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THE DAILY Star ON FRIDAY

SECOND EDITION



"It was a long day and a long night, I know for all the IT and security folks ... I've not seen anything like this in a long, long time."

Microsoft CEO **SATYA NADELLA** on worldwide hacking attempts



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Gunshots shatter Sajek serenity

3,000 tourists evacuated from the valley amid clashes during blockade

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rangamati*

Around 3,000 tourists stranded on the road from Sajek in Rangamati were escorted to Khagrachhari yesterday after clashes between supporters of a blockade and law enforcers and then a reported gunfight between the UPDF and security forces.

The army and police jointly conducted the evacuation and five army personnel and two police members were injured in the clashes. No tourists were injured, Rangamati Superintendent of Police Muhammad Abdur Rakib said.

The blockade was enforced by the Sajek Gano Odhikar Rokkha Committee and the Sajek Karbari Association (village headmen's association) to press home three demands, including the removal of an armed group affiliated with the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS).

The protesters placed logs across the road at several points. Around 10:00am, they stopped a column of tourist vehicles returning from Sajek, the SP said at a press briefing at his office yesterday afternoon.

Heping Tripura, a lineman at the Sajek tourist centre, said tourists had left the valley around 8:30am in about 450 vehicles. The protesters intercepted those near Gangaram Bazar, around 25km from Sajek Valley.

According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) yesterday, army and police patrol teams tried to resolve the situation through dialogue. However, around 10:45am, the protesters, allegedly instigated by United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) members, began throwing brick chunks and stones at law enforcers and tourists.

Law enforcers then used truncheons to disperse the protesters and clear the road.

- ISPR says locals intimidated into joining blockade, used as human shields
- Police say five army personnel, two cops injured
- UPDF, protesters claim security forces opened fire
- 57 civilians allegedly injured in gunfire, truncheon charge
- New blockade called in two districts

ISPR, citing preliminary information, claimed that armed UPDF members around 11:00am fired 30-40 shots at law enforcers and tourists.

Army personnel returned fire in self-defence and to protect the tourists, forcing the armed men to flee, the statement said. The army and police then evacuated the stranded tourists.

The ISPR claimed that the blockade and ensuing violence were planned. It said UPDF members had intimidated locals into joining the blockade and used them as human shields.

It also claimed that some armed UPDF members had moved into tourist areas after coming under pressure from ongoing security operations in different parts of the Chattogram Hill Tracts.

In a statement yesterday, UPDF spokesperson Angya Marma described reports of a gunfight between the army and an armed group in Sajek as "completely false and fabricated".

He said the group found no evidence of a gunfight after speaking to locals. Instead, he alleged, security personnel fired shots in different directions to break up a peaceful road blockade by locals demanding the removal of an armed group affiliated with the PCJSS Santu faction.

Angya condemned what he described as attacks, truncheon charges, vandalism of homes and intimidation of peaceful protesters. He urged the authorities to meet the locals' demands, withdraw the armed members of the PCJSS Santu group from Sajek and take action against them.

Babudhan Chakma, convener of the Sajek Gano Odhikar Rokkha Committee, which enforced the blockade, also disputed the security forces' account.

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PHOTO: **COLLECTED**

Army and policemen escorting stranded tourists from Sajek Valley are confronted by members of two regional organisations enforcing a blockade in the Ujobazar (Gangaram) area of Rangamati's Baghaichhari yesterday morning. Shortly after the personnel dispersed the demonstrators and escorted the tourists to Khagrachhari, reports emerged about an exchange of gunfire between local armed groups and law enforcers and security personnel.

Govt rings alarm over global cyber security flaws

BB downs its website for safety

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The national cybersecurity response team has warned of a high risk of hacking and advised government agencies, financial institutions, telecom operators and other organisations to identify vulnerable systems and apply security updates immediately.

Two critical flaws in PHP, software used to run a large share of the world's websites, could allow hackers to run malicious code on web servers without logging in, said Bangladesh Government Computer Incident Response Team (BGD e-GOV CIRT), which operates under the ICT Division's Bangladesh Computer Council, in an advisory yesterday.

The warning comes as global firms and governments rushed on Thursday to patch critical flaws in the PHP programming language that underpins much of the internet, as a cloud firm reported millions of hacking attempts after vulnerabilities were disclosed, according to Reuters.

The push came after governments in Europe and elsewhere took websites

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Govt plans Tk 21,900cr digital makeover for schools

2 projects to cover half the secondary, higher secondary schools; experts recall past failures, stress better planning

- Teachers to receive training on digital teaching methods
- Interactive digital panels to be installed in 100,000 classrooms
- 3,000 classrooms to be constructed thru vertical expansion model
- 2,100 schools to get ICT and AI laboratories
- Both projects to be implemented from Jan 2027 to Dec 2031



MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR *and* **ARAFAT RAHAMAN**

In a major push to expand digital learning, the government plans to invest nearly Tk 21,900 crore in two major projects to modernise classrooms at the secondary and higher secondary levels, enhance teaching quality and prepare students for a world increasingly shaped by technology.

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Dengue patients receive treatment on corridor floors at Mugda Medical College Hospital as a rising number of cases strains the hospital. Four people died and 1,512 others were hospitalised with dengue in the 24 hours until 8:00am yesterday, according to the Directorate General of Health Services. The death toll of this year so far is 368, and cases 118,502. PHOTO: **MEHEDI HASAN**

Japan to arrange $6.35b in private investment

Reports Nikkei; money to flow over 5 years

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Japan is expected to arrange 1 trillion yen ($6.35 billion) in private-sector investment in Bangladesh over the next five years, with the commitment set to be reflected in a joint statement during Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's upcoming visit to Tokyo, Japanese newspaper Nikkei reported yesterday.

According to the foreign ministries of the two countries, Tarique is scheduled to visit Japan from October 26 to 29. During the visit, Bangladesh and Japan are expected to elevate their existing strategic partnership.

A meeting between Tarique and his Japanese counterpart Sanae Takaichi is slated for October 27.

The investments are expected to flow into the automobile and other manufacturing industries, as well as the construction of energy facilities, Nikkei reported.

The investment plan is also expected to involve companies operating in the Bangladesh Special Economic Zone, which is being developed with the involvement of Japanese trading house Sumitomo Corp, the report said.

According to Nikkei, Japan aims to expand economic cooperation with Bangladesh while

The investments are expected to flow into the automobile and other manufacturing industries, as well as the construction of energy facilities.

reducing China's influence in the country. China is Bangladesh's largest source of imports, the report noted.

Since the July 2024 uprising, Bangladesh has been seeking investment and cooperation in infrastructure development and other sectors, it added.

The report also said a delegation of Japanese businesses would visit Bangladesh soon. A public-private dialogue on economic cooperation and investment is planned during the visit.

Bangladesh and Japan signed an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) in February. Bangladesh's competitive labour costs and favourable manufacturing environment make

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