

# Myanmar recovers more bodies from crashed plane

REUTERS, Yangon

Myanmar rescuers have recovered the bodies of about half of the 122 people who were on board a military plane that went missing after it crashed into the Andaman Sea last week, the army said yesterday.

The Chinese-made Y-8-200F transport plane crashed into the sea last Wednesday when it was carrying 122 soldiers, family members and crew on a weekly flight from several coastal towns to Myanmar's largest city, Yangon.

The number of bodies retrieved so far rose to 62 yesterday as the hunt for the plane stretched into a sixth day, the military said on its official Facebook page. Nine children were among those found.

While the cause of the incident has yet to be confirmed, Myanmar's Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing said on Sunday there was "a very big cloud" near the plane crash site, according to his official Facebook page.

He did not elaborate. "The crashed plane was expected to be found soon as it crashed in the country's territory and some evidences were collected," he said.

Myanmar authorities had rejected offers of help from several countries including China, the state-run newspaper Global New Light of Myanmar said on Sunday.

Some bodies pulled from the waters off Myanmar's southern coast were cremated last week as relatives and friends mourned the identified victims in the coastal town of Dawei.

Aircraft accidents, involving both civilian and military planes, are not uncommon in the Southeast Asian country.

A military helicopter crashed last June, killing three military personnel. Five were killed in February last year when an air force aircraft crashed in the capital, Naypyitaw, media reports said.

# 23 AAGs

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The lawyers exempted from the office of AAG are - Shadhan Kumar Banik, Delwara Begum Bela, Yadia Zaman, Anwara Khanam, Bilkis Fatema, Motiur Rahman Hawlader, Abdul Bari, Nurul Haque, Manower Hossain, Abdur Rahman Hawlader, Bahauddin Ahmed, Touthida Khatun Rina, Abu Saleh Mohammad Fazle Rabbi Khan, Md Zaber, Mozammel Haque Rana, Khandker Modares Elahi Tiru, Mia Sirajul Islam, SM Asadullah Tarek, Shahidul Islam Khan, ABM Mahbub, Mamunur Rashid, Soeb Khan and Nowajish Ara Begum.

The lawyers newly appointed as AAG are Syeda Sabina Ahmed (Moli), Afifa Begum, Anich Ul Maowa (Arju), Saiba Fairoz, Helena Begum (Chaina), Md Asaduzzaman, Lucky Begum, Md Shafiquzzaman, Mizanur Rahman Khan, Mohammad Akhtar Hossain, Syed Bashir Hossain Chowdhury, Nusrat Jahan, Abul Kalam Khan (Daud), Sandhya Ghosh, Md Nasim Islam, Mohammad Mojibur Rahman, Ashraf Uddin Khan, Mehedi Hasan, Nirmal Kumar Das, Zahir Ahmed, Sathi Shahajahan, Zakir Hossain, Airin Jahan, Prohlah Debnath, Abul Hossain Md Ziauddin, Ashik Rubaiyat and Najimul Islam Raju. Following the changes, there are now - other than Attorney General Mahbubey Alam - two additional attorneys general, 44 DAGs and 100 AAGs.

# Plastic crockery

FROM PAGE 1

VAT although we will be able to claim rebate," said Choudhury Atiur Rasul, director (accounts) of Pran-RFL Group, leading manufacturer of plastic items.

Giving an example, he said a 70-litre bucket is now sold for Tk 500 in retail. Manufacturers import raw materials worth Tk 350 for it and pay Tk 52.50 in VAT.

But once the new VAT system comes into effect, its price will rise by around Tk 23 and customers will have to pay Tk 75 in VAT.

Industry operators say the plastic industry has grown over the last several years, buoyed by increasing domestic use of plastic goods for relatively cheap prices, availability and a wide range of designs offered by local manufacturers.

The sector fetches more than Tk 3,000 crore from export of plastic goods and records nearly Tk 15,000 crore in annual turnover from domestic market with operators expecting that the market would grow further.

Atiur said, "A few years back, people were not interested in buying plastic crockery as many of those were of substandard quality. But consumers' confidence grew over time owing to improvement in quality by manufacturers and introduction of a wide variety of designs."

Jashim, also vice chairman of plastic goods maker and exporter Bengal Group of Industries, said the government should have exempted plastic crockery from VAT given the fact that it has waived VAT on domestically manufactured refrigerators and air conditioners under the new law.

# White House says Trump, May didn't discuss UK trip

AFP, Westminster

The White House said Sunday that President Donald Trump did not discuss a trip to Britain with Prime Minister Theresa May in their most recent telephone call, with officials denying plans had changed.

Trump has been invited to make a coveted state visit, penciled in for autumn, but no dates have been set, amid political turmoil in London and fears that the US president would be greeted by mass protests.

Trump was already a deeply unpopular figure in Britain before he criticized London mayor Sadiq Khan when he was managing the response to a major terror attack.

Britain's Guardian newspaper group poured doubt over the trip Sunday, reporting that Trump told May in a phone call in recent weeks that he does not want to go ahead with a state visit until the British public supports him coming.

White House officials say few discussions about the trip have taken place and Trump's travel schedule is already filling up.

The president is expected to travel to Poland and Germany next month and has agreed to attend summits in the Philippines and Vietnam.

There have also been discussions about visit Japan and perhaps South Korea.

A senior administration official said May and Trump did not discuss the issue when they spoke by telephone on Friday, although they have on earlier calls.

A Downing Street spokeswoman said the invitation was still on the table, but offered no timeframe.

"We aren't going to comment on speculation about the contents of private phone conversations. The Queen extended an invitation to President Trump to visit the UK and there is no change to those plans."

# BTRC suspends

FROM PAGE 2

The release, signed by senior assistant director of BTRC Zakir Hossain, said the DFNL provided internet connections to 150 customers. Law enforcers found that some of them were involved in militancy or terrorist activities in the country.

As the DFNL did not maintain IP logs of customers, it was not possible to identify these customers. So, the law enforcers were facing difficulties in arresting them, the BTRC release added.

The BTRC again directed all ISPs not to share bandwidth with unauthorised ISPs and the ISPs which did not maintain IP logs of customers.

Another official of the BTRC said they were working closely with the law enforcement agencies to find the ISPs which did not keep IP logs of customers and supplied bandwidth to unauthorised ISPs. They would be fined for ignoring its directives.

Earlier, the BTRC also asked all ISPs to share their IP log information with it for security purposes.

# Sarfraz carries Pak into semis

FROM PAGE 1

And it seemed like it wasn't going to be their day when Pakistan opener Azhar Ali was dropped on nought by Asela Gunaratne at point.

But fellow opener Fakhar Zaman was far more dynamic, hitting three fours in as many balls off the unorthodox Malinga.

In just his second match at this level, the left-handed Fakhar completed a 34-ball fifty.

But, two balls later, he fell for exactly 50 when a top-edged hook off Nuwan Pradeep was caught by Gunaratne at fine leg.

Pakistan, then 92 for one, saw three wickets go down in a hurry.

Babar Azam and Mohammad Hafeez both fell to tame legside catches before Azhar's painstaking 34 ended when he fended at pacesman Suranga Lakmal and Kusal Mendis held an awkward catch at a wide slip position.

Shoaib Malik (11) then feathered a catch behind following an attempted pull off Malinga.

Fahim Ashraf thrillingly hooked Malinga over long leg for six but the ODI debutant was run out for a run-a-ball 15 when bowler Thisara Perera deflected a Sarfraz drive onto the stumps at the non-striker's end.

Sarfraz was now the key man but Sri Lanka dropped him on 38, when with Pakistan 194 for seven, Thisara Perera at mid-on floored the simplest of catches.

And he was missed again, on 40, when substitute Seekuge Prasanna dropped a far more difficult chance running in from deep square leg.

In the end, Sri Lanka were made to pay for a poor batting display.

Sent in by Sarfraz, they were making steady progress at 161 for three while top-scorers Dickwella (73) and captain Angelo Mathews (39) were together at the crease.

But the loss of Mathews sparked a middle-order collapse that saw four wickets lost for just six runs as Sri Lanka slumped to 167 for seven.

Only same late tail-order hitting, including Suranga Lakmal's ODI best 26, got Sri Lanka past 200 in an innings where Pakistan pacesman Junaid Khan (three for 40) and Hasan Ali (three for 43) did the bulk of the damage.

All-rounder Mathews, fresh from an unbeaten fifty in Sri Lanka's shock seven-wicket victory over India, drove off-spinner Mohammad Hafeez for six, while Dickwella ended a sequence of 54 balls without a boundary by cover-driving left-arm spinner Imad Wasim for four.

Mathews, however, fell when an inside edge off Mohammad Amir gave the elated left-arm pacesman his first wicket of the tournament.

In what turned out to be a brilliant all-round match for wicket-keeper Sarfraz, he held a superb low one-handed catch to dismiss Dickwella after the batsman got an inside edge to Amir.

# Keep a close watch

FROM PAGE 16

activists as well as common people were not included in the list in 2008 when it was prepared with photographs of voters. The situation remained unchanged during updating of the list in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

"The BNP is a big political party and it will contest the future elections. So it is usual that the party will keep a close watch on the voter list update so that none is left off the list and fake voters can't be included," party standing committee member Moudud Ahmed told The Daily Star.

Allegations were raised against the government of including a huge number of fake voters in the list in the last few years, he added.

The BNP further alleged that many party men had been on the run during updating of the voter list due to "false cases" filed against them.

The letter signed by BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir instructed the grassroots leaders to ensure that the detained and fugitive party men are included in the list.

The party directed its district and city leaders to give necessary instructions to the upazila and union level leaders in this regard.

Copies of the letter were sent to presidents and general secretaries of the BNP district and city units and divisional organising secretaries.

Ruhul Quddus Talukdar Dulu, organising secretary of BNP, said special instructions were given to grassroots leaders as the party took the voter list "seriously".

"We've already held meetings and

asked our leaders to ensure that not a single voter is left off the list and fake voters can't be included. If voters, especially the young, can go to polling centres, they will show their strength. So we are aware of it," he added.

A senior BNP leader said the party sent the letter to the grassroots to get their opinion.

The party will compile the opinion and convey it to the EC during talks with it, he told this correspondent on condition of anonymity.

The EC is likely to start holding talks with registered political parties next month.

# Shocked

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yesterday, she said, "Nobody is responsible for my death." She ended her life for not being able to come to terms with the loss of her husband, Badhan Chandra Das, said Mosharraf Hossen, sub-inspector of Ramna Police Station, referring to the note.

Badhan, who was a fruit trader in Badamtali area, committed suicide one and a half months ago, failing to bear his loan burden, his brother Sudarshan Das told The Daily Star.

Since then, Monju, a housewife, used to sit in the drawing room of the couple's residence in the capital's Eskaton all day long and used to keep staring at her husband's photo.

Monju Rani couldn't overcome her grief, Sudarshan added.

A bottle of poison and the suicide note were found beside her body, the police officer said.

# Journey home

FROM PAGE 1

Seeking to find a way out, Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity, a passengers' welfare association, organised a roundtable titled "Sufferings During Eid Travel: Civic Thought" at the capital's Mukti Bhaban yesterday.

The Eid rush is expected to begin on the night of June 22.

Citing government estimates, the association leaders said about 37 percent areas of the country's roads and highways were dilapidated and about 80 lakh people would leave Dhaka for their homes during the Eid.

This year, many of them might have to remain stuck in jam for hours due to the ongoing development work on Joydevpur Chandra-Tangail-Elenga road that connects 16 districts, they added.

Mozammel Haque Chowdhury, secretary general of the association, said passengers on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway could be the worst sufferers since the construction of a four-lane flyover was underway at Rugganj of Narayanganj.

"Due to the construction work, the highway stretch between Bhulta and Gawsia market becomes narrow and it takes three to four hours to cross that distance alone," he said, adding, the holidaymakers suffered a lot last year at that place.

Illegal parking and illegal markets set up at some places also lead to slow movement of traffic on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway, he said.

Waterways are not safe for travel amid rough weather, Mozammel said, adding that many accidents happened in the past as launch operators carried passengers three or even four times higher than the vessel's capacity.

Quoting an estimate of railway, he said the life of about 68.35 percent of the engines and 46.14 percent of the coaches of railways have expired and due to the crisis, 80 percent of passengers have to travel risking their lives.

He urged the government to ensure a strict monitoring system to prevent slow moving and overloaded vehicles on highways and check excessive fares and illegal sale of tickets during the Eid.

# Editor sued

FROM PAGE 1

Citing a report of a Dhaka-based online newspaper that around 80 ruling AL lawmakers were made to pay for a poor batting display. Sent in by Sarfraz, they were making steady progress at 161 for three while top-scorers Dickwella (73) and captain Angelo Mathews (39) were together at the crease.

But the loss of Mathews sparked a middle-order collapse that saw four wickets lost for just six runs as Sri Lanka slumped to 167 for seven.

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# Before going

FROM PAGE 4

and sisters, said his brother Shamsul. Mostafa was aware of it but never took any step, he said.

After the deaths, Shamsul filed a murder case with Turag Police Station, accusing Mostafa and his sister Kohinoor.

Shafiqur Rahman, inspector (investigation) of Turag Police Station, said Mostafa's sister Kohinoor admitted that they were not on good terms with Rehana, but she denied asking her sister-in-law to vacate the house.

Talking to reporters at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Friday, Mostafa said two influential men, who had taken Tk 50 lakh from him to invest the amount in the MLM business, were not repaying the money; instead they were threatening him.

He suspected the two might have been behind the deaths of his wife and children. He, however, did not disclose the two names.

Inspector Shafiqur Rahman said they were investigating the case keeping in mind all aspects -- financial crisis, family feud over land, and business issues.

# 21 years gone

FROM PAGE 3

vocal against the military presence in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), and supported CHT's autonomy-oriented movement Jana Sanghati Samity (JSS), and thus earned the chagrin of security forces.

Dipayan Khisha, a member of JSS, said Kalpana was a voice of the hill tract people, a voice of the democratic people as well.

Mentioning the recent incidents of Longadu and Romel Chakma, Barrister Sara Hossain, executive director of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, said, "Seeking justice now-a-days has been hard. Those who seek justice, are tortured in different ways."

# Fear and frenzy

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A staff of Rasel-1, a launch plying on Dhaka-Patuakhali route, said they started refurbishment works three months ago and hope to complete it within a week. "It takes a long time as a lot of changes have been made," he said.

Asked about the fitness, he said, "Sure we have [fitness certificate]. It is not possible to ply launch without this certificate."

A staff of Jamal-11, previously named Dweepraj-2, said that they have already completed refurbishment work. "Every year, we do this ahead of the Eid to attract passengers," he said.

Workers were seen carrying out similar works in Eagle-3, Rasel-3 Jamal-7, Parabat-8, Parabat-10 and several other vessels.

# OF REGISTERED AND UNREGISTERED VESSELS

Contacted, AKM Fakrul Islam, chief engineer and ship surveyor of the Department of Shipping, said there are some 11,000 registered water vessels in the country now and of them, passenger carriers are 850. The shipping department is responsible for giving registration and yearly-fitness certificate.

On the other hand, there are some 30,000 mechanised boats which were not registered. As per the law, any mechanised boat, which is run by a 16-horse-power machine, must be registered with the shipping department, he said.

Among the registered vessels, the department could survey fitness of some 6200 registered vessels this year (2016-17), said Fakrul. He, however, claimed all passenger carriers have gone through the fitness survey.

According to a departmental document titled "Annual Performance Agreement 2016" signed between the shipping department and the shipping ministry, 5500 vessels went through the survey in 2014-15 while 5700 were surveyed in 2015-2016. In these two years, 1,110 vessels received registration, the document shows.

Replying to a question, he said there are only five surveyors in the department and "it is possible to survey all registered vessels" theoretically, not practically.

About the huge number of vessels which remain out of the mandatory survey, he said many owners do not apply for survey. "Some owners can ply their vessels in remote areas due to the lack of necessary manpower."

Queried on the huge number of unregistered vessels, he said they have a plan to carry out a survey of the unregistered vessels soon under a project titled "Ships and Mechanised Boats Data Entry Project" which was sent to the planning ministry for final approval, he added.

# FIT FOR COLLISIONS

Contacted Prof Mir Tareque Ali of the Department of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, said plying of unregistered and unfit vessels alongside fit and registered vessel is a serious threat for inland waterways.

# UK PM

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to call the election in the first place. May however has vowed to stay on, and on Sunday unveiled a largely unchanged new cabinet.

The visibly weakened premier denied she was feeling "shell-shocked" after her election gamble backfired.

"What I'm feeling is that actually there is a job to be done and I think what the public want is to ensure that the government is getting on with that job," May said in an interview with Sky News.

Foreign minister Boris Johnson, who was reported by British media to be lining up a leadership bid, insisted May should stay.

"The people of Britain have had a bellyful of promises and politicking," he wrote in The Sun tabloid. "Now is the time for delivery -- and Theresa May is the right person to continue that vital work."

May's party fell eight seats short of retaining its parliamentary majority, and is now in talks with Northern Ireland's ultra-conservative Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) -- which won 10 seats -- to forge an informal alliance.

# WALK AWAY WITH NO DEAL

Brexit minister David Davis insisted the government still aimed to take Britain out of the EU single market.

"The reason for leaving the single market is because we want to take back control of our borders, they're not compatible," he told BBC radio.

He also said the government would "walk away" with no deal if talks broke down on ending Britain's four-decade membership of the bloc.

But Ruth Davidson, the pro-EU leader of the Conservatives in Scotland, called on May to "reopen" the government's Brexit plans.

She warned her 13 MPs "will vote entirely as they believe they should" in parliament, raising doubts the government could secure enough votes to pass a deal taking Britain out of the single market.

# In many cases, launch accidents

happen due to the collision of two vessels and in most of the cases, unfit and unregistered vessels were found responsible, he said adding, "Unregistered and unfit vessels are security threat for fit launches too."

He also questioned the process of giving fitness certificate. "They [surveyors] gave fitness certificate without following due procedure. They did not give sufficient time to complete the due procedure," he added.

Ashis Kumar Dey, general secretary of the National Committee to Protect Shipping, Road and Railway, said some unscrupulous launch owners usually operate their unfit vessels in relatively unimportant routes, "managing the officials of Shipping department and BIWTA."

But, ahead of the Eid festival, they apply for fitness certificate after doing some refurbishing works on their launches, and eventually get the certificate as the officials remain busy with others tasks.

Fakrul Islam, however, refuted the allegations.

He said the launch owners try to give their launches a new look to attract passengers and they paint the vessels and repair windowpanes. "Our officer at Dhaka Sadarghat office is regularly doing survey work, which is being done on a scheduled basis. Unscheduled surveys are very rare," he said.

Regarding unregistered vessels, Ashis Kumar Dey, author of the book "Rivers of Bangladesh and Water Transport System," said unregistered vessels are one of the main reasons for launch accidents. He gave examples where unregistered vessels were responsible for the accidents.

In February 2005, MV Moharaj capsized when a sand-laden unregistered vessel hit the vessel and MV Sharos capsized in February 2013 after being hit by an unregistered oil tanker, he said.

# OVERLOADED AND OVERLOOKED

Reaz ul Kabir, director of Surovi Group of Company, which operates several launches on different routes, claimed the overall security preparation this year is far better than previous years.

"We operate our launches following all rules and laws," he said.

Asked about overloading, he said "It's is very difficult to control it. When a passenger boards a launch, it is difficult to force him off," he said.

Owing to the many inland waterways and slack safety standards, the country sees launch disasters on a regular basis, with death tolls sometimes rising to a hundred. But incidents of punishing people responsible for the disasters are rare.

At least 5,666 passengers died and 1,368 people remained missing in launch accidents from 1993 to 2016, Ashis Kumar Dey, mentioned in his book, citing different sources.

Meanwhile, the authorities concerned mentioned that keeping the rainy season in mind, they have taken heavy precautions this time around.

# The British government will delay by

"a few days" the presentation of its programme in parliament following its setback in the general election last week, the BBC reported yesterday.

The pageantry-filled ceremony officially the State Opening of Parliament but more commonly known as the Queen's Speech, is an outline of the government's policy proposal read by Queen Elizabeth II.

It had been scheduled for June 19 and has been in the queen's diary since April.

A spokesman for British Prime Minister Theresa May refused to confirm the date at a daily briefing, saying only that there would be a statement regarding the Queen's Speech "in due course".

The spokesman added that any update would come from Andrea Leadsom, the government's new representative in the House of Commons.

Conservative leader May lost her parliamentary majority in the election, and ministers have said the government will have to jettison key parts of its manifesto ahead of the Queen's Speech.

The speech is normally followed by days of debate and then a vote on the government's programme, which would in effect be a vote of confidence in the government.

"We are working with the DUP in order to reach a deal that will allow the safe passage of the Queen's Speech," May's spokesman said.

The State Opening involves the queen reading out the government's policy plans from a calfskin parchment in an annual tradition dating back to the Middle Ages.

The monarch is clad in white and usually arrives in a gilded carriage with dozens of horsemen to the sounds of the national anthem, "God Save The Queen".

In a bizarre custom dating back to times of hostility between parliament and monarchy, an MP is "held hostage" at Buckingham Palace until she returns safely.