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Missiles batter Syria's Aleppo

30 civilians, including several children, killed in air raids as US, Russia fail to salvage ceasefire

AFP, Aleppo

Missiles rained down on rebel-held areas of Syria's Aleppo yesterday, causing widespread destruction that overwhelmed rescue teams, as the army prepared a ground offensive to retake the city.

Nearly 30 civilians including several children were killed and dozens wounded in the raids by Russian warplanes and regime aircraft, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitoring group, said.

The intensity of the bombardment, which included artillery barrages and barrel bombings by helicopters, brought new misery to the estimated 250,000 civilians besieged by the army.

The escalation came after US Secretary of State John Kerry failed to reach an agreement with Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov on terms to salvage a failed ceasefire.

Asked by reporters at the United Nations whether the truce could be reinstated, Lavrov simply said: "You should ask the Americans."

A US official told AFP that no Kerry-Lavrov meeting had been scheduled for yesterday, "but that could change".

An AFP journalist in rebel-held east Aleppo reported relentless air raids and artillery fire overnight and yesterday morning.

Entire apartment blocks were flattened, overwhelming rescue teams from the White Helmets civil defence organisation.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



IS SHE COMPLAINING TO GOD?... A Syrian woman looks up in grief as she carries the body of her infant after a reported airstrike on the al-Muasalat area in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo.

PHOTO: AFP

Cancel their plots if they don't shift

Green activists urge govt about tanners' dillydallying in relocation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five green organisations yesterday demanded the government revoke plot allotments to Hazaribagh tanners and shut down their factories unless they relocate to Savar by December this year.

Following a visit to Savar Tannery Industrial Estate, a newly built environment-friendly tannery zone planned by the government to relieve Dhaka residents of environmental pollution, the representatives of the five organisations made the demand as they found the Central Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) at Savar is already capable of treating waste to half its capacity.

Effluent Treatment Plants are installed in factories to remove toxic materials from sewage and industrial wastewater before releasing the effluent, or treated water, back into the environment.

A team of representatives from Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela), Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa), Poribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba), Nijera Kori and Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD) yesterday took a tour of the ongoing development work at Savar tannery estate.

"We demand the government cancel plot allotments

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Hackers steal 500m Yahoo users' data

Tech firm says attack likely 'state sponsored'

AFP, San Francisco

Yahoo said Thursday a massive attack on its network in 2014 allowed hackers to steal data from half a billion users and may have been "state sponsored."

Yahoo, which confirmed details of the breach months after reports of a major hack, said its investigation concluded that "certain user account information was stolen," said a statement by the US internet giant in what is likely the largest-ever breach for a single organization.

"Yahoo is working closely with law enforcement on this matter." The comments come after a report earlier this year quoted a security researcher saying some 200 million accounts may have been accessed and that hacked data was being offered for sale online.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

STRANDED IN AFGHANISTAN Repatriation of 25 workers uncertain

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPOB

The return of 25 Bangladeshi workers, who have been stranded at a factory in Afghanistan for over eight months without work and salaries, remains uncertain as there is still no progress in their repatriation process.

Their families have been requesting the governments of Bangladesh and Afghanistan to take effective measures to bring them back home for the last couple of months.

In April, families of some of the victims filed a written complaint with the Afghan embassy in Dhaka against the owner of the factory. They also requested the embassy to arrange safe return of their relatives.

Since April this year, authorities concerned of both countries have been assuring the workers and their families of taking quick steps for their deportation, but no headway has been made to this end yet, the victims and their relatives have alleged.

"We are very frustrated and worried about the sluggish progress to send back us to Bangladesh. Here, we are leading the life like prisoners. We cannot go outside the factory's boundary," Mohammad Manik, one of the victims, told The Daily Star over the phone on Tuesday.

Hailing from Mymensingh's Fulbaria, the youth along with 24 other Bangladeshis had left home for Afghanistan on October 10 last year under the arrangement of an Indian national from West Bengal to work at Afghan Fald Steel Mill Co Ltd.

The Indian had promised the workers lucrative salaries. He had worked with some of the 25 Bangladeshis in Dhaka. He had managed visas for them from the Afghan embassy in Dhaka. Each of them had paid him Tk 1 to 1.5 lakh for managing visas, Manik claimed.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

LAUNCH CAPSIZE 3 more bodies recovered in Sandhya

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Bodies of three more people who were missing after a launch capsized in the Sandhya river in Barisal's Banaripara upazila three days ago were recovered yesterday.

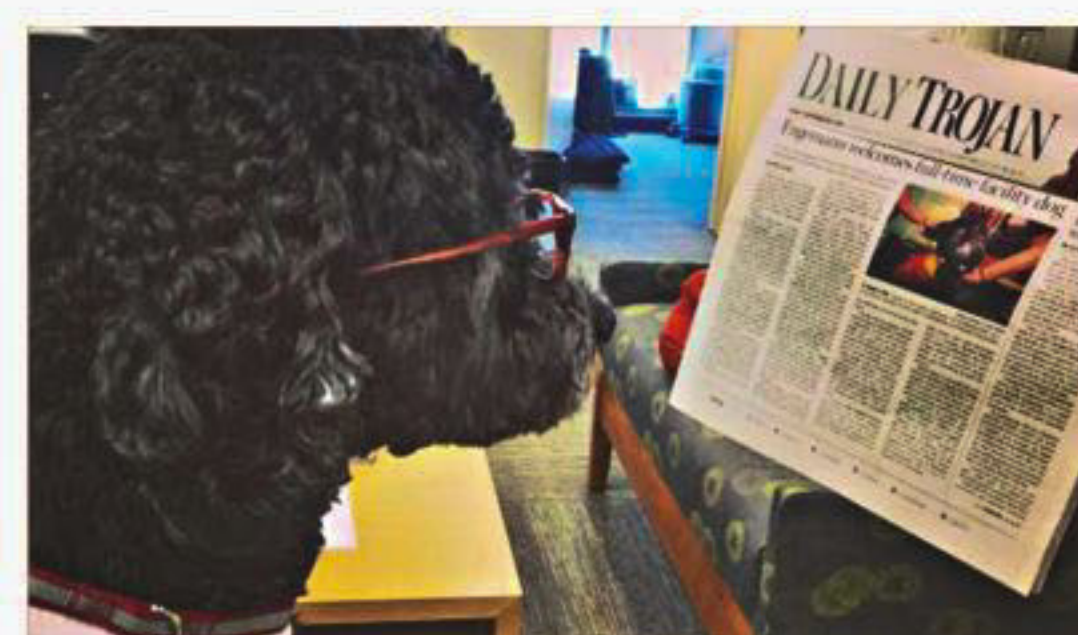
However, there was confusion over the number of people died in the launch capsizing. Police on Thursday had put the death toll at 24. But two names were mistakenly included in the list.

Yesterday, police updated the list and confirmed that the number is 25, with the recovery of the bodies of Monowara, Alpina, and Didan.

Police yesterday filed a case against Yousuf Hossain, owner and operator of Oishi Plus, and Nayan Ahmed, another staff of the launch, for their negligence.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

'Dog professor' hired at US univ



PTI, Los Angeles

A top US university has hired a 'professor' to provide comfort to stressed students and the new faculty member is no renowned academic but a 2-year-old dog.

The University of Southern California (USC) in Los Angeles has hired a goldendoodle named Professor Beauregard Tirebiter, according to USC News, a university news site run by USC's communications team.

He resides on the second floor of the university's student health centre, where he provides affection and comfort to stressed students as a wellness dog, USC News wrote. He even has office hours, a uniform and business cards -- though he has "trouble handing out the latter".

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

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Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
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JAMAAT 5-15 1-15 4-45 6-10 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



SWELLING PADMA DEVOURS HOMES

Erosion of the Padma devours homes in Dohar of Dhaka, some 40 kilometres from the capital. Several villages in the upazila have already been swallowed by the monsoon-swollen river. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

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