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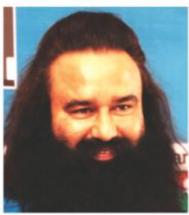
SHAH CEMENT

CONVICTION OF GURU FOR RAPE

Clashes kill 32 in northern India

180 injured; troops called in, curfew imposed

At least 32 people were killed yesterday when clashes broke out in northern India after a court convicted a controversial religious leader of raping two of his followers, sparking fury among tens of thousands of supporters who had gathered for the verdict.



Ram Rahim Singh

will mobilise more forces in the night to take control," a senior state official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

He said the large crowd went berserk soon after the verdict was pronounced and attacked police and set vehicles afire before the police took action.

Most of the fatalities were caused by gunshots, the officer said.

Ram Rahim Singh has a vast following in many states of northern India, including in Haryana, where he runs a spiritual movement that claims to have millions of devotees around the world.

Authorities imposed an indefinite curfew in Panchkula, where mobile internet services had earlier been cut off.

"I don't understand what the government and the police are doing. We have been feeling unsafe since yesterday and all our fears came true today," local resident Sandeep Singh told AFP.

"Why did the police not act swiftly and

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A member of the security forces walks past burning vehicles set alight by rioting followers of a religious leader convicted of rape in Panchkula yesterday. Inset, followers of the guru throw stones at security forces during clashes.

PHOTO: AFP



Samsung heir gets 5-year jail sentence

AFB, Seoul

The heir to the Samsung empire was convicted of bribery and other offences yesterday and jailed for five years in connection with the scandal that brought down South Korean president Park Geun-Hye.

Lee Jae-Yong's penalty could leave the vast conglomerate, which includes the world's biggest smartphone maker, rudderless and hamper its ability to make key investment decisions for years.

The vice-chairman of Samsung Electronics, 49,

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Global efforts to fight wheat blast

Scientists to find ways to prevent spread of the disease in South Asia

REAZ AHMAD

Global scientific resources have been pooled under an international collaboration to combat wheat blast in Bangladesh so that the fearsome fungal disease is not spread across South Asia.

Under the initiative, sources of resistance to wheat blast would be identified and the same would be deployed in wheat varieties adapted to Bangladesh. South American nation Bolivia, long ravaged by wheat blast, will assist with large-scale field experiments to select suitable wheat lines.

Naresh Chandra Dev Barma, head of Bangladesh Wheat Research Centre (WRC), told The Daily Star that under an initiative led by International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), researchers from nearly a dozen institutions worldwide will join forces to develop high-yielding varieties with resistance to blast, reducing the risk of catastrophic crop losses in four-year time.

Following the fungal attacks in Bangladeshi wheat fields in two successive years, the Mexico-based CIMMYT expressed fear that the wheat blast pathogen was likely to spread soon throughout South Asia.

It is a region where rice-wheat cropping rotations cover 13 million hectares and nearly a billion inhabitants consume over 100 million tonnes of wheat each year.

Bolivia's National Institute of Agricultural and Forestry Innovation (INIAF), the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), Kansas State University, USA, and national and provincial research organisations from India, Nepal, and Pakistan joined hands with Bangladesh's Wheat Research Centre to fight the blast.

This urgent global response to wheat blast has received a \$1.5 million

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'Accidental fire' from cop's gun hurts man

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka education board official was injured when a constable of Dhaka Metropolitan Police "accidentally fired" a shotgun in front of Westin hotel in the capital's Gulshan Thursday night.

Shahedul Khabir Chowdhury, secretary of Dhaka education board and secretary general of BCS General Education Association, was hit by pellets as he came out of the hotel around 10:00pm, Abu Bakar Siddique, officer-in-charge of Gulshan Police Station told The Daily Star.

He was rushed to United Hospital, the OC said, adding that the victim was too far from the gun to be critically injured.

Bakar added that two constables of DMP's Public Order Management—Imran and Ashraf—were suspended for negligence.

The Gulshan Division of DMP has formed a three-member committee headed by an assistant commissioner to investigate the incident.

Imran and Ashraf had allegedly taken each other's weapons by mistake before going to Gulshan. Ashraf's shotgun was loaded while the other one was empty, Bakar said quoting the duo.

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Prison provides rehab for inmates, animals

AFP, Sydney



AFP, Sydney

Australian prisoners are caring for animals that have been abandoned, attacked by predators, hit by cars or even seized in a drug bust as part of a rehabilitation programme.

Kangaroos, emus, wombats, snakes and cockatoos are just some of the native creatures being nursed back to health by inmates at a wildlife centre based in the John Morony Correctional Complex outside Sydney.

Officials say the scheme helps instil a sense of responsibility and develops life skills for offenders preparing for the outside world.

"Animals show that (love and respect) unconditionally, they don't judge, so over time they (inmates) form relationships with the animals," the wildlife

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Criminals stab August 21 attack survivor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified criminals stabbed a survivor of the August 21 grenade attack near his home in the capital's Jatrabari early yesterday.

Badar Aziz Uddin, 53, a local Awami League activist and also a complainant of August 21 grenade attack case, is undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital with multiple stab wounds in his

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SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 26

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-25 12-45 4-45 6-38 8-00

JAMAAT 5-00 1-15 5-00 6-41 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SACRIFICIAL ANIMALS FOR EID-UL-AZHA

Cattle supply 'adequate'

Concern over transportation

HELEMUL ALAM and SOHEL PARVEZ

Supply of cattle is more than adequate to meet the Eid demand, but traders worry about transporting them to the capital and other big cities on time as many highways are in bad shape following the devastating flood.

Some 1.15 crore cattle, including 44.57 lakh bulls and buffaloes, are available domestically for sacrificing this year, up one percent from last year, according to the Department of Livestock Services (DLS).

Apart from this, nearly two lakh cattle have been brought in by traders from India and Myanmar in the last two months, which is 20 percent of the entire year's inflow, show data from the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

DLS Director General Ainul Haque said, "We have supply higher than the demand for this Eid."

The DLS estimates that the demand for animals would rise 5 percent from last year to 1.10 crore in the ensuing Eid, which typically accounts for half of the total animals slaughtered in a year.

Cattle traders opined the same, and some said the inflow of animals through borders would continue until the day before Eid, raising local farmers' concern of losses.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Cows are on sale at Gabtoli cattle market in the capital ahead of Eid-ul-Azha on September 2. This year, there is enough supply of cows to meet the demand of sacrificial animals for the Eid.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN