

TIMELINE

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Shafullah rings his deputy General Ziaur Rahman and chiefs of two other services to mobilise troops to help the president. It is to no avail.

After killing Kamal, army officer Mohiuddin and his accomplices go around the house hunting for Bangabandhu and they find him standing calmly with his pipe in hand on the front veranda. Seeing him, even killer Mohiuddin is taken aback. He cannot shoot Bangabandhu. He merely utters, "Sir, please come with us."

As they bring him down the staircase, Bangabandhu shouts, "Where are you taking me?" At this point, Bazul Huda asks Mohiuddin to move away and Noor opens fire at the president. Along with him, most members of his family are killed.

Two other groups of army personnel launch simultaneous attacks on the residences of Sheikh Fazul Haque Moni and Abdur Rab Semiat and kill them along with their family members.

Later in the morning, Major Dalim announces on the radio, "Sheikh Mujib has been killed."

Masterminds of the coup, Major Faruk and Major Rashid, as per their plan, prepare to install Awami League leader Khondokar Moshtaque in the presidency.

Moshtaque is sworn in as the new president in the afternoon. He addresses the nation and describes the killing and coup as a "historic necessity". Martial law is declared countrywide for an indefinite period and curfew imposed in the capital.

Chiefs of three services are forced to express loyalty to the new regime.

Moshtaque appoints 10 ministers and six state ministers, most of whom are AL leaders, to form his cabinet.

Pakistan becomes the first country to recognise the Moshtaque regime, only a few hours after the coup.

AUG 16
Bangabandhu is buried at Tungipara in Gopalganj. Other victims are laid to rest at Banani graveyard amid an unprecedented tense situation. The situation in Dhaka cantonment remains tense. Saudi Arabia and Sudan recognise Bangladesh as an independent country and the Moshtaque government as well.

AUG 18

Britain, Jordan, Japan and Myanmar recognise the Moshtaque government.

AUG 19

Army chief Gen Shafullah convenes a meeting of brigade commanders at the army headquarters. The meeting ends in chaos.

AUG 20

President Moshtaque through a declaration announces that the constitution remains in force subject to the president's orders and martial law regulations. He also announces that he has assumed all powers of the state.

AUG 22

Chief Justice ASM Sayem and Speaker Abdul Malek Ukil call on Moshtaque at Bangabhaban. US recognises Moshtaque government.

AUG 23

Four national leaders -- Syed Nazrul Islam, M Mansur Ali, Tajuddin Ahmed and AHM Kamaruzzaman -- and 22 others are detained under martial law regulations on charges of corruption, anti-social activities, nepotism and abuse of state powers.

AUG 24

In a surprise move, General Ziaur Rahman is made army chief, replacing General Shafullah. Major Rashid and Major Faruk, staying at Bangabhaban since the changeover, force Moshtaque to make the sudden change at the top in the Bangladesh Army. General MAG Osmani is appointed defence adviser to the president. Brigadier General Ershad is promoted to the rank of major general and made deputy chief of army staff.

AUG 26

President Moshtaque sends message to Pakistan's prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, expressing his desire to strengthen ties with Pakistan.

AUG 27

India, Oman and Hungary recognise Moshtaque government.

AUG 30

President Moshtaque issues ordinance imposing a ban on political activities and formation of political parties.

AUG 31

China recognises Bangladesh.



A fire-fighting plane drops water over a wildfire near the village of Stavros, on the Greek Evia island, yesterday. Firefighters on the Greek island of Evia were still battling yesterday to contain a fire that has caused massive damage to a pristine mountain wildlife habitat after threatening four communities.

PHOTO: AFP

5 killed in clashes over land disputes

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said Hashem had a dispute with his elder brother Abdur Rashed over setting up a poultry farm near the latter's house.

The brothers earlier locked in an altercation two months ago and lodged cases against each other over the incident with the local police station, said the ASP.

Locals had scheduled an arbitration over the matter yesterday morning, he added.

During the arbitration around 8:30am, Hashem's son Johirul and Azibul locked in a scuffle. At one point, the two groups attacked each other with sharp weapons, leaving Johirul dead on the spot and seven others injured, ASP Shaker said.

On information, police rushed to the spot, brought the situation under control and recovered sharp weapons.

Of the injured, four were rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH), where doctors declared Hashem and Azibul dead.

Critically injured Mazharul Islam, 20, and Khairul Islam, 18, both sons

of Hashem, were shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital as their condition deteriorated yesterday noon, said police.

Police sent the bodies of the dead to MMCH morgue for autopsy.

No case was lodged over the incident, as of filing of this report at 9:00pm yesterday.

Police have arrested one person in this connection.

In Sunamganj, Dudu Mia, 50, was killed, and three others were injured, over land dispute between two groups in Chhatak Upazila.

The injured were taken to the local upazila health complex.

Police said Dudu Mia and one Arosh Ali had a dispute over a piece of land for a long time.

When Dudu Mia and his people went to that piece of land and began digging, around 11am Arosh Ali and his men came to stop them, after which a clash ensued.

Seriously injured Dudu Mia was taken to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, where doctors

declared him dead.

Officer-in-Charge (Investigation) of Chhatak Police Station Aminul Islam said, "After receiving the news of the clash, police brought the situation under control."

Additional police forces have been deployed in the area to maintain law and order, he added.

Meanwhile in Gazipur, Abul Kashem alias Kajal, 35, was killed over land dispute in Barun village in Kapsia upazila on Sunday.

Locals said that Abul Kashem locked into an altercation over land ownership with his brother Rustam Ali and nephew Shakil Ahmed.

At one point, Rustam and Shakil hacked Kashem, alleged Kashem's father-in-law Shahab Uddin.

Kashem died on the way to hospital, he added.

Officer-in-Charge of Kapsia Police Station Rafiqul Islam said that a case was filed in this connection.

(Our Mymensingh, Moulvibazar and Gazipur correspondents contributed to this report.)

26 killed on roads

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reporters at the secretariat that at least 46 people were killed in 43 road crashes between August 6 and 13. He said the numbers of accidents and casualties were lower than those during the Eid journey last year.

Replying to a question, the minister said people's Eid journey was comfortable this year. "But there were some mistakes and we will take lessons from those. I hope that the suffering of people on some roads will be eased in phases and we are working in this regard."

During the Eid-ul-Azha holidays last year, road accidents had claimed at least 31 lives. The number was 29 in 2017, 32 in 2016, 30 in 2015, 26 in 2014, 10 in 2013, and 40 in 2012, according to statistics from reports by The Daily Star.

FIVE KILLED IN RANGPUR

In Rangpur, three teenage boys were killed when a truck hit a rickshaw van they were travelling on in Mithapukur upazila's Baldipur village on the Eid day Monday.

The following day, a man was killed when a bus crashed into a roadside ditch on Dinajpur-Rangpur highway in Ikarchali village of Taraganj upazila. The identity of the victim could not be confirmed.

Besides, another unidentified man was killed as a bus hit him in Polichora area of Rangpur city on the same day.

In Dinajpur, one Bulbul Ahmed, 22, died and a boy was injured falling from the roof of a running bus in Nawabganj upazila on Tuesday.

In another incident, bikers Shahrir Sabbir, 17, and Asadul Islam, 16, were killed on Monday when a microbus hit their motorcycle on Dinajpur-Rangpur highway in Chirirbandar upazila.

In Bogura, two buses collided head-on in Aria Bazar area of Shahjahanpur upazila yesterday, leaving three people dead and 20 others injured.

The accident occurred around 1:45pm when the driver of the Dhaka-bound bus of Ahad Paribahan lost control of his vehicle and hit another bus of Rangpur-bound Saymoli Paribahan, said Sub-Inspector Kajal Nandi of Kunderhat Highway Outpost, quiting locals.

The deceased are drivers of the buses and passenger Ranu Begum, 45.

On Monday, a man was killed when a Rangpur-bound bus ran over him after he fell off his friend's motorcycle on the Dhaka-Bogura Highway in Noymail area. The dead is 21-year-old Sabir Hossain Sawan, police said.

In another incident, one Manik, 30, was killed on Monday when a bus ran over him on Dhaka-Bogura Highway in Noymail area. Manik was returning home after saying prayers at a local Eidgah, said Atiqur Rahman, chairman of Aria Union Parishad in Shahjahanpur upazila.

In Sirajganj, at least four people, including a journalist and his wife, were killed in two road crashes during

the Eid vacation.

Rafikul Islam, 50, reporter of Bogura-based Dainik Satmatha, and his wife Morsheda Khatun, 45, were killed when a North Bengal-bound bus hit their CNG-run three-wheeler in Kamaler Chak area on Sirajganj-Bogura highway on Sunday. The two were from the district's Raiganj upazila, police said.

Driver of the three-wheeler was also injured in the accident. Police seized the bus and arrested its driver and helper from the spot.

In another accident, bikers Mithun and Saidur were killed when a bus hit their motorbike near Chandaikona area of Raiganj upazila on Monday. Police seized the bus, but its driver managed to flee.

In Narayanganj, a police constable and a businessman were killed as their CNG-run three-wheeler collided head-on with a truck on Gazipur-Madanpur bypass road in Ruppang upazila on Sunday.

The deceased are constable Sayman Islam and Shipon Chandra Das. Police arrested both the truck driver and helper.

CHILD GOES MISSING IN PADMA

A child went missing after a speedboat capsized in the Padma river around 8:00am on Tuesday.

The boy was identified as Deen Islam Hossain, 8, of Mollar Hawla village in Kauarchar of Barishal.

The speedboat, carrying 19 passengers from Shimula ferry terminal to Kathalbari, overturned because of strong wind.

Some other speedboats rescued 18 passengers, but Deen Islam remained missing. Divers of Bangladesh Army, Fire Service and River Police scoured the river till yesterday evening to trace the missing boy, but in vain.

FBI arrests Ohio teen for online threats

AFP, Washington

FBI agents in the United States have discovered a cache of some 25 guns and 10,000 bullets after arresting a teenager who made online comments supporting mass shootings.

In a complaint filed Monday, the FBI charged Boardman, Ohio resident Justin Olsen with threatening to assault a federal law enforcement officer after he posted on an online forum: "In conclusion, shoot every federal agent on sight."

The 18-year-old's account on the iFunny website -- a forum where users share memes -- had approximately 4,400 subscribers.

He had previously made posts supporting mass shootings and targeting family planning and reproductive rights group Planned Parenthood, the complaint said.

China moving troops near HK

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in Hong Kong including what it called a violent attack on a mainland Chinese journalist and tourist at the airport.

Police condemned violent acts by protesters overnight and said a large group had "harassed and assaulted a visitor and a journalist". Some protesters said they believed one of those men was an undercover Chinese agent, while another was confirmed as a reporter from China's Global Times newspaper.

Five people were detained in the latest disturbances, police said, bringing the number of those arrested since the protests began in June to more than 600.

The protests began in opposition to a now-suspended bill that would have allowed the extradition of suspects for trial in mainland China but have swelled into wider calls for democracy.

Embattled Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam has said the city has been pushed into a state of "panic and chaos".

Demonstrators say they are fighting the erosion of the "one country, two systems" arrangement that enshrined some autonomy for Hong Kong when it returned to China in 1997.

The protests represent one of the biggest challenges for Chinese President Xi Jinping since he came to power in 2012.

In Washington, US President Donald Trump said the Chinese government was moving troops to the

border with Hong Kong and urged calm.

China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) has a garrison in Hong Kong but has remained in barracks since the protests started in April. However, the PLA garrison has issued a video showing "anti-riot" exercises, and its top brass have warned violence is "absolutely impermissible".

As Hong Kong's political crisis deepens, China denied a request for two US Navy warships to visit Hong Kong in the coming weeks, officials said.

AIRPORT REOPENED

Security at Hong Kong airport was stricter than usual yesterday with several entrances closed, police patrolling and staff checking traveller identification.

Hong Kong's Airport Authority said it would only allow entry for passengers with a boarding pass valid for the next 24 hours and had obtained an interim court injunction to stop people from obstructing operations. Protesters are only allowed to demonstrate in designated areas.

Some protesters expressed remorse for the clashes overnight. One 22-year-old frontliner who identified himself as Pun said protesters needed to re-evaluate their strategy to continue with the fight.

"We are not trying to overthrow the government or cut ourselves off from China. But we fight for our rights; democracy was promised as part of

Climate deniers get more media play than scientists: study

AFP, Paris

Climate deniers have garnered far more media attention than prominent climate scientists over the years, fuelling public confusion and slowing the response to global warming, researchers reported Tuesday.

From 2000 through 2016, hundreds of academics, business people and politicians who doubted global warming or attributed rising temperatures to "natural" causes got 50 percent more ink than an equal number of top scientists, according to a study in Nature Communications, a peer-reviewed journal.

Even in a more select group of mainstream English language news outlets with high standards of evidence -- from the New York Times and The Guardian to The Wall Street Journal and the Daily Telegraph -- sceptics were still cited slightly more often.

In reality, there has long been overwhelming agreement among climate scientists that global warming -- caused mainly by burning fossil fuels -- poses a major threat to civilisation and much of life on Earth.

An increase of only one degree

Celsius had triggered rising seas and a crescendo of deadly extreme weather, and Earth is on track to heat up another three degrees by century's end.

"Climate change contrarians have successfully organised a strong voice within politics and science communication," noted the authors, led by Alexander Petersen at the University of California at Merced.

"Such disproportionate media visibility of contrarian arguments and actors misrepresents the distribution of expert-based beliefs," they continued.

"It also undermines the credible authority of career climate change scientists and reinforces the trend of climate change contrarians presiding over public scientific discourse."

Over the last year, public concern over global warming has grown dramatically, sparked in part by an October UN report warning that only a wholesale overhaul of the global economy and consumption patterns can forestall climate chaos.

In Europe, green parties running on a platform of climate action gaining nearly two dozen seats in

EU parliamentary elections. Climate protesters drawing from the civil disobedience playbook of Martin Luther King and Gandhi, meanwhile, have spilled into the streets.

In the United States, a call for climate action has become a litmus test among Democratic candidates for president, and many young people have rallied around the legislative initiative known as the Green New Deal.

A handful of western governments have pledged to slash carbon emissions to "net zero" by mid-century.

But even today, established media continue to provide platforms for dubious or discredited assertions about global warming.

Last week, for example, US business magazine Forbes published an article on its website entitled "Global Warming? An Israeli Astrophysicist Provides Alternative View That is Not Easy To Reject".

The "alternative view" -- that warming is caused by the Sun and not CO2 emissions -- is thoroughly discredited, and the magazine was compelled within hours to remove the piece.

Kamal

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Service Ltd. We will notify you after getting the real picture of the NBFI's we have doubts about."

The central bank has recently decided to liquidate PLFS, the first time such an action was taken in Bangladesh's financial sector.

Yesterday's meeting was held at the National Economic Council auditorium where Bangladesh Bank Governor Fazole Kabir, Finance Secretary Abdur Rouf Talukder, and Banking Division Secretary Md Ashadul Islam were present.

At the meeting, chairmen of two NBFIs suggested that the finance minister liquidate NBFIs that have poor financial health due to malpractices while disbursing loans, said a Bangladesh Bank official who was present in the meeting.

The entire NBF sector should not be burdened with the malpractices of three to four institutions, they said.

Some of the NBF directors and chairmen said willful loan defaulters were making it difficult to run their financial institutions. In many cases, the defaulters file writ petitions with the High Court to thwart efforts to recover loans, sources present in the meeting said.

The finance minister said the government would amend acts related to the financial sector to plug loopholes so that willful defaulters are forced to pay back. Defaulters would have to deposit a certain portion of their outstanding before filing a lawsuit with the court, Kamal said.

Bhola 'gangrape'

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house for her aunt, Al Amin, 27, a tenant of the building, gagged her with a strip of cloth and forced her to his room, police said.

Amin and his associate Manjur Alam, 25, then tied her up and raped her, they added.

They later threw her out of a window, her uncle told The Daily Star.

When her mother went there to look for her, she found the girl lying on the ground and bleeding profusely.

Sanat K Bhowmik, director of non-profit Coast Trust, said his organisation was assisting the girl's family in bearing the treatment and legal costs.

ACCUSED KILLED

Police said Al Amin and Manjur Alam, who were also accused in other criminal cases, were killed in a gunfight in Rajapur area of Bhola town early yesterday.

Sagir Mia, officer-in-charge of Bhola Sadar Police Station, said a police team went to the area around 2:30am hearing gunshots.

Sensing their presence, "armed gang men" opened fire on them, Sagir said.

After the officers retaliated and the men fled, the bodies of Amin and Manjur were found at the scene, he claimed.

The bodies were sent to Bhola Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

7TH GRADER RAPED IN JHENIDAH

A seventh grader was allegedly gangraped in Jhenidah town on Tuesday evening.

The 14-year-old girl was walking through a nearby village when three young men, who had stalked her on earlier occasions, gagged her with a strip of cloth and took her to a quiet place and raped her, her family members said.

After the suspects left her near Jhenidah Cadet College, a resident of the area rescued her and gave her first aid and sent her home.

Her father filed a case with Jhenidah Police Station later that night accusing Badsha Hossain, 21, Ruhul Amin, 18, and Monnu Hossain, 20, of raping his daughter.

OC Mizanur Rahman of the police station said the 14-year-old girl was sent to a hospital yesterday morning.

Twitter to let users follow interests as well as people

AFP, San Francisco

Twitter users will be able to follow a small number of interests by the end of the year in the same way they follow people, the company said Tuesday.

The feature will be rolled out internationally as the one-to-many messaging platform prioritizes being an online venue for conversations rather than a pulpit for one-way broadcasting to the masses.

"We are basically rewriting the entire conversation service," Twitter product team leader Kayvon Beykpour told reporters during a briefing at the company's San Francisco headquarters.

"We are rebuilding that infrastructure, and it is nearly complete."

The company also highlighted ongoing efforts to make sharing thoughts on the platform safe and easy.

Twitter has always let users follow accounts but a new feature, set to debut by the end of this year, will let users opt into following certain sports teams or categories on a curated list.

For example, sending or interacting with tweets about a team might prompt a query over whether the user wants to "follow" that team or be kept in the know about what is being said on Twitter on the topics.