



THE DAILY

Star

ON FRIDAY



www.thedailystar.net

PLUS 4-PAGE JACKET ON BANGABANDHU'S HOMECOMING DAY

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XXIX No. 351

POUSH 26, 1426 BS

Your Right to Know

JAMADIL AWAL 13, 1441 HJIRI

24 PAGES PLUS TOGGLE PRICE: Tk 12.00

HELPFUL yet not much known

Mobile app, helpline other than 999 are there to serve victims of violence against women



NILIMA JAHAN

Have you ever heard of helpline 109? Or, are you familiar with mobile app "Joy"?

Similar to the national emergency helpline 999, these two services are dedicated to receiving complaints of harassment, sexual hostility, violence and potential threats against women. But they stay unknown to many.

The national emergency helpline 999 has created a noticeable impact since its launch in 2017, unlike "Joy" and the 24-hour helpline 109, both introduced by the women and children affairs ministry.

The Daily Star has conducted a random survey among over 40 female young professionals and students to know their experiences of using the app and the helpline, or whether they actually know about the two platforms. The responses were eye-opening.

None of them has ever heard of the mobile app, which was launched on July 29, 2018. On the other hand, only

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A student of Dhaka University protesting the rape of a fellow student with "The rapist is in your path" written on his palm at the TSC yesterday. "A rapist in your path" is a Chilean feminist performance piece protesting violence against women that has caught on and spread across the world.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Bangabandhu's Homecoming Day today

PM to launch 'Mujib Year' countdown

BSS, Dhaka

The historic Homecoming Day of the greatest Bangalee of all the times Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is being observed today in a befitting manner.

Bangabandhu, the undisputed leader of the nation and supreme commander of the country's Liberation War, returned to independent Bangladesh via London and New Delhi on January 10 in 1972, after 290 days of confinement in a Pakistani jail.

This year, the observance of the Bangabandhu's

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She wants to focus on her studies

DU rape victim released from hospital; suspect on 7-day remand

STAR REPORT

Forgetting the horror, the rape victim of Dhaka University is now fighting hard to get back to normal life. She wants to concentrate on her studies, take exams and think about her future career.

"She looked strong. She was seen studying on a bed at the one-stop crisis centre on Wednesday. She would take her exams," a doctor, who was treating her at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), told The Daily Star.

Around noon yesterday, the hospital authorities released the 21-year-old victim, a student of DU.

Speaking to this newspaper, a relative of the victim said she was preparing for her university

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PLANE CRASH IN IRAN

Little clarity, many theories emerge

Iran says aircraft caught fire before crash, Ukraine outlines theories, including missile strike, terrorism; Iran dismisses claims of mistakenly shooting it down

REUTERS, Dubai/Kiev

Ukraine outlined four potential scenarios yesterday to explain the deadly crash of one of its airliners in Iran, including a missile strike and terrorism, as Iranian investigators said the plane was on fire before it fell to the ground.

Kiev said its investigators wanted to search the site of Wednesday's crash southwest of Tehran for possible debris of a Russian-made missile used by Iran's military. An initial report by Iran's civil aviation organisation said the plane had experienced an unspecified technical problem.

US President Donald Trump said he had "suspicions" about the crash of a Ukrainian airliner outside Tehran as US media reported it had been mistakenly shot down by Iran.

Unnamed officials told American media that Iranian air defense systems likely accidentally shot down the airliner

Wednesday, killing all of the 176 people on board.

Newsweek, CBS and CNN said that satellite, radar and electronic data indicated the tragic error, which followed a ballistic missile barrage by Iran on two military bases in Iraq where US troops work.

Iran on Thursday ruled out a missile strike as the cause of a Ukrainian passenger plane crash near Tehran, saying such a scenario made "no sense".

The Ukrainian International Airlines Boeing 737-800, flying to Kiev and carrying mostly Iranians and Iranian-Canadians, crashed shortly after taking off from Tehran's Imam Khomeini airport, killing all 176 people on board.

The Iranian report cited witnesses on the ground and in a passing aircraft flying at high altitude as saying the plane was on fire while still aloft.

It said the three-year-old airliner, which had its last scheduled maintenance

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Khulna, Cumilla vie for play-off spot

SPORTS REPORTER

After a day's break the Bangladesh Premier League (BBPL) will resume today and it will be a do-or-die situation for Cumilla Warriors against Khulna Tigers under the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium floodlights.

While a win would be enough for Khulna -- currently fourth on the seven-team table with 12 points from 10 matches -- to secure the last play-off spot, the equation is a bit more complicated for Cumilla. The Dawid Malan-led team sit just below Khulna with 10 points from 11 games and because of an inferior net run rate (0.056 to Khulna's

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DEDICATED RAIL BRIDGE OVER JAMUNA

Work yet to start, cost up by 33pc

PM likely to inaugurate physical work in March

BANGABANDHU SHEIKH MUJIB RAIL BRIDGE ON JAMUNA

- LOCATION: 300 metres upstream of Bangabandhu Bridge
- LENGTH: 4.8 km
- TYPE: Dual-gauge double track
- COST: Tk 12,950 crore
- FUNDING: Japan will provide lion's share as soft loan
- PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION: By Dec 2023
- PROJECT IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES: 2 joint venture firms comprising Japanese companies



REJAUJ KARIM BYRON and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The project cost of building a rail bridge over the Jamuna river has increased by Tk 3,216 crore even before the start of physical work.

The cabinet committee on purchase yesterday gave conditional approval to the project aimed at improving the capacity and safety of rail communications across the river to the northwestern and southern regions.

The project now costs an estimated Tk 12,950.6 crore, which is 33 percent more than the amount mentioned in Development Project Proforma approved by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) in December 2016.

The Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Railway Bridge Construction Project was supposed to be implemented between January 2016 and December 2023. But the purchase committee approval comes more than three years after the Ecneec approved it.

After yesterday's purchase committee meeting, Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal said they gave "conditional approval"

because of the significant increase in the project cost.

The railways ministry will have to place the revised Development Project Proforma (DPP) for Ecneec approval, he said.

Its work order will be issued once the Ecneec approves the revised DPP.

"The project will proceed as per the revised DPP. But we have given the approval so that they don't have to come to us [purchase committee] again," the minister said.

According to the project document, the new 4.8 km bridge will be built some 300 metres upstream to the Bangabandhu bridge.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to launch the physical work of the dual-gauge double-track bridge in March, Bangladesh Railway Director General Md Shamsuzzaman told The Daily Star.

The bridge would be constructed under two packages. Japan will provide the lion's share of the cost in soft loans.

A joint venture of the Obayashi Corporation, TOA Corporation and JFE would construct the eastern part of the bridge at the cost of Tk 6,801 crore while

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The Madrasa Road-2 in the capital's Muhammadpur has been rendered useless as Dhaka North City Corporation works on the sewer lines. Residents of the area said they had been subjected to the suffering for eight days with no transport able to reach their homes. Their vehicles are either stuck in the garage or have been parked elsewhere.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

30th Death Anniversary

DEATH: 10TH JANUARY 1990

We deeply mourn the death of our beloved mother Late "Masuda Begum" wife of Late Mr. Abul Khair, founder of Abul Khair Group (Abul Co.). Today with due respect, we remember her works, ideals and memories and pray to Almighty for His divine blessings.

We request all our relatives and well-wishers to pray for her eternal peace.

BELOVED SONS & DAUGHTERS