

TIMELINE

FROM PAGE 1

Shafiullah 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 Fazlul Haque Moni and Abdur Rab Serniabat 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 Shafiullah 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 Shafiullah. Major Rashid and Major Faruk, staying at Bangabhaban since the takeover, 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

FROM PAGE 16

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 Kapasia 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 Kapasia 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

FROM PAGE 16

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

Replying to a question, the minister said people's Eid journeys were 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 Baldipukur village on the Eid day on Monday.

The following day, a man was killed when a bus fell into a roadside ditch along the 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 Shahriar 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 Shajahanpur 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 Kundarhat Highway Outpost, quoting locals.

The deceased are two 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 his helper from the spot.

In another accident, bikers Mithun and Saidur were killed when a bus hit their motorcycle 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 Rupganj upazila on Sunday.

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

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

The boy, Deen Islam Hossain, 8, is from Mollar Hawla village in Barishal's Kauarchar area, said police.

The speedboat, carrying 19 passengers from Shimulia ferry terminal to Kathalbari ferry terminal, overturned in strong winds in the river.

Some other speedboats rescued 18 people, but Deen Islam went missing.

Divers of Bangladesh Army, Fire Service and River Police scoured the river till yesterday evening, but could not trace the missing boy.

Two killed

FROM PAGE 2

Bajitpur Police Station Md Khalilur Rahman Patwary.

The two had an altercation over the matter on Tuesday night, the OC said.

The next morning, another altercation between the two led to a fight and, at one point, Faruq opened fire from a gun, he added.

On information, a police team rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

During the clash, at least 17 people were injured, seven of them with bullets.

Forkan Ali died on the spot while Sharif Mia succumbed to his injuries at Jahurul Islam Medical College Hospital in Bajitpur. The two suffered bullet wounds in the chest and face, the OC said.

Police sent the bodies to Kishoreganj General Hospital for autopsy.

Faruq went into hiding after the clash, according to police.

China moving troops near HK

FROM PAGE 16

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

One country Two systems."

Flag carrier Cathay Pacific Airways published a half-page advertisement in the Hong Kong Economic Journal pledging its support for the government and calling for the resumption of the rule of law and social order.

China's aviation regulator demanded last week that Cathay suspend personnel who engaged in or supported protests in Hong Kong from staffing flights into its airspace. The carrier later suspended two pilots.

Property developers Henderson Land Development, Cheung Kong Holdings and Sun Hung Kai Holdings also took out newspaper advertisement in support of the government yesterday.

Forward Keys, a flight data company, said the crisis had deterred people from making travel plans to the city, citing a 4.7 percent fall in long-haul bookings to Hong Kong between June 16 and Aug. 9 compared with the same period last year.

Statements of apology from protesters were displayed in the airport yesterday, promising to allow passengers to depart, to assist medical staff to carry out their duties and not to hinder the work of the press.

"We are not afraid of facing the issues directly...only afraid of losing your support to the whole movement due to our mistake, and that you give up on fighting."

Pakistan seeks urgent UNSC meet

FROM PAGE 1

Meanwhile, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan used an address celebrating Independence Day yesterday to accuse India of planning military action in the disputed Kashmir region that has long been a flashpoint between the two nuclear-armed neighbours.

India revoked the special status of its portion of Himalayan Kashmir, known as Jammu and Kashmir, on August 5 and moved to quell widespread unrest by shutting down communications and clamping down on freedom of movement.

Islamabad retaliated by suspending bilateral trade and all public transport links with India, as well as expelling New Delhi's ambassador to Islamabad.

Khan yesterday travelled to Muzaffarabad, capital of Pakistan-administered Kashmir, making his first visit to the region since becoming Pakistan's leader in 2018.

In a speech he told the region's parliament that India planned more extensive action than that of February, when its fighter jets struck inside Pakistan, following a dramatic escalation in tension between the rivals.

"They have made a more horrendous plan to divert world attention from their move in Kashmir,

they plan action in Azad Kashmir," Khan said, referring to the portion held by Pakistan.

"The Pakistani army is fully aware that they (India) have made a plan of taking action in Azad Kashmir."

Khan also repeated comments comparing the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, the ideological parent of India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, to the German Nazi Party.

Representatives of India's armed forces and its foreign ministry did not immediately respond to requests for comment on Khan's remarks.

CONFLICT ZONE

India rules the populous Kashmir Valley and the Hindu-dominated region around Jammu city, while Pakistan controls Azad Kashmir, a wedge of territory in the west. China holds a thinly populated high-altitude area in the north.

India and Pakistan have fought two wars over Kashmir since gaining independence from colonial power Great Britain in 1947. They came close to a third in February after a deadly attack on Indian police by a Pakistan-based militant group resulted in air strikes by both countries.

India's revocation of special status for Jammu and Kashmir blocks the state's right to frame its own laws and allows non-residents to buy property

there.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has said old laws prohibiting people from outside Kashmir from buying property, settling there and taking up government jobs had hindered its development.

Restrictions were lifted in five districts of Jammu and nine districts of Kashmir on Monday, India's home ministry said, adding that security would be heightened for both countries' Independence Day celebrations and Muslim Friday prayers.

In Islamabad, posters urged residents to express solidarity with Kashmiris and roadside vendors sold Azad Kashmir flags as well as the Pakistan flag commonly displayed on August 14.

"Independence Day is an opportunity for great happiness, but today we are saddened by the plight of our Kashmiri brothers in occupied Jammu and Kashmir who are victims of Indian oppression," Khan said in an earlier statement.

"I assure my Kashmiri brothers that we stand with them."

Pakistan has also said it will observe India's Independence Day on August 15 as a "Black Day" this year, with flags flown half-mast on government buildings in protest at India's decision.

Signal 3 issued for sea ports

UNB, Dhaka

The maritime ports of Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Mongla and Payra were advised yesterday by the Met Office to keep hoisted local cautionary signal number 3.

Besides, the inland river ports were asked to hoist cautionary signal number 1.

In a regular bulletin, the Met Office said a low persists over the southern part of Jharkhand and adjoining Gangetic West Bengal area. Monsoon is active over Bangladesh and remains moderate to strong over the North Bay.

The river ports in Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Pabna, Bogura, Tangail, Mymensingh, Dhaka, Faridpur, Jashore, Kushtia, Khulna, Barisha, Patuakhali, Noakhali, Cumilla, Chattogram, Cox's Bazar and Sylhet were directed to hoist cautionary signal number 1.

The Met Office has forecast light to moderate rain or thundershowers with gusty or squally wind for most places in Khulna, Barishal, Dhaka, and Chattogram divisions.

Moderately heavy to heavy rainfall was forecasted for parts of Rajshahi, Rangpur, Mymensingh, and Sylhet divisions.

Kamal

FROM PAGE 16

Service Ltd. We will notify you after getting the real picture of the NBFIs 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 Fazle 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 NBFIs sector should not be burdened with the malpractices of three to four institutions, they said.

Some of the NBFIs 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

FROM PAGE 1

house for her aunt, Al Amin, 27, a tenant of the building, gagged her with a strip of cloth and forced her into 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, quot-ing her.

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 ear-ly yesterday.

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

Sensing their presence, "armed gang men" opened fire on them, Sagor 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 autopsies.

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 according to family members had stalked her on earlier occasions, gagged her with a strip of cloth and forced her into a nearby farm where they raped her.

After the suspects left her near Jhenidah Cadet College, a resident of the area found her lying on the ground and gave her first aid before sending 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 law enforcers were looking for the suspects.

Doctors at a hospital where she is being treated said her injuries were not critical and she would have to remain admitted there for at least a week.