

AFGHANISTAN CRISIS
Taliban interior minister
hails the sacrifices of suicide
bombers
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"Communal forces are attacking the Hindu community of our country. It can cause problems for our Muslim brothers in India."
AL GEN SECY OBAIDUL QUADER

"Women can bring about change and they need to step forward. This decision is for the girls of Uttar Pradesh..."
PRIYANKA GANDHI ON FIELDING 40PC WOMEN CANDIDATES IN 2022 UP POLLS

"The UK leads the world in the race to net zero. The likes of China and Russia are following our lead with their own net zero targets, as prices tumble and green tech becomes the global norm."
UK PM BORIS JOHNSON ON GREEN REVOLUTION

Cops asked to act promptly

PHQ instructs field-level officers after PM orders stern action against people involved in communal violence

"Islam advises peaceful performance of rituals of all religions. Our Prophet (PBUH) also advised us not to do excesses with religion. We want no one to do excesses with religion."

PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH HASINA



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Police Headquarters yesterday instructed its field-level officials to stay on high alert and take immediate action whenever they receive information about any attempt to sabotage the country's stability and communal harmony.

It asked the officials on the ground to stay in regular contact with leaders of all religious communities, local political leaders, and teachers and students of educational institutions in order to thwart any untoward incident.

The officials will have to meet the religious leaders on a regular basis so that no misunderstanding can take place.

The instructions came at a virtual meeting of the police high-ups at the PHQ after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a cabinet meeting directed the home ministry to take stern action against people involved in the recent violence against the Hindu community.

Additional Inspector General of Police Moinur Rahman Chowdhury, performing the duties of the IGP who is currently abroad, chaired the five-hour meeting where all unit chiefs and range deputy inspector generals (DIGs) were present.

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FIRE AND TEARS

Artists stage a performance on the Dhaka University campus protesting the recent communal attacks in the country. The Dhaka University Teachers' Association and the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies jointly organised the demonstration yesterday. More photos on page 3.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Miladunnabi today

UNB, Dhaka

The holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi is being observed today, marking the day of birth and passing away of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (pbuh), with religious festivity and fervour.

On this day in 570, the 12th of Rabiul Awal of the Hijri calendar, Muhammad (pbuh) was born in Makkah with divine blessings and messages of peace for mankind. He also passed away on the same day.

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have issued separate messages greeting the people of the country and the Muslims across the globe on this occasion.

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HOLIDAY NOTICE

The Daily Star office will remain closed today on the occasion of Eid-e-Miladunnabi. Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow. Stay tuned to our website for round-the-clock news coverage.



A little boy's world crushed by zealots

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Four-year-old Aditya Saha still waits to have lunch with his father – a tradition they have maintained since the child learned to eat on his own.

"I will not eat until my father comes home. When will he return?" he keeps asking his mother all day. She, however, does not have the heart to tell him that his father, Jatan Saha, will never return.

On the afternoon of October 15, Jatan was killed when Hindu temples in Noakhali's Begumganj upazila were attacked. He

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Uphold the spirit of tolerance

Govt urges all to stay alert against further efforts to tarnish country's image

UNB, Dhaka

The government has urged all concerned to uphold the spirit of tolerance, inclusivity, peace and pluralism and stand guard against further efforts to malign the state institutions and tarnish the image of the country.

"The government remains committed to preventing the recurrence of such untoward incidents and would expect that further complication or misunderstanding would be averted through responsible and fact-based reporting through all media platforms," the foreign ministry said yesterday.

The government remains "concerned" that certain vested quarters are carrying out such premeditated attacks to gain some dubious political mileage. "It's regrettable that the local elements who had

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PATTERN always the same

Hajiganj mayhem began with a Facebook post like previous incidents of communal violence in the country

MOKAMMEL SHUIVO and ALAM PALASH

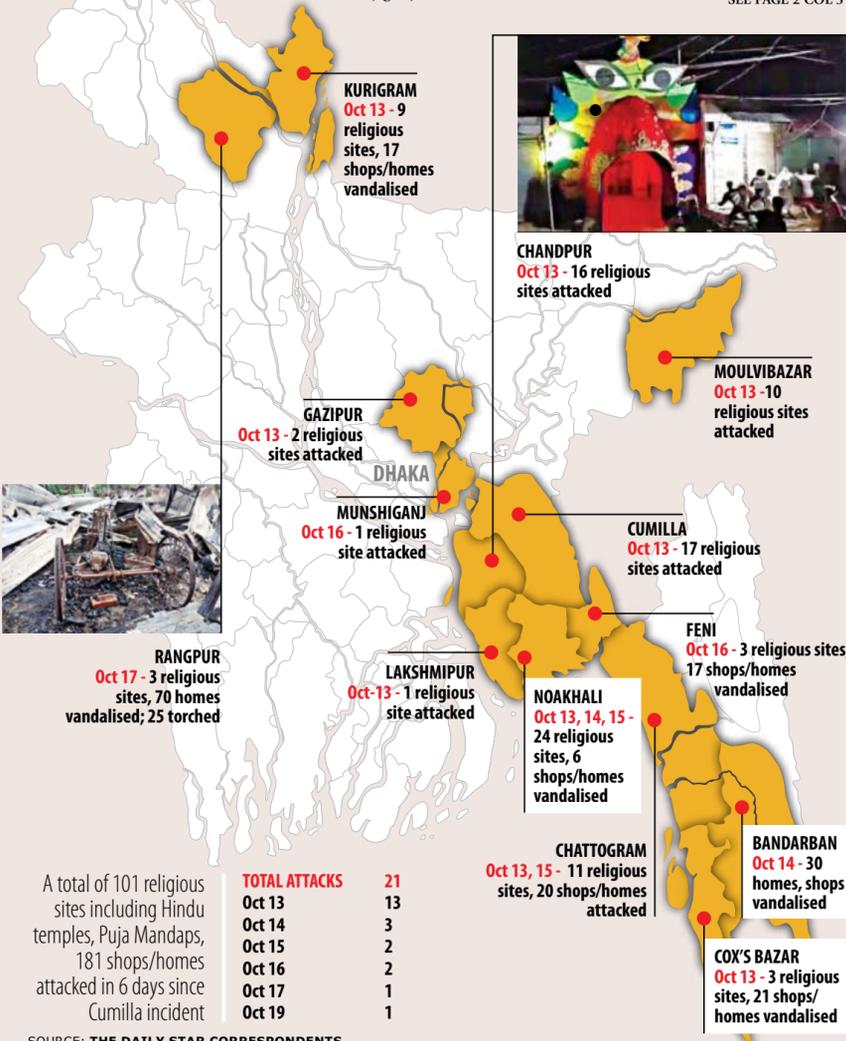
Like previous incidents of communal violence unleashed on minority communities, a post making the rounds on Facebook was what triggered the October 13 attacks in Chandpur's Hajiganj upazila during Durga Puja celebrations.

The post claimed that the Holy Quran was demeaned at a puja mandap in Cumilla earlier in that day. The rumour spread, making the situation in Hajiganj

tense. Minutes before Esha prayers, a group of youths from ward-11 of Hajiganj municipality gathered in Bishwa Road intersection area and brought out a procession protesting the reported incident.

The youths marched straight to Hajiganj Boro Masjid, around a kilometre from the intersection, around 8:00pm. At that time, people were streaming out of the mosque after performing their prayers. Soon, several hundred people, including many of the devotees, joined the procession, led by the youths.

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Tigers keep hopes alive

MAZHAR UDDIN from Muscat

There were nerves and mounting fear of an elimination from the first round, but there was no shortage of excitement or drama as Bangladesh kept their hopes of qualifying for the Super 12 stage of the ICC T20 World Cup alive by beating hosts Oman by 26 runs at the Al Amerat Cricket Stadium in Muscat yesterday.

The Tigers were helped by Shakib Al Hasan's all-round performance, which featured a crucial 29-ball 42 during an important 80-run third-wicket partnership with Naim Sheikh and his bowling figures of three wickets for 28 runs.

The left-hander's involvement throughout the game was substantial and the manner in which he continued to provide input before and after every over was something that caught the eye everyone present.

Oman came out all guns blazing in chase of a rather modest 154-run target and started the innings by scoring 12 off the first over from Taskin Ahmed. Despite Mustafizur Rahman trapping opener Aqib Ilyas leg before in the second over, the

hosts did not shy away from utilising the Powerplay.

Bangladesh also had themselves to blame, with skipper Mahmudullah Riyad



dropping a simple catch from Jatinder Singh, who was on 10 and had top-edged Mustafizur early in the innings.

After that reprieve, Jatinder and Kashyap Prajapati struck boundaries in every over before the latter became Mustafizur's second victim after scoring 21 off 18 balls. But Oman were well in the game after reaching 47 for two after the Powerplay.

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3 crore to get jabs a month from Nov

Says health minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around three crore people will get Covid-19 vaccines each month from November, Health Minister Zahid Maleque said yesterday.

There is no shortage of Covid-19 vaccine as the government has purchased 21 crore jabs in total, he said while addressing an event as the chief guest on the occasion of the 58th birthday of Sheikh Russel in Dhaka.

The government started mass vaccination from February 7 this year with a target to inoculate around 11.8 crore people or 80 percent of the entire population against Covid-19. So far, only 16 percent of the target population has been inoculated.

Meanwhile, seven more people died from Covid-19 in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, said a press release of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

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Rab launches 'data hub'

New system to profile law breakers, says the battalion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion yesterday inaugurated the use of Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) and a "data hub" to profile and identify law-breakers.

The data hub will be maintained by the agency in charge of intercepting electronic communication -- the National Telecommunications Monitoring Centre (NTMC). The Rab will operate the hub together with the NTMC.

Rab officials said the data hub will store all personal details of an individual, including biometric information, in such a way that a simple search using a name or a fingerprint would be enough for identification.

The inauguration was done at the Rab headquarters in the capital as part of its technological upgrade. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan opened the event.

NTMC Director Brigadier General Ziaul Ahsan said they have built an integrated solutions framework that would allow them to coordinate information-sharing between all law enforcement and government agencies.

The Rab said this will help the elite force profile and identify law-breakers, and arrest criminals.

Rab Director General Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun said the data hub will compile information about criminals in one place. "Even a Rab official in a remote area will be able to find information on criminals by conducting a simple search."

OSINT refers to the use of tools to mine, scrape, crawl and analyse publicly available information. In Bangladesh, publicly available information includes several aspects of a citizen's phone and internet communications.

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