



Some 30 people, mostly students, were injured as a bus fell off a bridge and ended up in a ditch in Cox’s Bazar’s Ramu upazila early yesterday. Story on page 5.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Oldest image

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rudimentary and lacking the linear perspective which was only to be adopted in the following century during the Renaissance, shows what appears to be a crowded city with churches, palaces with parapets, canals and even gondolas.  
Besides the Holy Land, da Poggibonsi’s travels also took him to Damascus in Syria and Cairo and Alexandria in Egypt.  
The manuscript was likely written shortly after his return to Italy in 1350.  
A specialist in Venetian Renaissance history, Toffolo discovered the image in a library in Florence in May while working on a detailed study of Venice, due to be published this year.  
Throughout history, the city-state has fascinated visitors, not only for its watery mazes of islands, lagoons and canals, but for its unique architecture and international flair.  
At its height during the Middle Ages and Renaissance, Venice was a powerful maritime and financial centre, and the city has inspired more contemporary artists and writers including Thomas Mann, Marcel Proust and Ernest Hemingway.  
Only maps and nautical charts indicating the city of Venice predate the newly discovered sketch.  
The oldest such map was made in about 1130 by Friar Paolino, a Franciscan monk from Venice, according to Saint Andrews.  
Toffolo found that the original manuscript image contained small pinpricks, suggesting that it had been subsequently copied.  
A common copying technique at the time was to sift powder through the holes onto a new surface, thus transferring the image to a new piece of paper.  
Toffolo subsequently found other images in later manuscripts and books that were “clearly based on the image in the manuscript in Florence”.

## Car crash

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receiving treatment at the hospital, said Inspector of Jashore Kotwali police station Sheikh Tasmim Alam.  
The bodies of the dead were sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy, he added.  
The inspector said police arrested Jyoti, who was driving the car, at night on suspicion that the accident occurred due to negligent driving.  
Upon interrogation, Jyoti confessed that he was driving under the influence, he added.  
“We are suspecting that the accident was caused due to drink driving. Jyoti is healthy and the car is in police custody.”

## Zia’s 84th birth

FROM PAGE 16  
arrange a free health camp at BNP’s Nayapaltan central office around 11:00am.  
BNP will arrange a discussion at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in the afternoon.  
BNP’s associate bodies and the party’s district, city, upazila and thana units will celebrate the birth anniversary with various programmes.  
Meanwhile, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir issued a message on the occasion paying homage to Zia.  
He recalled the BNP founder’s contributions to the country’s development and restoration of “multiparty democracy”.  
Fakhru also prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul of Zia.

## Scientists sound alarm

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2002-2003.  
China has not announced any travel restrictions, but authorities in Hong Kong have already stepped up detection measures, including rigorous temperature checkpoints for inbound travellers from the Chinese mainland.  
The US said from Friday it would begin screening flights arriving from Wuhan at San Francisco airport and New York’s JFK -- which both receive direct flights -- as well as Los Angeles, where many flights connect.  
And Thailand said it was already screening passengers arriving in Bangkok, Chiang Mai and Phuket and would soon introduce similar controls in the beach resort of Krabi.  
TWO DEATHS  
No human-to-human transmission has been confirmed so far, but Wuhan’s health commission has said the possibility “cannot be excluded”.  
A World Health Organization doctor said it would not be surprising if there was “some limited human-to-human transmission, especially among families who have close contact with one another”.  
Scientists with the MRC Centre for Global Infectious Disease Analysis -- which advises bodies including the World Health Organization -- said they estimated a “total of 1,723” people in Wuhan would have been infected as of January 12.  
“For Wuhan to have exported three cases to other countries would imply there would have to be many more cases than have been reported,” Professor Neil Ferguson, one of the authors of the report, told the BBC.  
“I am substantially more concerned than I was a week ago,” he said, while adding that it was “too early to be alarmist”.  
“People should be considering the possibility of substantial human-to-human transmission more seriously than they have so far,” he continued, saying it was “unlikely” that animal

exposure was the sole source of infection.  
Local authorities in Wuhan said a 69-year-old man died on Wednesday, becoming the second fatal case, with the disease causing pulmonary tuberculosis and damage to multiple organ functions.  
After the death was reported, online discussion spread in China over the severity of the Wuhan coronavirus -- and how much information the government may be hiding from the public.  
Several complained about censorship of online posts, while others made comparisons to 2003, when Beijing drew criticism from the WHO for underreporting the number of SARS cases.  
“It’s so strange,” wrote a web user on the social media platform Weibo, citing the overseas cases in Japan and Thailand. “They all have Wuhan pneumonia cases but (in China) we don’t have any infections outside of Wuhan -- is that scientific?”



Shekhor with his medicinal plants.

## Healing with herbs

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flower and fruit plants from my father,” said the teacher.  
“So far, I have 42 species of herb plants and at least 150 species of flowers and fruits in my orchard,” he added.  
He has been practicing herbal medicine in the village that has 3,000 families, he told The Daily Star.  
Shekhor has read several books and studies on various herbal treatments. He is very up to date with his knowledge and methods. “I feel humbled that I am able to help the villagers when they feel sick.”  
On the benefits of herbal medicine, Shekhor said the leaves of Ramtuli and Krishnatuli work miracles on coughs, Neeltat leaves for throat ache, Kalomegh’s leaves for digestive issues, Akandapata and Shefaliful for fever, mint leaves for dysentery, Jatneem leaves for itches, Diptapancha and Satamul leaves and roots for headaches, Rambasok and Basok leaves for diarrhoea and pains while urinating.  
He runs a nursery on the side, where he sells different plants, to help support the expenses of his orchard.

## Lebanese block roads as protests enter fourth month

AFP, Beirut  
Protesters blocked several main roads across Lebanon on Friday as unprecedented demonstrations against a political elite accused of corruption and incompetence entered their fourth month.  
The protest movement rocking Lebanon since October 17 has resurged this week, over delays in forming a new cabinet to address the country’s growing economic crisis.  
No progress seemed to have been made on a final lineup, which protesters demand be made up solely of independent experts and exclude traditional political parties.  
In central Beirut, dozens of protesters Friday stood between parked cars blocking a key thoroughfare linking the city’s east and west.  
“We blocked the road with cars because it’s something they can’t move,” Marwan Karam said.  
The protester condemned what he regarded as efforts to form yet another government in which power is divided among the traditional parties.

## CLIMATE CHANGE EROSION

# US dumps huge amounts of sand on Miami Beach

AFP, Miami Beach

Dozens of trucks have started dumping hundreds of thousands of tons of sand on Miami Beach as part of US government measures to protect Florida’s tourist destinations against the effects of climate change.  
“We have erosion hotspots,” said Stephen Leatherman, an expert on beaches and the environment at Florida International University.  
“When the beach is critically narrow, there’s not enough room for recreation for all the people that come here, and more important, perhaps, all these buildings need to be protected,” he said Friday.  
Leatherman -- known locally as “Dr Beach” -- said that rising sea levels, triggered by climate change, are causing the accelerated erosion of the famous beach, as well as coastal storms and in particular hurricanes.

The Army Corps of Engineers this month began the \$16 million operation to dump 233,000 cubic meters (8.2 million cubic feet) of sand on eroded areas of Miami Beach by June, a project that was originally designed to address damage wrought by Hurricane Irma in 2017.  
Every day, trucks will tip between 100 and 250 loads, each containing 22 tons of sand, onto the beach, the Army said in a statement.  
“Some people say it’s like throwing millions of dollars out in the ocean every year and maybe they’re right, but we have to do it; we have to have the beach here,” said Leatherman.  
“South Florida is considered ground zero for climate change,” he said. “I mean, not only do we have beach erosion, we got flooding going on during King tides, which happen all too often now, where some roads get flooded.”

## Facebook video reunites

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His family members searched far and wide, and did everything they could to track him. It was as if he had vanished into thin air. Until this Friday.  
On the day, the wife of Habibur’s grandson Tahir Hossain, who lives in the US, stumbled upon a video post of a man seeking financial help for a patient next to him, who could not be treated for lack of money.  
In the video, a patient was seen lying on a bed of MAG Osmani Medical College, where he shared his name, his wife’s name, and hometown. Habibur’s granddaughter-in-law had heard stories of his disappearance. She grew suspicious and shared the video with her husband.  
Habibur’s eldest son immediately called his brothers in Sylhet to go check out the patient.  
The following morning, brothers Shahab Uddin and Jalal Uddin went to the hospital and confirmed that the patient in the video was none other than their father.  
“I remember that my mother and uncles did everything to find him for years, before finally giving up. My mother passed away in 2000,” said Jalal.  
For the last 25 years, Habibur has been living in Rayossri area in Moulvibazar, where a woman named Razia Begum used to look after him.  
Razia said her family members found Habibur in a disoriented state at Hazrat Shahab Uddin shrine in 1995. He could not say where he was from. “He said he used to live a nomadic life. He has been staying

with us ever since. We respect him and call him pir.”  
Razia said Habibur has been suffering from old-age complications for the last decade. A couple of days ago, he fractured his right hand when he fell from the bed.  
He was admitted to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital, but was later shifted to MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital after he developed an infection on the broken hand, said Razia.  
Doctors told Razia that he needed to be operated upon, but she could not afford the surgery.  
The man in the adjacent hospital bed was kind enough to make a video on him, where he could explain his situation and seek money. It was this video that ultimately helped him find his family, Razia added.  
The return of Habibur has brought great joy to the family.  
Expressing gratitude to the man who shared the video, Jalal said they had almost given up hope. “We have no words to express our happiness.”  
His grandson Kefayat Ahmed said, “My parents used to tell me about my grandfather when I was a child. I never thought I would get to see him, but was always hopeful. Today, the wait is over and I am very happy”.  
After the reunion, the family took Habibur to a private hospital for better treatment. There, he is surrounded by his sons and grandchildren for the first time in 48 years.

## Abdul Mannan

FROM PAGE 2  
held at the Bangladesh Agricultural University in Mymensingh and in Sonatala and Sariakandi upazilas of Bogura that day.  
He will be buried tomorrow at his village Hindukandi in Sariakandi after his daughter Mahira Mannan, who lives in the US arrives today.  
Abdul Mannan was born at Hindukandi on December 19, 1953.  
He was the vice president of Bangladesh Agricultural University BCL unit during 1979-80.  
Later, he was elected president of Bangladesh Chhatra League Central Committee.  
Mannan was also a former organising secretary of AL.  
With AL ticket, Mannan won Bogura-1 constituency in 2008, 2014, and 2018.  
He also contested national elections with AL tickets from the same constituency in 1991, 1996, and 2001.

## Colombian army used US funds to spy on us

### Say opposition senators

AFP, Washington

Colombia’s army used American foreign aid money for an illegal domestic spying program that targeted lawmakers and other public figures, two opposition senators who say they were victims of the espionage have told US congress.  
The complaint comes after evidence that military agents had illegally eavesdropped on congressmen, journalists and judges was published this week in local news magazine Semana.



Members of the Syrian Civil Defence, also known as the White Helmets, dig through the rubble of a building, hit by regime airstrikes, in the town of Baleh in the western countryside of the northern province of Aleppo yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP