



Ambulances carrying the three remaining bodies of the victims of the BS211 crash exit gate 8 at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. The bodies were being handed over to their loved ones.
Inset, Pias Roy's father clutches his chest as he grieves while a relative tries to offer consolation.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Last three bodies brought to Dhaka

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Gopalganj.
"He was the apple of our eyes. To support his medical studies, we had to sacrifice a lot. Now I will have to carry this coffin on my shoulder. I don't want such an incident occurs to any other father," he said while trying to hold back tears.
Pias will be cremated in Barisal city. Nargis Akhtar Konok, a final year student at Medical College for Women in the capital's Uttara, has lost both her parents in the tragedy.
She said people visit the airport

either to receive or to see off their loved ones. But they were at the airport to receive their father's body.
"The accident has orphaned us," Nargis told this correspondent, her voice choked with emotion.
Her father Nazrul Islam had planned to get her married after returning home from Nepal.
Nazrul will be laid to rest beside her wife in a Rajshahi graveyard.
Nargis and her only sister Naznin Akhtar Kakon received the body of their mother Akhtara Begum at the

Army Stadium on Monday.
Victim Alifuzzaman's parents were too sick to travel to the capital to receive their son's body, said Bina Sultana, aunt of the deceased.
Receiving his body at the airport, his relatives and family members started for Khulna's Rupsha upazila where he will be buried today.
Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister AKM Shahjahan Kamal was present at gate-8 of the airport. He was seen trying to hold back tears as three vehicles carrying the coffins were coming out of the gate.

Rab picks up 3 students from DU campus

Releases them an hour later

DU CORRESPONDENT

Some Rab members picked up three students, including two of Dhaka University, from the campus last night.

They were released about an hour later.

Soon after the three students were picked up, other students from different university dormitories gathered near the TSC and vandalised many vehicles with sticks.

Witnesses said a motorcycle carrying the three students and a HiAce microbus collided in front of the vice-chancellor's residence around 10:00pm.

The students asked the microbus driver, who was in plainclothes, to get out. As he refused, the trio broke the looking glass of the vehicle.

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Obesity

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reduces the number of taste buds on the tongue and that losing the weight reverses the reduction, but it was unclear how or why.

A taste bud is made up of about 50 to 100 cells belonging to one of three groups that each have a different role in sensing the five primary tastes: salt, sweet, bitter, sour, and umami.

The study published Tuesday in the journal PLOS Biology is the first to identify the mechanism underlying the decreased number of taste buds.

"Taste buds operate not only as sensors of essential nutrients but can also trigger powerful central reward from the consumption of hedonically pleasing food," Robin Dando, a lead researcher on the study, said.

"Obese individuals have been reported to display a weakened sense of taste and thus may be driven to consume more calories to attain such reward," he said.

Researchers from Cornell's department of food science and the department of molecular biology split mice into two groups, one that was fed a normal diet of 14 percent fat and one that was fed a diet of 58 percent fat.

After eight weeks the mice on the high-fat diet weighed 30 percent more, but were found to have 25 percent fewer taste buds than the lean mice.

Taste buds have an average lifespan of 10 days because of a quick turnover process that involves a balanced combination of cell death and generation of new cells.

The researchers found that in obese mice, the rate of cell death increased while there was a decrease in the number of cells responsible for generation.

5 Rohingyas

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Haque, 38, Nur Fatema, 23, Fahat Hossain, 4, and Mymulah, 2.

They claimed to have fled to India from Myanmar about a couple of weeks ago and entered Bangladesh Thursday morning after learning that their relatives were in Cox's Bazar, Razani Kanta added.

US, China trade war

FROM PAGE 20
US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer recently put a separate proposed package of \$30 billion in tariffs on Chinese imports on the president's desk.

And Trump appears to have agreed to at least that amount, as he tries to fulfil campaign promises to get tough on "cheating" by US trade partners, which he says have destroyed American jobs.

The US trade deficit with China ran to a record \$375 billion last year -- but US exports to the country were also at a record.

Washington has long accused Beijing of forcing US companies to turn over proprietary commercial information and intellectual property as a condition of operating in China.

Trump claims to have built up a generally good relationship with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping whom he has praised for his role in pressuring North Korea over its nuclear program.

However, the trade dispute threatens to cast a pall over those relations, especially given the recent warnings from Beijing.

LIST OF GRIEVANCES

A senior official in Lighthizer's office said Wednesday that the Clinton, Bush and Obama administrations had attempted over the decades to coax China into respecting market economics and trade liberalization, but had all failed.

The Trump administration opened an investigation last August, acting on a series of allegations against China, including that as a condition of doing business, Beijing forces US companies to enter joint ventures and transfer technology and trade secrets to domestic partners, and that American firms are not able to license intellectual property in China as freely as Chinese companies.

US officials also allege China has hacked US networks and conducted industrial espionage to steal US intellectual property.

Xi sent his top economic advisor Liu He to Washington this month to discuss trade tensions, but the US official said that at no point had the

Chinese made a constructive proposal.

"Certainly by November, the back-ground was such that officials in China had reason to know about the concerns we've raised... At least, as of today the administration has not been satisfied with the types of responses we've been getting from China," the senior official in Lighthizer's office said, speaking on condition of anonymity in a briefing to reporters.

"Obviously the president will have the final say in terms of what we end up doing here."

"As a general matter, we do have very strong evidence that China uses foreign ownership restrictions such as joint venture requirements and foreign equity limitations to require or pressure technology transfer from US companies to Chinese entities," he added.

TARIFFS TALKS

Along with the announcement of that offensive, Washington also held out the possibility of a detente with regards to the European Union, which reacted furiously to the news of steel and aluminium tariffs.

In a joint statement, US Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross and EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom said they had agreed to immediately begin "a process of discussion" on the tariffs and other matters "with a view to identifying mutually acceptable outcomes as rapidly as possible."

Malmstrom had called for Europe to be exempted as a whole. Speaking to reporters in Brussels on Wednesday, European Council President Donald Tusk said he harboured "cautious optimism" on the prospects for a resolution.

Malmstrom, back in Brussels, said yesterday the EU expects Trump to grant Europe a last-minute exemption from the steel and aluminium tariffs.

"This afternoon, (Trump) will make an announcement on possible exclusions," Malmstrom told European lawmakers in Brussels after her visit to the US. "We expect that we are on that list, we don't know for sure."

It is people's achievement

FROM PAGE 1
The PM said had the people not stood by her and brought the Awami League to power, it would not have been possible for her and the government to work for the country and make this remarkable achievement.

"To me, power is nothing but an opportunity to serve the country and its people. I never believed that power is for personal gain."

Bangladesh's eligibility to graduate to a developing country has opened up the door of its potential to emerge as a developed and prosperous nation, she added.

Hasina said after assuming office in 1996, the AL government undertook various people-oriented development projects in a planned way, and such steps made it possible to meet the eligibility criteria to graduate from the LDC group.

Due importance was given to starting the development process from the grassroots level, she said, adding that such efforts helped ensure sustainable progress towards eliminating poverty.

She remembered with gratitude Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, saying he had struggled throughout his life to change the people's fate.

Greeting the people, Hasina said her government showed the way while all the others concerned, including the government officials, private organisations and the business community, made the impossible possible.

She expressed gratitude to the development partners and foreign friends for providing and continuing support to the government's development efforts.

Terming Bangalee a heroic nation, she said they do not want to live as a nation of

beggars; rather they want to live with dignity and with their heads held high.

UN Under-Secretary General Fekitamoeloa Katoo also spoke at the programme, chaired by Finance Minister AMA Muhith. A written statement of UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner was read out.

The finance minister handed over the UN's certificate of recognition to the PM.

Hasina unveiled a commemorative stamp and a commemorative note on the occasion.

The UN secretary general and the chiefs of the World Bank, ADB, USAID and Jica delivered speeches of appreciation through video messages.

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu, State Minister for Information Tarana Halim and Information Secretary Abdul Malek handed over a photo album on "Ten Special Initiatives of Sheikh Hasina" to the premier.

Hasina was greeted with bouquets on behalf of President Abdul Hamid, Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury and Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain. Officials from the respective offices handed over the bouquets.

Flower bouquets were also presented to the PM on behalf of the AL, 14-party alliance and other political parties. Leader of the Opposition Raushan Ershad greeted the PM by presenting her with a flower bouquet.

Civil and military officials, freedom fighters, educationists, journalists, businessmen, artists and singers, NGOs, labour, sports and women organisations also greeted the PM.

A documentary was screened at the function highlighting the country's progress and the ongoing development

projects.

Ministers, PM's advisers, lawmakers, civil and military officials, political leaders, diplomats, representatives of the civil society and different professional bodies were present.

Earlier, on her arrival at the BICC, Hasina paid her profound respect to the Father of the Nation by placing a wreath at the portrait of the great leader.

The UN's Committee for Development Policy (CDP) on March 15 officially declared Bangladesh eligible for graduating from the LDC and handed over a letter in this regard to Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the UN Masud Bin Momen the following day.

According to the UN's graduation thresholds set at the triennial review in 2015, gross national income (GNI) per capita of a country has to be \$1,242 or above to be grouped within the "developing country" category. Bangladesh's GNI per capita rose to \$1,610 at the end of 2016-17 fiscal.

The GNI per capita is the value of a country's final income in a year divided by its population. It reflects the average income of a country's citizens.

On the other two indexes, human assets and economic vulnerability, a country has to score 66 or above and 32 or below respectively.

Bangladesh's score in the human assets index stood at 72.9 and the economic vulnerability index at 24.8, meaning the country met all the criteria.

Bangladesh, however, will have to maintain the thresholds for the three indices till the country's graduation from the LDC category, which the UN will declare in 2024.

Iraq's new deals make case for invasion

FROM PAGE 1
think-tanks started voicing the urgency for action to make sure US oil company interests would be safeguarded in post-Saddam Iraq.

Meanwhile, the Bush administration, the oil executives and the Iraqi dissidents continued to meet to discuss over post-war oil in Washington, London, Houston and elsewhere.

As all preparations were complete, the invasion began on March 20, 2003. Baghdad shuddered in the shock and awe of the Anglo-American assault. On 9 April, Baghdad fell, ending Saddam's 24-year rule.

President Bush immediately appointed Phil Carroll, a former high-ranking US oil executive, to take control of Iraq's oil industry and on May 22, Bush issued an executive order, giving immunity to oil companies for all activities in Iraq. On the same day, the US and the UK pressed the UN Security Council into lifting its sanctions on Iraq so that Anglo-American companies could now sell oil and the proceeds used for "reconstruction".

The reconstruction is another story whereby hordes of private companies flocked into Baghdad and bagged billions of dollars of deals. Lord Chilcot, in his most revealing report on the Iraq war, has written that in the first year of the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA), a transitional govern-

ment established in Iraq after the ouster of Saddam, alone, more than 60 UK companies had bagged contracts worth \$2.6 billion.

The Guardian has reported that during the six years that British troops remained in Iraq, the UK's policy regarding oil was to transfer oil from public ownership to multinational companies and to ensure BP and Shell got a large share of it.

FREE FOR ALL
The big five oil majors that control most of the world's supply have all along denied their collusion with the US and UK governments in the war. But documentary evidences say otherwise.

Greg Muttitt, a senior advisor to Oil Change International and an author of his book Fuel on the Fire: Oil and Politics in Occupied Iraq has obtained over a thousand documents under Freedom of Information law that show how civil servants, ministers and BP and Shell officials held several meetings prior to the invasion to discuss the future of Iraq's oil. The companies were eager to get a slice of Iraq's oil which was nationalized in 1972 thus depriving the companies from unbridled profiteering.

Following a meeting with BP officials, a UK foreign office memorandum on November 13, 2002 said, "Iraq is the big oil prospect. BP are desperate to get in there and anxious

that political deals should not deny them the opportunity to compete. The long term potential is enormous."

Many of the US civil and military leaders including vice president Dick Cheney were quite forthcoming in admitting that the war was about oil and that Iraq oil mattered a lot.

Cheney kind of kicked off the whole war fever in a speech to the Veterans of Foreign Wars in which he said Saddam's weapons of mass destruction threatened the flow of oil from the region.

CNN quoted Gen. John Abizaid, former head of US Central Command and Military Operations in Iraq, in 2007 as saying: "Of course it's about oil; we can't really deny that."

Former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan in his memoir wrote: "I am saddened that it is politically inconvenient to acknowledge what everyone knows: the Iraq war is largely about oil."

CNN quoted then Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel saying in 2007: "People say we're not fighting for oil. Of course we are."

In 1998, Kenneth Derr said, "Iraq possesses huge reserves of oil and gas-reserves I'd love Chevron to have access to." Today it does.

The plan for capturing Iraq's oil began much earlier than the actual invasion started. Within a week of Bush's first term, the National

National Energy Policy Development Group, chaired by Dick Cheney, was formed to plan America's energy future. Iraq's oil fields, which were then off-limits to American oil giants, were of special focus in the discussion.

This followed the planning for an invasion. Bush's first Treasury secretary Paul O'Neill said in 2004: "Already by February (2001), the talk was mostly about logistics. Not the why (to invade Iraq), but the how and how quickly."

The State Department's Future of Iraq Project's Oil and Energy Working Group met from February 2002 to April 2003 and agreed that Iraq "should be opened to international oil companies as quickly as possible after the war."

As soon as the war ended, Iraq quietly passed a law the draft of which very few within the Iraqi government had seen. It opened up the nationalised oil sector and gave unprecedented advantage to the oil companies. In radical contrast with norms, production sharing contracts were signed with oil majors such as BP, Shell, Exxon and Chevron that gave them 30 years -- an unusually long period of agreement -- to extract Iraq's oil.

Usama al-Nujeyfi, a member of the parliamentary energy committee, even quit in protest over the law, saying it would cede too much control to global companies and "ruin the country's

future."

Iraq's oil production has increased by more than 40% in the past five years to 3 million barrels a day (still below the 1979 high of 3.5 million set by Iraq's state-owned companies), but a full 80% of this is being exported out of the country while Iraqis struggle to meet basic energy consumption needs.

US and UK leaders as well as the oil company bosses have all along denied that oil was a major cause for the invasion although their actions contradicted their statements. It was clear from the beginning that they had planned to use Iraq's oil revenues for what they called as "reconstruction of Iraq" once the war was over. It was then not surprising that the American and the British firms bagged the "reconstruction" contracts.

Tony Blair, then prime minister of the UK, on March 18, 2003, told the House of Commons that, "...the oil revenues, which people falsely claim that we want to seize, should be put in a trust fund for the Iraqi people administered through the UN. The United Kingdom should seek a new Security Council resolution that would affirm the use of all oil revenues for the benefit of the Iraqi people."

However, as the war ended, Britain co-sponsored a resolution in the UN which gave the US and UK control over Iraq's oil revenue. Part of the revenue

was to be deducted to continuously pay compensation for the invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

The law puts no restrictions on the foreign companies taking their profits out of the country without paying any tax. The companies will get a 12.5 percent royalty tax. Not only that, the most liberal arrangement also stipulates that once the companies have recouped their costs of production, they are allowed to retain 20 percent of the profits, a term that the Centre for Global Energy Studies has termed as a large amount as compared with the standard 10 percent practice.

Long contract periods are allowed to oil companies working in difficult terrains such as the Amazon and North Sea and cannot be applicable for Iraq where oil is easily available and where recovery rates are as high as 60 percent.

James Paul of Global Policy Forum, an advocacy group, has said about Iraq: "...there are supergiant fields that are completely mapped, there is absolutely no exploration cost and no risk." And so the high concession for the oil companies cannot be justified.

Before the invasion, one of the major tasks set for the US troops was to secure the oil facilities. Following the fall of Saddam, while the whole country sank into chaos and looting, only the oil ministry was heavily guarded by American troops.

Pilot deserves credit

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they would be the ones with authority and expertise to comment on the matter.

Buddhi Sagar Lamichhane, a joint secretary at the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation in Nepal, also a member secretary of the six-member probe committee, said he too had heard of the pilot's last-minute manoeuvres.

"People are saying that it happened. But we cannot say anything about it [until the investigation is complete]."

He added that they had spoken to the air traffic controllers regarding the incident.

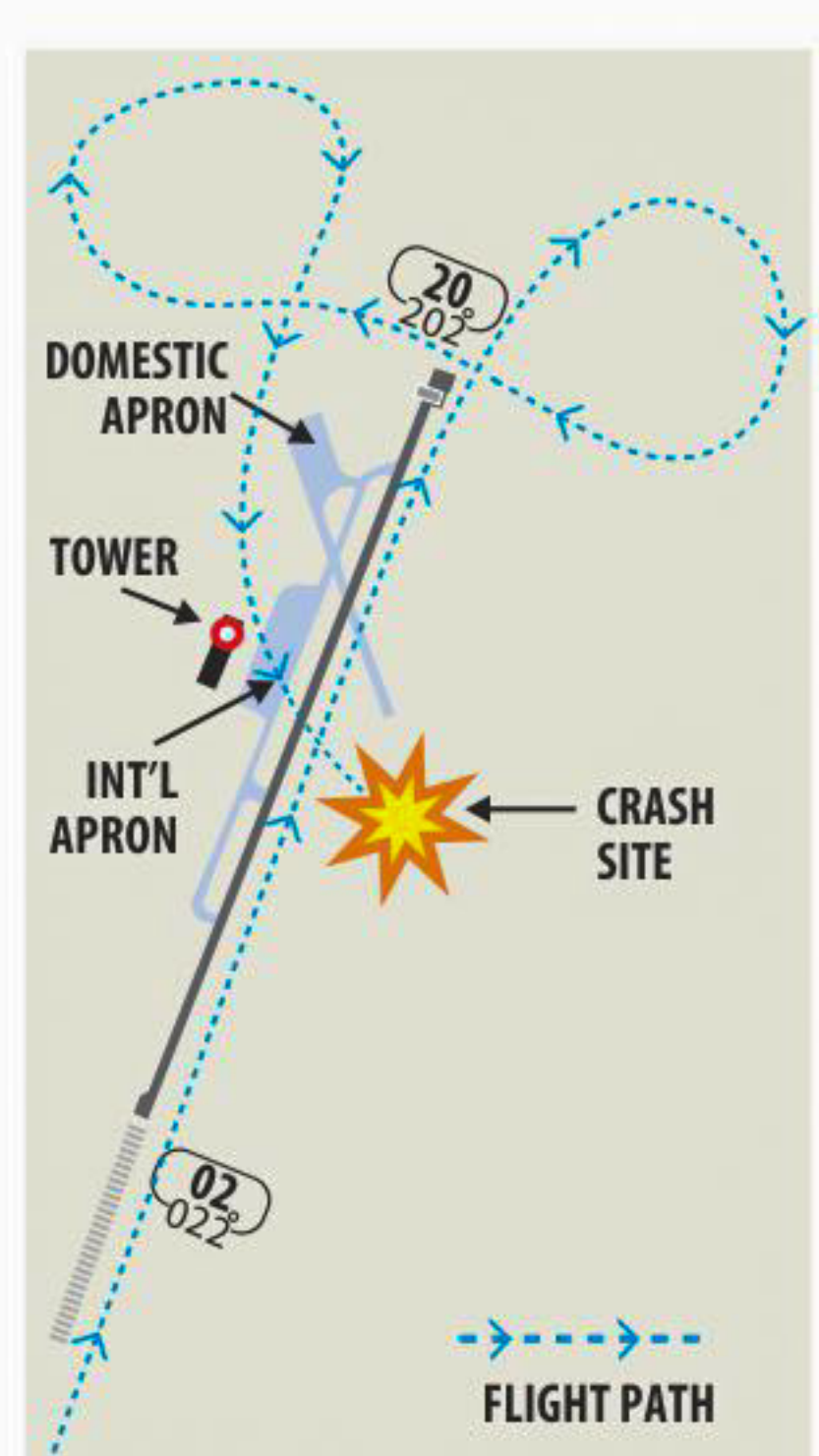
A pilot wishing not to be named said the Dash-8 missed a Thai jet waiting to depart by just five feet. The pilot said had BS211 hit the jet, it would have been catastrophic.

The Daily Star could not independently verify the claims of the pilot.

The crash left 51 dead but 20 people survived. And people surviving plane crashes is not that common.

An accident involving two planes would have resulted in a lot more casualties.

On March 27, 1977, two Boeing 747s collided on the runway of Spanish island of Tenerife, in the Canary Islands, following confusion over one them having clearance for takeoff.



The crash claimed 583 lives, the deadliest aviation disaster in history. Most of the victims were killed in the fire. Both the planes had been refuelled minutes before.
[Rashidul Islam and Osama Rahman contributed to this report.]