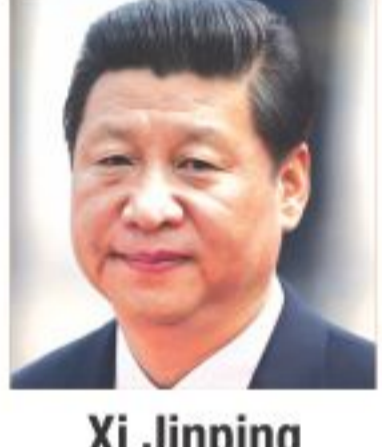
"I can tell you the visit is taking place," a diplomatic source in the Chinese embassy in Dhaka told The Daily Star. The diplomat said Xi Jinping will visit either on October 13 or 14.

Officials at the foreign ministry were yet to officially declare the date. They said they were in discussion with the Chinese about the visit. Chinese embassy officials also said nothing was finalised.

The Chinese president might announce a package for Bangladesh involving several billion dollars in the next couple of years, said the source.

China is also expected to sign a number

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Xi Jinping

INDICTMENT IN 2012 VIOLENCE CASE Fakhrul, 73 others face trial on Dec 4

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and 73 others in a case filed for vandalism and preventing police from discharging their duties during a road blockade in December 2012.

It also fixed December 4 to begin the trial of the case. Fakhrul was not in the first information report (FIR), but according to the charge sheet his involvement was found during the investigation.

On the other hand, BNP leader Mirza Abbas was named as a mastermind in the case statement, but since the probe didn't find his link his name is not in the charge sheet.

During yesterday's hearing, Fakhrul's lawyer Masud Ahmed Talukder said his client had been implicated in the case to harass him politically.

The charge sheet didn't mention any specific allegation against the BNP leader, he said, adding that they would challenge the order with the High Court.

Fakhrul and 35 others, now on bail, pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after Second Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Ali Mashud Sheikh read out the charges to them.

The court cancelled bails of 38 others and issued warrants for their arrest as they remained absent from yesterday's hearing.

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Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir

Sirajganj JMB chief, three militants held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Palma

The Detective Branch (DB) of Police has arrested the alleged JMB chief of Sirajganj, his two sons and another man at Erandah village of Ullapara early Tuesday.

The DB arrested the four men from inside Jamiatul Quran Cadet Madrasa and also seized a large quantity of gunpowder, some crude bombs and books on Jihad.

The arrestees are: Joynal Abedin, 55, his sons Borhan uddin, 28, and Imran Ali, 26, and Abu Bakar Siddique, 55.

According to police, they were the local organisers of the banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

Police, acting on a tip off, detained them when

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PHOTO ON PAGE 10

Billionaire's son buys his dog 8 iPhone 7s

CNN ONLINE

Apple fans lined up across China last week to get their hands on the latest iPhone, while others tried to smuggle handsets in from Hong Kong.

But one iPhone user didn't have to worry: Coco the Alaskan malamute.

Coco's owner Wang Sicong, son of Chinese billionaire Wang Jianlin (estimated worth \$30 billion), bought her eight iPhone 7 handsets on the day of their release, according to photos posted on the dog's verified Weibo social media account -- China's equivalent of Twitter.

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Cop shoots rickshaw puller accidentally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A rickshaw puller was injured when a policeman accidentally discharged his shotgun in the capital's Paltan area yesterday.

Mohammad Hanif, 35, of Muradnagar upazila in Comilla, suffered rubber bullet injuries to his chest, hands and back.

Anwar Hossain, deputy commissioner (Motijheel division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said Hanif was hit by rubber bullets when patrolling constable Tarok Nath accidentally fired his weapon yesterday afternoon.

"We will investigate the incident and take necessary action against him [the constable]," he said.

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Brangelina splits

AFP, Los Angeles

Angelina Jolie has filed for divorce from Brad Pitt and is seeking custody of their six children, spelling the end for "Brangelina," one of Hollywood's high-profile celebrity couples.

The 41-year-old Jolie filed legal documents on Monday citing irreconcilable differences with Pitt, 52, and listing their date of separation as September 15, according to entertainment news websites TMZ and People.

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HILSA PRICES DROP

A large crowd gathers at Karwan Bazar kitchen market yesterday to buy hilsa as the prices fell after Eid. A government official concerned claimed that the state's initiatives to protect the spawning of the national fish were paying dividends and that fishermen were catching more and larger hilsas. The official said last year 3.87 lakh tonnes were caught and they hope that 4 lakh tonnes of hilsa would be caught this year.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

NY BOMBINGS Lone suspect charged with attempted murder

AFP, New York

An Afghan-born American was charged Monday with attempted murder after being shot and captured in connection with bombings in New York and New Jersey, thrusting security fears into the heart of the election.

Saturday's attacks, which wounded 29 people in Manhattan and cancelled a US Marine Corps race in New Jersey, came on the same day that a Somali-American with possible links to the Islamic State extremist group went on a stabbing rampage in Minnesota, wounding nine

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Women stabbed on Delhi street, none helped

NDTV, New Delhi

On a road in New Delhi yesterday morning, a man stopped his bike, attacked a young woman and kept stabbing her until she stopped moving. The indifference that has shamed Delhi several times is on display in CCTV footage, which reveals that at least a dozen people did nothing to help 21-year-old Karuna.

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