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Seven killed in M'singh crash

Four of them from a family

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

At least seven people, including four members of a family, were killed and eight others injured when a speeding bus hit a truck parked along Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Mymensingh's Trishal upazila yesterday afternoon.

Among the dead are Fazlul Haque Azmol, 32, his wife Fatema Begum, 25, two children Ajmina, 8, and Abdullah, 6, Miraz Ali, 35, and Helena Akter, 40.

The identity of the other deceased, aged about 40, could not be confirmed till filing of this report last night.

All the victims are passengers of the bus. Quoting witnesses, police said two Mymensingh-bound buses from Dhaka were crossing Chelerghat area in Trishal around 2:30pm.

One of the buses passed the parked truck, but the other bus hit the side of the truck, causing the accident.

Speaking to The Daily Star, deceased Azmol's uncle Rafique said his nephew, a small trader, lived in Manikganj's Singair upazila with his family.

Hearing about the sickness of Azmol's father, the family got on a bus from Joydebpur to travel to their hometown Sherpur.

"But four members of the family lost their lives before they could reach home," said Rafique.

Five of the victims, including two children, died on the spot while two others passed away at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, said Mohammad Mainuddin, officer-in-charge of Trishal Police Station.

The injured were undergoing treatment at the hospital. The condition of three of them -- Fahad, Babul, and Rafiq -- was stated to be critical, the OC said quoting doctors.

Police seized the bus and truck, but the bus driver

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Mangled remains of a bus after it hit a truck parked along Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Chelerghat area of Mymensingh's Trishal upazila yesterday. The accident left seven people dead and eight injured.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Vaccination of children in capital from Oct 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education is planning to start vaccinating schoolchildren, aged 12-17 years, in Dhaka city with Covid-19 vaccines from October 30.

Around 200 booths will be accommodated in the capitals Bangabandhu International Convention Center for this purpose.

"We hope that we will be able to vaccinate around 40,000 schoolchildren every day in Dhaka," Belal Hossain, director of the DSHE, said yesterday.

It is estimated that there were around 6.15 lakh students in the capital.

"We are discussing how to administer the vaccine. We will let everyone know when we finalise the plan," Belal Hossain said.

The DSHE sought information of students of 12-17 years, including their birth certificate number, from all schools and colleges of Dhaka. It asked all schools to submit the information by October 19.

After successful completion of this campaign, it will be expanded to 20 other districts, officials said.

According to the officials, there are more than a crore schoolchildren under this age group in the country.

For this, the government has a total of 30 lakh Pfizer vaccines in hand, Health Minister Zahid Maleque said last week.

Earlier on Thursday, the health directorate inoculated 120 schoolchildren, aged 12-17, with Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine in Manikganj as part of the trial run prior to largescale campaign.

With this, Bangladesh entered the small list of

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BATTLE FOR YEMEN'S MARIB

Airstrikes kill 160 Huthi rebels

AFP, Riyadh

The Saudi-led coalition supporting Yemen's government yesterday said it had killed 160 Huthi rebels in strikes south of the strategic city of Marib, where loyalists say rebels have made advances.

"We carried out 32 strikes... in Abdiya over the past 24 hours," the coalition said, cited by the official Saudi Press Agency, adding that "11 military vehicles were destroyed and more than 160 terrorist elements eliminated".

The rebels rarely comment on losses and the toll could not be independently verified by AFP.

The coalition has said that since Monday, more than 700 Iran-backed rebels have been killed in air strikes in the battle for Marib.

Abdiya lies about 100 kilometres from Marib, the internationally recognised government's last stronghold in the north.

Despite the Huthis' losses in recent days, they are now "at the centre of Abdiya district after a four-week siege", a loyalist source told AFP.

The official said rebels had "kidnapped, imprisoned and abused" members of

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ROAD TO FREEDOM

THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

'An effective guerilla force'

OCTOBER 17, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZZA SAJEN

GLOWING TRIBUTE FOR FREEDOM FIGHTERS

The New York Times today reported, "From a disorganized, confused band of freedom fighters that moved into action when the Pakistani Army struck in late March to try to crush the Bengali autonomy movement, the Mukti Bahini has become, if not a well-oiled fighting machine, at least a reasonably coordinated and more than reasonably effective guerrilla force."

Quoting a foreign diplomat, the newspaper said, "If the Vietcong had been doing this well after six months, they would have considered it a remarkably good start."

"India has helped with arms training and sanctuary, and clearly, without the Indian aid, the level of insurgent activity could never have reached its present pit. But the men and the motivation are East Pakistani, and, even if they were on their own, it is doubtful whether the Bengali resistance could be totally crushed by the troops from West Pakistan," added the New York Times.

"THE STRUGGLE IS NOT AGAINST MUSLIMS" M Hossain Ali, Head of Bangladesh Mission in India, today reiterated that the Liberation War was not against Muslims or any particular community as propagated by the Pakistan Government but the fight was against those who had created hindrances in the way to Bangladesh's independence. He was speaking at an anti-communal convention.

Hossain Ali expressed satisfaction over the support Biharis had extended to the Bangladesh Liberation War and expressed the hope

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DU in-person classes, exams resume today

DU CORRESPONDENT

In-person classes and exams of Dhaka University resume today after over 18 months as the pandemic has eased in the country.

"Vice-Chancellor Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman will visit classrooms at the arts faculty around 11:00am as the university's academic activities are going to start from today," a press release of the DU Public Relations Office said yesterday.

Students are allowed to attend classes on the campus provided they show the proof of receiving at least one dose of Covid-19 vaccine and maintain health guidelines properly, said the authorities.

Like all other educational institutions in the country, the DU was shut in March last year to curb the spread of novel coronavirus.

On October 5 this year, the university reopened

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Nasa launches probe to explore Jupiter asteroids



AFP, Washington

Nasa launched a spacecraft called Lucy on a 12-year mission to explore Jupiter's Trojan asteroids for the first time yesterday, gathering new insights into the solar system's formation.

The Atlas V rocket responsible for propelling the probe took off at 5:34 am local time (0934 GMT) from Cape Canaveral.

Named after an ancient fossil of a pre-human ancestor, Lucy will become the first solar-powered spacecraft to venture so far from the Sun, and will observe more asteroids than any probe before it -- eight in all.

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PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 17

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-50 12-45 4-00 5-36 7-15
JAMAAT 5-25 1-15 4-15 5-39 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

GIRLS' EDUCATION

Taliban to announce plans 'soon'

Says UN

AFP, United Nations

The Taliban will announce a framework that allows girls to attend school in Afghanistan "soon," a senior United Nations official said, after four weeks in which Afghan boys have been allowed a secondary education but girls have not.

"The de facto minister of education told us that they are working on a framework, which they will announce soon, that will allow all girls to go to secondary school, and we are expecting that to happen very soon," UNICEF deputy executive director Omar Abdi said at the United Nations in New York on Friday.

For weeks now the Taliban have been saying that they will allow girls to return to school as soon as possible.

The Islamist group, notorious for its brutal and oppressive rule from

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A lack of maintenance caused such severe damages to the foot overbridge right in front of the gate of Kamalapur Railway Station, causing accidents on a regular basis, say locals. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Asean excludes Myanmar junta chief from summit

AFP, Brunei

Myanmar's junta chief will be excluded from an upcoming Asean summit, the group said yesterday, a rare rebuke as concerns rise over the military government's commitment to defusing a bloody crisis.

Foreign ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations agreed at an emergency meeting late Friday that a "non-political representative" for Myanmar be invited to the October 26-28 summit, current Asean chair Brunei said in a statement.

The decision effectively excluded junta leader Min Aung Hlaing.

The bloc, widely criticised as a toothless organisation, took a strong stand after the junta rebuffed requests for a special envoy to meet with all parties concerned -- a phrase seen to include ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

The statement noted "insufficient progress" in the implementation of a five-point plan agreed by Asean leaders in April to end turmoil following a coup in February.

It also said that the situation in Myanmar "was having an impact on regional security as well as the unity, credibility and centrality of Asean".

Richard Horsey, Myanmar adviser to Crisis Group, predicted the "non-political" representative would be someone below the level of minister or deputy minister.

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Min Aung Hlaing