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Nine killed in Ctg stampede

25 more injured as people scramble for free iftar items at a mosque; doctors, witnesses counter police claim of death from 'heatstroke'

ARUN BIKASH DEY and SANJOY KUMAR BARUA, from Chittagong

Nine women were killed and around 25 injured in a stampede when over 30,000 people gathered to collect zakat and essentials provided by an industrial group at a village in Satkania of Chittagong yesterday.

When people came to know about Kabir Steel Re-rolling Mills' (KSRM) distribution (rice 5kg, lentil 5kg, cash Tk 1,000, and a sari), they started gathering in front of the gate of Anis Bari Jame Mosque ground at Ghatiadanga village, said AKM Emran Bhuiyan, additional superintendent of Chittagong police (South Zone).

Rizia Begum, 40, who went there with her sister Nur Jahan from Lohagara upazila the night before to collect the items, told The Daily Star that around 9.00am the gate of the mosque compound was opened for the women. Over 30,000 tried to enter at once. Some fell and got trampled.

"I fell down. I somehow managed to get up but I lost my sister," she said.

"I saw many women lying unconscious on the ground ... When I found my sister among them, she was dead," said a crying Rizia.

Jobaida Akter, 52, went there from Chandanaish upazila.

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PHOTO: SANJOY KUMAR BARUA



Momin Ara Begum, mother of 22-year-old Saki Begum who was among the nine women killed in a stampede yesterday morning, wails while her younger brother tries to console her. The incident took place in Satkania upazila's Ghatiadanga village, where thousands of women gathered to collect free iftar items.



KHALED A'S BAIL
SC verdict on
appeals against
HC order today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court is set to deliver today the verdict on the two appeals against the High Court bail order for BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case.

The appeals have been included as item no-3 in the day's cause-list of the apex court.

The High Court on March 12 granted bail to Khaleda who landed in jail on February 8 after a trial court had sentenced her to five years' imprisonment in the case.

Later, the Anti-Corruption

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DHAKA-CTG HIGHWAY Traffic flow improves

FM MIZARUR RAHAMAN, back from Feni

Traffic gridlock on the four-lane Dhaka-Chittagong highway largely reduced yesterday after four days of unbearable congestion.

The situation improved as motorists were diverted to alternative routes around an 800-metre stretch of road in Feni's Fatehpur, where the construction work of a flyover is going on.

The tailbacks reached 114 kilometres

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RELATED PHOTO ON PAGE 5

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE, EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLING Probe all cases properly

UN Human Rights Council urges Bangladesh

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group in Geneva yesterday recommended Bangladesh thoroughly investigate all the incidents of abductions, enforced disappearances, torture and extrajudicial killings.

Reviewing Bangladesh's human rights records for the third time, the group also called for probing the alleged involvement of law enforcement agencies in those incidents and bringing the perpetrators to justice.

The HRC member states suggested that Bangladesh should ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) to address those issues. They lauded the country for its efforts and achievements in

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Storm kills 86 in India

Over 100 injured in northern, eastern, southern parts; met office warns of more storms

AFP, New Delhi

Indian authorities said yesterday at least 86 people have been killed and over 100 injured in a fresh wave of violent sandstorms and thunderstorms that battered vast swathes of the country.

Winds of over 100 kilometres (60 miles) per hour struck parts of north, east and southern India late Sunday, uprooting trees, electricity pylons and damaging houses, officials from federal and state disaster

management agencies said.

The fatalities came just 10 days after a sandstorm left more than 134 dead -- most of them in Agra, the city of the Taj Mahal.

Hail, wind and thunderstorms brought down walls, trees and power pylons in Uttar Pradesh state, killing 48 people, T P Gupta of the state disaster management department told AFP.

Eight people also drowned in the state's Barabanki district after their boat capsized

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SIBL Foundation Hospital
& Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING
MAY 15

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-10 12-45 5-00 6-36 8-00

JAMAAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 6-40 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Construction work of a flyover on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Feni has been causing several kilo-metres-long tailbacks on both sides of the road. The picture was taken yesterday morning.

PHOTO:
RAJIB RAIHAN

কেএসআরএম গ্রন্থ এর পক্ষ থেকে ১৪ মে ২০১৮-ইঁ তারিখে ইফতার ও যাকাত সামগ্রী বিতরণকালে তীব্র গরম এবং ডিহাইড্রেশন/হিটস্ট্রোক ব্যবহৃত প্রতিটি শোক সন্তুষ্ট পরিবারের প্রতি আমাদের সমবেদনা জানাচ্ছি। একই সাথে আমরা পরম কর্মনাময়ের নিকট নিহতদের আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা করছি।

নিহত ব্যক্তিদের ধর্মীয় নিয়ম অনুযায়ী দাফনের ব্যবস্থার সম্পর্ক খরচাদি ও পরিবারকে তিন লক্ষ টাকা করে সাহায্য এবং প্রতিটি পরিবারের চলমান সহায়তার জন্য একজন করে সদস্যের চাহুরীর ব্যবস্থা এবং অসুস্থ ব্যক্তিবর্গের সম্পূর্ণ চিকিৎসা ব্যয় কেএসআরএম কর্তৃপক্ষ বহন করবে।

আল্লাহ আমাদের সহায় হোন।

-কেএসআরএম কর্তৃপক্ষ



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Bangladesh Food Safety Authority

জীবন ও স্বাস্থ্য সুরক্ষায় নিরাপদ খাদ্য

খাদ্য মন্ত্রণালয়

প্রবাসি কল্যাণ ভবন (১৩ তলা), ৭১-৭২ ইক্সটন গার্ডেন, ঢাকা-১০০০।

ফোন: ৫৫১৩৮০০০, ফ্যাক্স: ৫৫১৩৮৬০২, www.bfsa.gov.bd