



Students leaving the campus of Pabna Medical College yesterday morning following a factional clash of Chhatra League. The violence left 10 students injured.

India likely to revive mega missile deal with Israel

AFP, New Delhi
The Indian army and the government are discussing ways to revive a \$500 million order to buy Spike anti-tank guided missiles from Israel's state-owned defence contractor Rafael, military chief Bipin Rawat said yesterday.
India recently called off the deal to procure 8,000 missiles, souring the build up to Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to the country this week.
Rawat said the deal was scrapped after the state-run Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) offered to manufacture similar missiles in line with premier Narendra Modi's pet 'Make in India' initiative.
"They (DRDO) said... why you are going for a missile that we are capable of manufacturing and can give you better results," Rawat said.
"That is what led to retracting of the RFP (request for proposal)."
Rawat said the DRDO missiles were yet to be tested and would not be ready till 2022, which could hit India's operational capabilities in the

interim.
"So how do we bridge the gap between now and 2022? It's through the Spike."
"Rather than going whole hog we are in the discussion with the government" to fill in the gap he said.
"We can possibly look at a lesser number to meet the gap."
India has been investing tens of billions of dollars in updating its Soviet-era military hardware to counter long-standing tensions with regional rivals China and Pakistan.
Israel is a major weapons supplier to India, exporting an average of \$1 billion of military equipment each year.
In April last year the two countries signed a military deal worth nearly \$2 billion which includes the supply of medium-range surface-to-air missiles, launchers and communications technology.
But Modi has said he wants to end India's status as the world's number one defence importer and to have 70 percent of hardware manufactured domestically by the turn of the decade.

10 hurt

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blamed each other for the clash.
Riazul Haque Reza, principal of the institution, said a tense situation was prevailing between the two groups for the last few weeks after the formation of rotary and medicine clubs.
After yesterday's clash, the situation became so bad that the authorities had to close the medical college, and all the students were asked to vacate their halls yesterday, he said.
Additional police personnel were deployed on the campus to avert any untoward incident, the principal added.

An act

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However, the wallet was not there.
He rushed back to his shop on the same rickshaw to check whether he had left the wallet there. However, his wallet, containing Tk 13,000, along with other necessary things like driving licence and NID cards, was not there either.
"I was very worried about the NID card and driving licence," Zaman said.
But he was in for an unexpected but pleasant surprise. At around 5:00pm on the same day, Sabir Uddin arrived at Zaman's shop with the missing wallet.
"I found everything in the wallet as it was," said Zaman.
Sabir said he found the wallet at a local tempo stand.
Upon the discovery, Sabir searched the wallet for its owner's address so he could return it. "As I found his national ID card in the wallet, I asked people about it and followed the address," Sabir said. "I was relieved after returning the wallet to its owner," he added.
The owner rewarded the rickshaw puller for taking the trouble to personally return the wallet.

PM's speech

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Fakhrul said the country was "going through a political crisis". But the prime minister did not say anything on how to hold the next general election in a free and fair manner.
"Unfortunately, in her speech there was no indication of how to overcome the crisis," he said.
In reply to another query, the BNP leader said, "The country is now on the highway of corruption, not development."
Austrian climber found dead on Nepal peak

Austrian climber found dead on Nepal peak

AFP, Kathmandu
An Austrian climber has been found dead in the Himalayas after attempting a solo ascent of a peak in Nepal's Everest region, officials said yesterday, the first death since new laws were introduced banning lone climbs.
The 41-year-old climber is believed to have died in late December after falling from a ridge on his way to the 6,119 metre (20,075 feet) summit of Mount Lobuche's eastern peak, which neighbours Mount Everest.
"He left his guide at high camp and his plan was to climb to the summit alone. The guide waited until 2:00 am the next morning and when he didn't return, the guide went to Lobuche village and raised the alarm," said Raju Dong Lama, director of Ramdung Expeditions, which organised the climb.

Germany to cap yearly refugee arrivals at about 200,000

AFP, Berlin
Germany will limit the number of asylum seeker arrivals to around 200,000 annually under a draft coalition agreement sealed yesterday in marathon talks between the country's two biggest parties.
"We determine that the number of new arrivals... should not exceed the range of 180,000 to 220,000 per year," according to a copy of the document agreed by Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives and the Social Democrats obtained by AFP.
On the thorny issue of family reunions for asylum seekers granted temporary refuge, the preliminary accord says current restrictions should be loosened.
The agreement calls for parliament to pass a law by the end of July allowing 1,000 family members per month to come to Germany.
Merkel long resisted a strict upper limit on asylum seekers coming to Europe's top economy, as demanded by her CDU's Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union.
But after winning an election with a reduced majority in September, she agreed to a soft cap on Germany's refugee intake in a bid to silence bitter squabbling within her conservative camp.
Merkel's decision to let in more than one million people fleeing war and misery from 2015 has proved deeply divisive in Germany.
The anti-immigration Alternative for Germany capitalised on voter anger over the issue to score 12.6 percent in the general election, a record for a far-right party in the post-war period.

Palestinian pleads guilty to Hamburg Islamist knife attack

AFP, Hamburg
A 26-year-old Palestinian man yesterday admitted to killing a man and wounding six others with a knife in a Hamburg supermarket, an attack that stoked fears of Islamist terrorism in Germany.
Ahmad Alhaw "declares that he takes responsibility for the very serious crimes he committed, and explicitly recognises his guilt regarding all the charges," the defendant's lawyer Christoph Burchard told judges in the high-security courtroom.
Alhaw took a 20-centimetre (eight-inch) knife from the shelves of a supermarket last July, using it to kill one and wound six in the assault. He was arrested after passers-by overpowered him.
Charging him with murder, as well as six counts of attempted murder and grievous bodily harm, prosecutors said he acted with a likely Islamist motive.
He told interrogators that the crime "had some connection with events on the Temple Mount" in Jerusalem, where Israeli authorities had recently imposed access controls for Muslim worshippers, prosecutor Yasemin Tuz told the court.
"The results of the investigation show that the accused sought out his victims indiscriminately, retaliating against people who in his view represent perpetrators of injustice targeting Muslims," prosecutors had earlier said.
"It was important to him to kill as many German nationals of the Christian faith as possible. He wanted his actions to be viewed in the context of an Islamist attack, and understood as a contribution to jihad worldwide," they added.
Investigators, however, did not find any evidence to suggest that Alhaw was a member of the Islamic State (IS) group.
Rather, the defendant -- a tall, slim, bearded figure who appeared in court wearing glasses and a blue turtleneck -- had from time to time demonstrated "suspect behaviour", "transforming" his life towards radical Islam before "again taking up a Western lifestyle," Tuz said.

Mismanagement rules

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room sat in another room while five candidates sat on a bench," said Tawsof, a candidate in Hazrat Shah Ali Mohila College exam centre.
He alleged that the question paper did not arrive at the centre till 4:00pm.
Sajjad, another candidate, said some of the exam halls in the centre were crammed with candidates.
"Many examinees took cell phones inside the halls. It was total chaos," he said.
"The authorities must resign if they cannot take the responsibility of conducting a fair exam. Such incidents must be strongly protested," he added.
Many candidates left the Shah Ali Mohila College centre finding no place to sit and held demonstrations outside the centre.
Contacted, Anwar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Shah Ali Police Station,

First phase

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districts and devotees from the other 16 districts will attend the second phase," said engineer Gias Uddin, an organiser of the Ijtema, adds BSS.
Some 3,919 devotees from 79 foreign countries have already reached the Ijtema ground, said the deputy commissioner of Gazipur.
Police have taken a five-tier security measure to ensure safety of the devotees.
Besides, special measures have been taken to ease the traffic. Some 50 CCTVs have been installed to monitor the situation in and around the Ijtema venue.
Meanwhile, Bangladesh Railway has made arrangements to operate special trains on different routes of the country to facilitate the movement of the devotees.
Earlier, a problem arose over the joining of Indian scholar Maulana Saad Kandhalvi in the first phase of the Ijtema.
In the face of stern opposition from a faction of Tabligh Jamaat, it was decided at a home ministry meeting on Thursday that Maulana Saad would not join the Ijtema.
On Wednesday, the demonstrators, mostly belonging to radical Islamist group Hefajat-e Islam-run Qawmi madrasas, blocked the busy Airport Road to protest his arrival. They also chanted slogans against him for what they claimed were his "controversial comments about the Koran and Sunnah" to audiences in India.
The Biswa Ijtema is being arranged by the Turag since 1967.

4 of a family

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with severe burns, said Chailau Marma, additional superintendent of police in Cox's Bazar, quoting camp officials.
They died in the medical camp early hours yesterday.
The family crossed into Bangladesh from Myanmar's Rasidhong area around a week ago, he added.
A committee, led by the Cox's Bazar DC, has been formed to investigate fire, said Md Nikruzzaman, Ukhiya upazila nirbahi officer.

AL threatens

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demanding that the PM unconditionally apologise and publicise it within 30 days of receiving the notice for her (Hasina) remarks about her (Khaleda) alleged assets abroad.
"Or else, the BNP chairperson will take measures to file a defamation suit against the prime minister, demanding compensations for damaging her reputation and image," the legal notice said.
Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, said the stories of corruption by the BNP would beat even fairy tales.
The PM disclosed the "truth" as she has courage, he added.
At a press conference at the Gono Bhaban on December 7 last year, Hasina expressed displeasure that the mainstream media did not run any report on the BNP chief and her family members' reported assets and investments in Saudi Arabia and other countries.
Some media outlets ran reports that an anti-corruption probe in Saudi Arabia revealed that Khaleda and her family members have assets in that country, attributing those to "Global Intelligence Network" and "Canadian TV channel The National".
The BNP has repeatedly termed the PM's claim as baseless.

Gas crisis hits capital

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connections are the major reasons for this, according to officials concern.
An official from the Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited said the crisis would be gone, once the winter ended.
Sabrina Akter, who lives in Indira Road area, cooks her family's lunch and dinner the night before. She tries her best to finish up cooking by midnight before going to bed because of poor supply of gas from morning until afternoon.
"Gas crisis is an every-day suffering for us, but it has taken a turn for the worse since this winter began," she said. "It takes more than an hour just to boil water during the day-time."
Jubaida Rahman of Banasree says she too cooks for her family the night before. "We can't cook anything in the morning. We need to store our food in the refrigerator."
Banker Sayedur Rahman, who lives in Talbagh area, said he went to his

Cheated, abused

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Those who refuse are mercilessly tortured, Zakaria said, quoting Sabrina.
Azmeri, 50, a domestic worker from Narayanganj, said her employer used to beat her for any small mistakes.
"How can I work such long hours?" she said, adding that she had to work 16 to 18 hours a day.
According to a letter of Bangladesh embassy in Riyadh, there were a total of 369 domestic workers in a safe home in Riyadh until January 7. Most of them have already been repatriated and others will be coming in the next few days.
Dr Namita Halder, secretary of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, said the Bangladesh mission in Riyadh and Jeddah have safe homes and those facing troubles are sheltered there.
The survivors of violence, however, don't want to file cases against the abusers, but ironically the abusive employers file police reports, alleging that the domestic workers have absconded, she said.

Deep, buried

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feet (one meter) below the surface, and going as deep as 100 meters or more, have been exposed by erosion.
These underground cliffs, or scarps, appear "to be nearly pure ice," said the report.
The discovery was possible due to images and data sent by the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO), launched in 2005.
The probe's first find of water on Mars was published in Science in 2010.
WIDESPREAD ICE
But now, scientists realize that ice is more widespread than previously thought, said lead author Colin Dundas, a geologist at the US Geological Survey in Flagstaff, Arizona.
"There is shallow ground ice under roughly a third of the Martian surface, which records the recent history of Mars," he said.
"What we've seen here are cross-sections through the ice that give us a 3-D view with more detail than ever before."
The ice contains bands and colour variations that suggest it was formed layer by layer, perhaps as snow accumulated over time, leading to ice sheets.
Researchers believe the ice formed relatively recently, because the sites

appear smooth on the surface, unpocked by craters that would be formed by celestial debris smashing into the planet over time.
But just how and when they formed remains unclear.
The cliffs are located in the northern and southern hemispheres of Mars, at a latitude of 55 to 58 degrees, which on Earth would be similar to Scotland or the tip of South America.
These regions slip into a frigid darkness during the Martian winter and would not be a suitable site for a long-term human camp.
However, they are not as treacherous as the poles, and if a sample could be drilled from one of the glaciers, researchers could learn plenty about Mars' climate and the potential for life on Earth's neighbouring planet.
"If you had a mission at one of these sites, sampling the layers going down the scarp, you could get a detailed climate history of Mars," said MRO deputy project scientist Leslie Tamppari of Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.
"It's part of the whole story of what happens to water on Mars over time: Where does it go? When does ice accumulate? When does it recede?"
Nasa plans to send the first human explorers to Mars by the 2030s.