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15 hurt in AL- BNP clash in Hazaribagh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 15 people including a journalist were injured in a clash between BNP and Awami League activists at the capital's Hazaribagh area before a BNP rally yesterday.

After the incident, the Dhanmondi zone of BNP's Dhaka south city unit held the rally peacefully at a field near ZH Sikder Women's Medical College Hospital.

The rally was held to protest price hikes of fuel, daily essentials, and the recent killing of four BNP leaders in Bhola, Narayanganj, and Munshiganj "in police firing".

As part of the party's announced plan to hold 16 rallies in the capital, yesterday's rally was supposed to be held at Shankar Bus Stand in Dhanmondi.

BNP leaders claimed that they moved the venue to Hazaribagh as police imposed restrictions on holding political programmes in Shankar after the ruling Awami League announced a rally there.

Contacted, Abdus Salam, BNP south city unit convener, said Awami League men attacked their party men to foil the rally but failed to do so due to the strong resistance from BNP activists.

He claimed that at least 15 activists of their party were injured in the clash and that police arrested around 15 BNP men.

A journalist of DeshTv was also injured during the clash.

Hazaribagh Police Station Inspector (Investigation) Humayun Kabir denied Salam's claim of arrests, saying there was barely any fighting, so there was no question of arrests.

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Packets of chips, empty water bottles and other garbage strewn across Jaflong's Zero Point, a popular tourist destination. Such littering by callous tourists spoils the beauty of this otherwise pristine place. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR



Ranesh Maitra no more

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR
TOPU, Pabna

Ekushey Padak-winning journalist and columnist Ranesh Maitra died at a hospital in the capital early yesterday.

He was 89.

He had been suffering from various diseases related to old age over the last few months. As his condition deteriorated, he was moved to Dhaka from Pabna on Friday and was admitted to the hospital.

A veteran of the Language Movement and Liberation War, Ranesh breathed his last around 3:50am, said Shoikat Afroz Asad, secretary of Pabna Press Club, quoting his family members.

The journalist, a

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MYANMAR BORDER TENSION Beijing to talk to Naypyidaw Chinese ambassador assures foreign ministry

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Beijing will ask Myanmar to stop violating Bangladesh's territorial sovereignty and speed up the tripartite mechanism for Rohingya repatriation.

Li Jiming, Chinese ambassador to Bangladesh, said this during a meeting with Admiral (Retd) Khurshed Alam, acting foreign secretary, at the foreign ministry yesterday.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Jiming said the recent incidents along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border are unfortunate.

He said the meeting discussed the border incidents, ways for early Rohingya repatriations, and bilateral cooperation in other areas.

On September 20, the foreign ministry arranged separate briefings with the Asean diplomats and the other foreign diplomats in Dhaka to discuss the border situation and requested them to use their influence to stop Myanmar from repeatedly violating border rules.

Since late August, mortar shells landed in Bangladesh territory from Myanmar and helicopters flew over the border area, where the Myanmar military and Arakan Army have been fighting since the beginning of the month.

No representative from the Chinese embassy in Dhaka was present at the September 20 meeting.

"We had informed the border situation to the foreign diplomats last week. As no one from the Chinese embassy was present there, we informed the ambassador about it today [yesterday]," Khurshed Alam told reporters at the foreign ministry.

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TOURISM IN BANGLADESH

Red tape, poor infrastructure, holding it back

RASHIDUL HASAN

Permissions from at least 17 different ministries and departments of the government were needed for a cruise ship to be able to travel to Bangladesh from Sri Lanka in 2017.

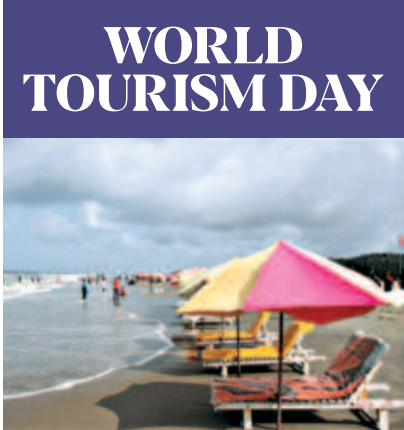
This was the first and last time any cruise ship visited the country, and it showed how red-tapismafflicts the tourism sector.

The allegation against such bureaucratic tangles was recently raised by Khurshed Alam, secretary of the maritime affairs unit of the foreign ministry.

The state of the country's tourism sector is further exposed when a foreign or domestic tourist visiting Cox's Bazar finds out there is not much to do after sundown and they have to stay indoors for the rest of the day.

Different stakeholders in tourism said myriad limitations like this get in the way of tapping the potentials of the sector, and this is why Bangladesh is falling far behind other countries.

They added it is unfortunate that Bangladesh still does not have a masterplan for tourism, even after 51



years of its independence.

Amid such a grim scenario, the country observes World Tourism Day today under the slogan "Rethinking Tourism".

The government yesterday announced the waiver of all kinds of restrictions, mostly imposed during the Covid-19 pandemic, on foreigners visiting Bangladesh.

Md Rafiuzzaman, chairman of Tour Operators Association of Bangladesh (TOAB), a leading tourism

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7 MISSING YOUTHS 'Drawn into extremism by some professionals'

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

A government employee, schoolteachers, doctors and imams were found to have links with seven youths who ran away from their Cumilla homes last month, said CTTC and Rab officials.

Using their connections, the professionals have allegedly dragged the youths into extremism. After the incident of missing youths came to the fore, the professionals have also gone into hiding, they added.

For instance, Nesar Ahmed, a scientific officer of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, has been missing from work in Bhola for the last 20 days.

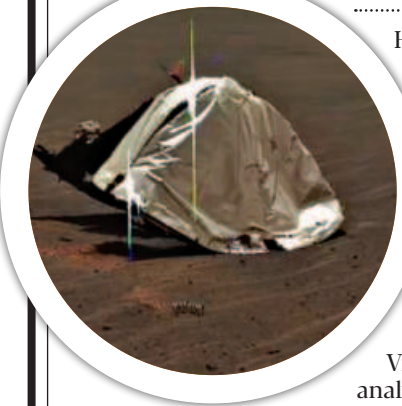
"Nesar took two days' leave from his office, but he is yet to join," Lt Col Mashiur Rahman Jewel, director of the intelligence wing of Rapid Action Battalion, told The Daily Star.

He said, "We have found his links with the Cumilla missing youths."

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Humans left 15k pounds of trash on Mars

MAIL ONLINE



Humans have left more than 15,000 pounds of trash on Mars in the last 50 years and not a single person has ever stepped foot on the red planet.

Cagri Kilic, a postdoctoral research fellow in robotics at West Virginia University, analyzed the mass of all rovers and orbiters sent

to Mars and subtracted the weight of what is currently in operation, resulting in 15,694 pounds of debris.

The trash includes discarded hardware, inactive spacecraft and those that crashed on the surface - specifically the Soviet Union's Mars orbiter 2 that made a crash landing in 1971.

Not only are humans already polluting another planet, but scientists fear the debris could contaminate samples being collected by Nasa's Perseverance rover that is currently searching for ancient life on Mars.

Much of the garbage is inevitable, as many of the parts have to be discarded in order to protect craft as it soars through the Red Planet's hellish atmosphere - including Nasa's Perseverance that endured the seven minutes of hell when it landed in February 2021.

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Miladunnabi on October 9

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marking the day of birth and passing away of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH), holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi will be observed in the country on October 9 with religious solemnity.

The decision was made at the National Moon Sighting Committee's meeting held yesterday at the Islamic Foundation's office in Baitul Mukarram.

The meeting was presided over by Munim Hasan, the additional secretary to the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

According to the discussion in the meeting, the moon of Rabiul Awal of 1443 Hijri was not seen in Bangladesh yesterday. Thus, the month of Rabiul Awal will start from tomorrow.

On the day in 570, the 12th of Rabiul Awal of the Hijri calendar, Prophet Muhammad (PUBH) was born in Makkah, Saudi Arabia with divine blessings and messages of peace for humankind.

The day is a public holiday.



Boys of Willes Little Flower School and College yesterday held a human chain at the capital's Kakrail intersection to protest the recent rape and murder of Tasnia Hossain Adita, an eighth-grader of Noakhali Government Girls High School, in which a teacher was involved. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

World economy to slow, 'paying the price of war': OECD

AFP, Paris

The world economy will take a bigger hit than previously forecast next year due to the effects of Russia's war in Ukraine, the OECD said yesterday.

In a bleak report titled "paying the price of war", the Paris-based organisation noted that the conflict aggravated inflationary pressure when the cost of living was already rising quickly.

Covid outbreaks are still having an impact on the global economy while growth has also been affected by rising interest rates as central banks scramble to cool red-hot prices, the OECD said.

"A number of indicators have taken a turn for the worse, and the global growth outlook has darkened," the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development said in the report.

Global growth stalled in the second quarter of this year and data in many economies "now point to an extended period of subdued growth", the OECD said.

The organisation slashed its 2023 growth forecast for the global economy to 2.2 percent, down from 2.8 percent in its previous estimate in June.

The outlook for nearly all nations in the Group of 20 top economies was cut, except for Turkey, Indonesia and Britain, though the latter is forecast to have zero growth. Growth in the United States - the world's biggest economy - is forecast to slow to 0.5 percent in 2023.

The growth forecast for China, whose economy has been hit by strict Covid lockdowns, was cut sharply for

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