

3 die

FROM PAGE 1
Bazar Airport. He sent a radio message that he would abort the flight and return to the airport.
Within moments, the aircraft lost communications with the Cox's Bazar tower. Later, debris of the plane was found in the Bay near Sonadia island, according to the press statement.
RESCUE OPERATION
Seeing the plane crash into the sea, some local fishermen on trawlers rushed to the site and rescued Morad and Morout.
Bangladesh Navy, Bangladesh Coast Guard and Fire Service and Civil Defence later joined the rescue operation.
The two were taken to District Sadar Hospital in Cox's Bazar where doctors declared Morad dead.
As Morout's condition deteriorated, physicians around 4:30pm referred him to Chittagong Medical College Hospital, said hospital sources.
Bodies of Andrew and Kaltona were recovered from the Bay in the afternoon, said Ahsan Habib, Cox's Bazar contingent commander of Bangladesh Coast Guard.
Fisherman Nazrul Islam said, "I saw the aircraft circling over the Bay before it crashed."
Sources said the plane was rented from Ukraine for carrying shrimp from Cox's Bazar to the southern part of Bangladesh.
True Aviation Ltd had the licence to operate the place in Bangladesh. However, its flight operations were managed by Sky Blue Aviation.
Awami League lawmaker Ashek Ullah Rafique (Cox's Bazar-2), one of the owners of Sky Blue Aviation, said they informed the navy, coast guard, fire service, police and local administration about the accident.
The CAAB has formed a committee to probe the accident.
CAAB Chairman Air Vice-Marshal M Sanaul Haque told The Daily Star that the pilot only once contacted the Cox's Bazar tower for making an emergency landing.
"We will try to talk to the injured crew to have some information about the accident," he added.
Our correspondent in Cox's Bazar contributed to this report.

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Protests pour

FROM PAGE 5
His remarks are not just unfortunate for women but also for the government, said the BMP press release, adding that such remarks from a law and policy maker might have a negative impact on the women's empowerment and laws enacted to protect women's rights.
Meanwhile, according to a UNB news report, the minister withdrew his comment over the Pahela Baishakh harassment incident yesterday.
A shipping ministry handout, quoted the minister saying that his comment created "confusion" in public mind.
The handout further read what he had actually wanted to say was not properly presented.
He, however, regretted if the comments hurt anyone, the release said.

JCD leader

FROM PAGE 16
Hossain said the incident had resulted from a conflict over the polls.
After a case is filed, police will launch a drive to arrest the criminals, he added.
Talking to The Daily Star, Touhidul said Awami League men killed Shamsul to create panic among voters and obstruct BNP men from campaigning ahead of the polls scheduled for March 22.
BNP Joint Secretary General Rizvi Ahmed, meanwhile, at a press conference at the party's Nayapalton headquarters yesterday demanded that the killers be brought to book.
However, no case was filed until 8:00pm last night, police said.
Meanwhile, the Election Commission issued a show-cause notice to AL lawmaker of Pabna-2 constituency Azizul Huq Arzu for violating electoral codes of conduct.
There are allegations that the MP was staying in an electoral area under Bera upazila of the district a few days ago and was trying to influence the polls, EC officials said.
As per the electoral rules, ministers and MPs can neither join electoral campaigns nor stay in electoral areas.
The EC is also planning to take action against another AL lawmaker from Barguna for violating electoral rules, an election commissioner said yesterday.
Earlier on Tuesday, it formed a committee to investigate allegations of electoral code violations by candidates and their supporters, following reports in newspapers.
The day before, an AL man was killed and 10 others were injured in a clash between supporters of AL nominated candidate and a rebel candidate at Adabaria union of Boufal upazila in Patuakhali.
Elections to 732 union parishes will be held on March 22 in the first phase and 650 UPs on March 31 in the second phase. More than 2,800 UPs will go to polls in four other phases until June.

Teacher jailed for molesting girl student

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A schoolteacher was sentenced to one year in prison yesterday after he was found guilty of molesting a female student at a school in Chatmohar upazila of Pabna.
The authorities also closed the Chorukola High School for the day in the face of demonstrations by the locals.
The teacher, Rafiqul Islam, 45, son of Mohammed Ali of Katakhal village in the same upazila, teaches English at the school.
Police, quoting locals, said Rafiqul molested a class-VIII female student in a classroom on Tuesday. As the news spread yesterday afternoon, angry locals gathered near the school and started demonstration, demanding his punishment.
Locals alleged that the teacher harassed other girls before.
On information, Mizanur Rahman, acting upazila nirbahi officer, went to scene. The situation was brought under control after he assured the villagers of taking steps against the culprit.

Later, Rafiqul was detained from the school and produced before a mobile court, said Subrata Kumar, officer-in-charge of Chatmohar police.
The mobile court, led by Mizanur Rahman, who is also the assistant commissioner (land) in Pabna, awarded the accused one year's imprisonment.
Rafiqul was also fined Tk 1 lakh, in default of which he would have to stay three more months in jail, said the police official.
The AC land said they took the action on the basis of a written complaint against the teacher by the victim's family.
Mizanur said they found "evidences" against Rafiqul. He was found guilty also after several witnesses were contacted.
Headmaster Taposh Ranjan Tolapatra said they closed the school yesterday to avoid any untoward situation.
Rafiqul was suspended and further action would be taken against him after a meeting of the school's manag-

UN experts present roadmap on protection of rights during protests

UNB, Dhaka

Two United Nations human rights experts yesterday presented a new report to the UN Human Rights Council, offering extensive recommendations to countries and police forces around the world to manage public gatherings the best way.
"The proper management of assemblies can, in many cases, serve to prevent an escalation of the situation and the eventual outbreak of violence," said the special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Christof Heyns, and the special rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, Maina Kiai.
They believe that proper precautions and preparations can help protect the rights of all concerned -- demonstrators, bystanders and police, according to a message received from Geneva.
The report is the result of consultations with more than 50 states and 100 experts from civil society, academia, protest groups, national human rights institutions and police forces.
"Our many conversations with states and experts confirmed that the ability to meet and act collectively is vital to democratic development and to the expression of ideas," Kiai said.
Human rights are often violated in the context of assemblies, sometimes unintentionally. These recommendations are aimed at providing all involved with a common frame of reference of how this world-wide form of expression should be approached.

"In many cases, the proper management of assemblies can prevent it from escalating out of control," Heyns added.
The recommendations touch on all aspects of the management of assemblies, including notification procedures and permissible limitations of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly; the state obligation to facilitate assemblies; the policing of assemblies including the use of force and surveillance; the monitoring and recording of assemblies; access to information; and accountability.
"Assemblies can play a vital role in the protection and fulfillment of human rights," the experts said.
"They should not be viewed or treated as a threat, but rather as a means of dialogue in which the state should engage."

Protesting

FROM PAGE 4
Naznin has been staying with her parents' house for few days, said Rahat, a relative of Anwar.
On Tuesday evening, when Anwar met Enam in the area, he protested the torture on her sister and engaged in an altercation with him. At one point Enam stabbed Anwar and fled, Rahat added.
Locals rushed Anwar to MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.
Officer-in-Charge of Jalalabad Police Station Akter Hossen said they detained three people, including Enam's parents, after victim's father filed a case yesterday.

Sanders' hope alive

FROM PAGE 16
Sanders, a US senator from Vermont and self-described democratic socialist, has energized young voters with calls for greater economic equality and denunciations of what he sees as a corrupt US political system.
Meanwhile, Trump shrugged off a barrage of negative advertising and intense efforts by the party establishment to derail his White House campaign to win primaries in Michigan and Mississippi, signaling to his rivals he can survive anything they throw at him.
He also emerged the victor of caucuses held in Hawaii.
"I don't think I've had so many horrible, horrible things said about me in one week, \$38 million worth of horrible lies," Trump told a crowd in Florida as he celebrated his first two victories.
"I think we ought to use that money to fight Hillary Clinton and the Democrats."
It was not a clean sweep for Trump, however. He came second to Senator Ted Cruz, his nearest Republican competitor, in Idaho.
Clinton has now won 13 out of 22 nomination contests, with Trump prevailing in 15 out of 24 races as the two inch closer to the tipping point in their respective races.
Marco Rubio, the senator whom mainstream Republicans rallied behind as the man to topple Trump, suffered another poor showing, facing the prospect of receiving zero delegates from either Michigan or Mississippi, the two main prizes of the night.
Trump has already called on Rubio to drop out of the race, but the senator has vowed to stay in at least until his

home state of Florida -- which with 99 delegates at stake is a major prize on the primary calendar -- votes on March 15.
The braggadocious Trump's caustic style has angered some voters -- and fellow Republicans -- but he insisted Tuesday he could draw millions more to his movement.
"We'll take many, many people away from the Democrats," he said. "We're seeing that. We had people come over here who have never voted Republican."
With his latest big wins -- claiming 47.3 percent in Mississippi and 36.5 percent in Michigan based on near-final results -- Trump solidifies his claim to have the broadest appeal among the Republican electorate as he marches toward the nomination.
But a new Washington Post poll of Republican-leaning registered voters shows Trump with 34 percent support nationwide, compared with 25 percent for Cruz, 18 percent for Rubio and 13 percent for John Kasich.
That is a tighter race than in January, when the Post showed Trump 16 points ahead of Cruz and 26 ahead of Rubio.
Cruz, the 45-year-old champion of the religious right, has done well in delegate-rich Texas and nearby states and is nipping at the billionaire real estate mogul's heels.
A total of 150 Republican delegates were up for grabs Tuesday out of 1,237 needed to win the party's nomination.
As of Monday, Trump had 384 delegates, compared with 300 for Cruz, 151 for Rubio and 37 for Kasich.
Trump is expected to win dozens more after Tuesday.

Syria conflict: UN expects 'substantive' peace talks

BBC ONLINE

The UN special envoy to Syria, Staffan de Mistura, expects "substantive, deeper" talks between the government and opposition to begin on Monday.
Mr de Mistura said the agenda would include the formation of a transitional administration and elections.
But it is not clear who will attend the indirect talks in Geneva, with some opposition leaders yet to confirm.
On the ground in Syria, a partial truce that began 12 days ago has considerably reduced the intensity of the fighting.
Mr de Mistura said the cessation of hostilities was holding "by and large" and was open-ended as far as the UN was concerned.
The first round of talks on a political solution to the conflict in Syria was suspended last month while still in the "preparatory" phase, with both sides blaming each other.
It came as government forces, backed by Russian air strikes, launched a major offensive on opposition-controlled areas around the northern city of Aleppo.
The government succeeded in cutting a key rebel supply route from Turkey to Aleppo before the US and Russia brokered the cessation of hostilities agreement, which does not include the jihadist groups Islamic State (IS) and al-Nusra Front.
At a news conference in Geneva on Wednesday, Mr de Mistura welcomed what he described as "a sustained reduction of violence."
"Incidents are taking place, no question and they are. I'm expecting even worse incidents to take place, probably caused by spoilers," he added.
"The secret will be whether the sides are in a position, as so far touch wood has been the case, [to] contain them, make them not become an unravelling of what has been after five years quite a change... for the life of every Syrian."

Mr de Mistura said he expected informal discussions to begin at hotels across Geneva immediately, but that formal talks would not resume until Monday.
He added that they would once again be indirect "proximity" talks, with representatives of the warring parties located in separate rooms, and would last only 10 days before pausing for a week.
"We believe that having a timetable and a time limit is healthy for everyone so that we don't think that we can go on... for two weeks hoping to get into substance - we go seriously into substance as soon as we can."
The BBC's Imogen Foulkes in Geneva says the focus of the talks will be a transitional government, a new constitution, and elections.
Humanitarian access and ceasefire violations will not be on the agenda.
The UN has set up two taskforces to deal with those issues, and clearly wants the opposition and government representatives to concentrate on a political settlement, our correspondent adds.
UN aid agencies say good progress has been made getting supplies to besieged areas, with almost 240,000 people reached, most of whom received nothing in the last year.
But our correspondent says it remains unclear exactly who will arrive in Geneva on Monday, with some opposition leaders suggesting they have not yet decided whether to attend.
Meanwhile, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Raad Al Hussein told the BBC that the international system had failed Syria.
"We've seen in this conflict... almost every conceivable war crime allegedly being committed, in addition to crimes against humanity," he said.

No plan to take IS 'capital'

Says US special forces chief

AFP, Washington

The commander of US special operations said Tuesday that while coalition forces have put the Islamic State group under pressure there is no immediate battlefield plan to take its de facto capital.
Briefing US lawmakers in Washington, senior generals said the US-led anti-IS coalition was working with local ground forces to isolate the group's Syrian stronghold in the city of Raqa.
But General Joseph Votel, head of Special Operations Command, said this broad strategy does not yet amount to a plan to storm Raqa, despite recent advances by US-backed fighters grouped under the "Syrian Democratic Forces" banner.



Perks of putting women in senior roles

INDEPENDENT ONLINE

A Dutch website last month named and shamed the companies that had no women in senior roles, and looked at various published works that demonstrate the financial benefits of having women in higher positions.
Research conducted by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has now further confirmed that evidence after analysing data from 2 million firms in 34 countries in Europe.
The "Unlocking Female Employment Potential in Europe" report concludes that having women in senior roles helps increase profit margins.
"The research finds that more women in senior managerial positions and in corporate boards, the more profitable firms are," Christine Legarde, managing director of the IMF posted a blog on International Women's Day on Tuesday.
"One more woman in senior management or on a corporate board is associated with 8-13 basis points higher on return assets. High corporate profitability could support investment and productivity -- another channel through which more women in the workforce can help mitigate Europe's potential growth slowdown."
The potential for economic gains can have a positive impact on the European financial market, she says.
"If women choose to participate in the labour market as much as men do, Europe's workforce could increase by 6 percent. If they also choose to work as many hours as men, the workforce could grow by as much as 15 percent."
The IMF report lists three key factors that drives the research: Europe's ageing population and the decline of productivity growth, gender gaps in senior positions remain prevalent, and gender equality in the labour market can bring macroeconomic benefits.

A long, hard journey

FROM PAGE 16

Nasiruddin's education efforts stem from a childhood passion for English. His interest in the language was further piqued after his dakhil exam, when he was sent to work at a garment factory in Dhaka. "At the factory I saw that people who knew English are valued," he says, "I understood that to get a good job, education is a must."
He returned home to complete his secondary schooling, knowing that after that he was on his own. "My father tried to support my education," he says, "but I knew he couldn't bear the expenses anymore."
With a GPA of over 4 in both dakhil and alim exams he secured his college admission, and for a time covered living costs working as a tutor. But as fate would have it, after twelve months his father fell ill, leaving Nasiruddin financially responsible for his parents and a younger sister. It was then the idea of rickshaw riding first presented itself.
"Nasiruddin is different to other students," says Md Kamal Hossain, clerk of the college's English department. "Although he can't attend classes regularly he visits the department often to collect books."
"He's a good student," says classmate Jahid Khan Titu, "But he rarely attends. If he had the chance to attend regularly he must achieve top results."
Nonetheless last year Nasiruddin graduated with a Bachelor of Arts with Honours. This year, with money borrowed from the rickshaw owner, he's enrolled in a Master's degree course.
In the meantime, he learnt not to be ashamed of rickshaw driving. "I used to avoid anyone I knew if I saw them on the street," he says, "but classmates took the matter easily. Sometimes they even enquired how it was going."
For a time Nasiruddin also attended private English classes. While that proved cost prohibitive, one habit that endured is to read The Daily Star. "I've

read the newspaper daily for years," he says, "It really helps."
More recently Nasiruddin finally traded in his handlebars for a motorised auto-rickshaw which he rents for Tk 230 per day. "I can't make more than Tk 200 daily profit," he says, "but it's easier than pedalling."
As for his passengers, few would imagine their driver is on his way to becoming a Master's graduate, just as his parents never could have thought one of their children could achieve what Nasiruddin has.
"My son has worked hard for us all, not only for himself," says proud mother Ambiya Khatun. "I don't know how long he will have to struggle. I always pray for him."
About the future, Nasiruddin is anxious. "I'd like a good job," he says, "but they're not easy to get." Despite his achievements, one obstacle might be that his tertiary results don't reflect Nasiruddin's ability as much as the prolonged struggle which prevented regular class attendance.
Nevertheless, if the past is any indicator one thing is clear: Nasiruddin will never stop trying.

Matia lauds

FROM PAGE 3

promote women empowerment.
Sultana Afroz, joint secretary of ERD, delivered welcome address at the programme chaired by ERD Senior Secretary Mohammad Mesbah Uddin and attended by, among others, Sadeka Halim, professor of sociology at Dhaka University, and Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid Bangladesh.

100MW more

FROM PAGE 16

Under the project, an international gateway for broadband connectivity will be set up at Agartala in which connectivity will be provided through Bangladesh under an agreement between India's Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company limited.
The cost of the project is Rs 19.1 crore and annual operational expenditure is around Rs 7.2 crore. The bandwidth of 10 GB can be extended up to 40 GB.
On the other side, the pricing of one unit of power was fixed at Rs 5.5 in a meeting between Tripura Power Minister Manik Dey and Bangladesh State Minister for Power Nasrul Hamid on January 9 in Dhaka.
The state-owned Power Grid Corporation of India Limited erected 47km-long 400 kv double circuit transmission lines from Suryamaninagar power grid near Agartala to Comilla in Bangladesh.
The 726 MW gas-based thermal power project at Palatana in Gomati district of Tripura is run by ONGC Tripura Power Corporation (OTPC).