



Promote women empowerment

PM urges world leaders at UN headquarters event

UNB, New York

Expressing her firm belief that there will be no room for violent extremism in those societies that create space for women's participation and empowerment, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called upon global leaders to continue to enlarge that space for building a sustainable better future.

The prime minister said this while attending a side-event on Women's Leadership and Gender Perspective on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism hosted by Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg at the conference room of the UN Headquarters in New York on Tuesday.

Noting that terrorism and violent extremism are affront to civilised societies, Hasina said they undermine peace and security, sustainable development and respect for human dignity.

"We must close our ranks to address these challenges. Women must be part of any solutions we seek."

The prime minister said she is happy seeing the secretary general's new plan of action recognising women's role and leadership in preventing violent extremism. "I believe education for all, especially for girls, is a powerful tool to address radical behavior and violent extremism. I encourage our mothers to act as role models and mentor their children."

Listing various steps taken by her government for women's empowerment, Hasina said, "Our SEE PAGE 5 COL 2



Fishermen stack hilsa on top of a van in the Fishery Ghat area of Chittagong yesterday. Loads of hilsa is being netted for the last several days in the port city much to the happiness of fishermen and traders, who remain busy unloading the trawlers coming from the Bay of Bengal with hilsa. According to the fishermen and traders, due to the availability of the national fish, the prices also dropped around Tk 200 per kg for both the sellers and buyers.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Bangladeshi girl among 17 youth leaders to support SDGs

UNB, Dhaka

The United Nations has named Bangladeshi young leader Shougat Nazbin Khan as one of the 17 youth leaders who will support efforts to engage young people in the realisation of SDGs.

The young leaders are scheduled to take part in a series of high-level meetings and events during the 71st session of the General Assembly, where they will have opportunities to engage in UN and partnered projects, according to a message received from the UN Headquarters.

Selected from over 18,000 nominations from 186 different countries, these leaders, aged 19-30 years old, come from many different backgrounds.

The United Nations envoy on youth unveiled the inaugural class of 17 youth leaders, recognised for their leadership and contribution to the achievement of the 17 Global Goals, also known as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate

Finally DNA tests to identify Tampaco victims, another dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Relatives of nine of the 11 workers, who have been missing or unidentified after the disaster at packaging factory Tampaco Foils Ltd, yesterday gave DNA samples to identify their loved ones.

They gave blood and saliva samples at the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) headquarters in the capital, but the relatives of two failed to come to Dhaka from their villages to give samples.

Meanwhile, the death toll in the factory explosion and fire rose to 35 as another burn victim died yesterday.

Twenty-four people were killed on the spot and more than 70 injured as the factory collapsed following a big explosion and fire on September 10, three days ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.

As of yesterday all 35 deceased were identified but seven bodies which were burnt beyond recognition were recov-

ered. Of the 11 missing or unidentified, four are presumed to be remaining under the rubble.

Talking to The Daily Star, Suman Bhakta, a sub-inspector of Tongi Police Station, said, "Usually it takes three months to get DNA test results after submission of samples. In this case, we will try to get them sooner."

Visiting the CID office, Alauddin Ahmed, who came in search of his brother-in-law Zahirul Islam, said, "The bodies were burnt beyond recognition. DNA tests are our last hope."

DEATH TOLL 35

Hossain Ahmed, 26, who had been unconscious since the day of the blast, died in a hospital in Dhaka yesterday afternoon, raising the number of deaths to 35, said SI Suman Bhakta.

He was the son of Hasan Ali from Sylhet's Golaganj upazila and a worker at Tampaco. Hossain was hospitalised on the day of the blast after

suffering over 70 percent burns. Gazipur Deputy Commissioner (DC) SM Alam said his family took away his body, and the district administration gave them Tk 20,000 for his burial.

CAUSE OF BLAST STILL UNKNOWN

The five investigation committees, working on the explosion and fire, are yet to find the cause of the disaster. Rescue work is still underway.

Probe officers said they could not inspect the insides of the factory rubble yet.

"We have collected valuable information. Because of rescue work, we have not been able to see the insides," said Rana Akbar Haidari, chief of the probe body formed by Titas Gas, which was accused by the factory management and workers of providing weak gas pipelines triggering the explosion.

The Titas investigator could not give

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Seven-yr-old boy found 'murdered'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A seven-year-old boy was found dead with bruises on the head on an abandoned match factory premises in the capital's Shyampur yesterday.

People of the neighbourhood first spotted the body of Abdullah, son of a local, with a chunk of concrete on his head. A tennis ball and a small stick were also found on the spot.

His mother, Ayesha, who is a cook at a community centre, came home for lunch when a neighbour told her about the body.

She rushed to the spot immediately and along with some family members took the body to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

She told journalists that when she left for work in the morning Abdullah was playing with his younger brother Abir.

When she was leaving, Abdullah told her that he wanted to have all the Pomelo fruits that his grandmother sent from Barisal while she would be at work, said the grieving woman at the hospital. "Those were the last words he told me," she weailed.

Kadamtoli police suspect he might have been murdered. The body was sent to the medical college morgue for an autopsy.



Shougat Nazbin

change by 2030.

"We're proud to announce this group of young global citizens who are already transforming their communities," UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth Ahmad Alhendawi told the Social Good Summit in New York, in which UN young leaders for the SDGs were announced.

"Today, I'm pleased to join [others] in welcoming the inaugural class of UN Young Leaders..." said UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in a statement delivered by Alhendawi.



Due to scarcity and overpricing of tickets, a group of people, putting their lives in peril, travel on top of a goods-laden truck, while heading back to the capital to rejoin work as the Eid holidays ended. The photo was taken in the Banani area of Bogra on Tuesday.

PHOTO: STAR

Risky return to capital for holidaymakers

MAMUN-UR-RASHID, Bogra

With the scarcity of bus tickets and transport companies charging extra, low-income people of the northern districts hoping to return back to their workplaces in the capital after Eid vacation are facing crisis while many are travelling on the rooftops of trains, trucks and covered-vans to reach their destinations, putting their lives in peril.

Visiting several bus counters at Thanthania, Satmatha, Tinmatha, Charmatha, Banani, Sherpur, Mokamtola, Dupchanchia and Nandigram of Bogra, this correspondent saw travellers paying Tk 600 to Tk 700 to reach the capital, whereas the usual fares range from Tk 320 to Tk 350.

The counters' sources said most of the tickets for September 15 to 25 were sold out before September 12.

"Usually I pay around Tk 300 to go to the capital," said Nurul Islam, a garments worker, who bought a ticket at Tinmatha, adding, "But I had to pay Tk 600."

Shourov Paul, a factory worker, said, "I have no other option but to pay the extra

amount. I have to return back to work in time."

The low-income people, anxious to reach Savar, Baipail, Gazipur and the capital were seen travelling on the back of the trucks or pick-up vans for Tk 60 to Tk 150 each and Tk 150 to Tk 250 to sit inside, which were also getting occupied fast.

Risking lives, many were seen riding on top of the trucks, buses and covered-vans, laden with goods.

"What choices do we have," said Ehsan Ali, a garments worker. "I cannot pay the extra amount."

Transport workers at the Satmatha bus stand admitted that they were charging Tk 100 extra from passengers, reasoning that they had to return with their vehicles empty.

The workers at the Thanthania, Tinmatha and Charmatha areas also echoed them.

Contacted, Gaziur Rahman, senior assistant superintendent of police (B circle and media) of Bogra, said police were keeping vigilance on the sufferings of the passengers and also preventing extortion on the highways.

MOULVIBAZAR WAR CRIMES ICT to start trial of 3 suspects in absentia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal 1 yesterday decided to try in absentia three fugitive accused from Moulvibazar for allegedly committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971.

The tribunal took the decision as the fugitives did not appear before it even after publication of advertisements in two national dailies asking them to do so. Earlier, police submitted a report stating that they were absconding.

The three fugitives are Samsul Hossain Tarafder, 65, an alleged Al-Badr commander in Raznagar upazila; Nesar Ali, 75, of Jamura, and Mobarak Mia, 66, of the upazila in the district.

Two other accused of the case -- Yunus

Ahmed, 71, and Ujer Ahmed Chowdhury, 63, -- are in the jail.

The tribunal also appointed Muzahidul Islam Shahin to represent the fugitives and fixed November 2 for hearing the charges.

Prosecutors on May 25 pressed five specific charges against the five. Except Samsul, all of the other accused were allegedly involved with the Razakar Bahini, according to the prosecution.

Meanwhile, the tribunal fixed November 22 for hearing the charges in a case filed against two Mymensingh men over their alleged involvement in genocide and crimes against humanity committed in the district during the Liberation War.

Accused Riaz Uddin Fakir, 65, of Bhalukjan village is now in jail while

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Man held with drone at airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Custom intelligence detained a man in the capital's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport for bringing along in his luggage a drone, the import of which has been banned.

Weighing around 14 kilogrammes, the DJI Phantom 4 has a camera capable of taking photos and videos of up to 64GB, an obstacle sensing system and can reach speeds of up to 72 kilometres per hour.

Nazrul Islam alias Jahidul arrived on an Air Arabia flight on Tuesday around 10:00pm, said Moinul Khan, director general of customs intelligence.

He stated that a friend in Dubai asked him to deliver the drone to a person in Bangladesh, said Moinul, claiming that its maximum carrying capacity was one kilogramme.

On July 27, customs intelligence seized another drone at the airport.

International Healthcare Services at Local Price in Bangladesh
With 24/7 Emergency & Ambulance Services

The World Heart Day
Reflects the concern of the wellness of our hearts

Risk of Heart Attack increases with

- Family history of heart disease
- Diabetes
- Smoking habits
- High cholesterol levels
- High blood pressure
- Obesity

Visit our booth in Jamuna Future Park
Location: Central Atrium
Dates: September 22 ~ 24

Special Heart Screening Packages are available for World Heart Day at Master Health Check in Apollo Hospitals Dhaka

- Packages include ECG, ECHO and Chest X-Ray (PA)
- Package validity: 20th September to 18th October

Apollo Hospitals Dhaka
Plot #81, Block # E, Bashundhara R/A, Dhaka-1229
For information: +88-02-8431600
www.apollohaka.com | info@apollohaka.com