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**SHAH CEMENT**

# 5 killed as bus flips into ditch

Three others killed in separate road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least eight people, including a schoolboy, were killed and 25 others injured in road accidents in four districts since Friday evening.

The deceased were identified as Reazuddin, 20, of Mithapukur upazila in Rangpur; Bikash Chandra Shah, 48, of Kalihati upazila in Tangail; Sunil Kumar Sarker, 50, of Bedka in Tangail; Bidyut Mia, 32, a bus helper at Doyana in Lalmonirhat; Mahabubul Islam, 22, of Boterchara in Lalmonirhat; Emon Mia, 12, of Netrakona; and Rafiqul Islam Sheikh, 45, of Pirojpur.

Of the victims, five were killed in a single accident in Gaibandha when a speeding bus overturned and fell into a ditch in Balua area under Sundarganj upazila in the early hours yesterday.

The accident occurred when the driver of Lalmonirhat-bound bus Barkat Paribahan, which started from Dhaka, lost control over the steering on Bogura-Rangpur Highway around 3:00am, said

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The mangled wreckage of a bus after it flipped over into a ditch beside the Bogura-Rangpur highway in Gaibandha's Gobindaganj upazila early yesterday. The accident left five people dead and 16 others injured.

PHOTO: STAR

## Shab-e-Barat on April 21

UNB, Dhaka

Holy Shab-e-Barat, the night of fortune and forgiveness, will be observed in the country on April 21 as the Shaban moon was not sighted in Bangladesh sky yesterday.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee at the Islamic Foundation's Baitul Mukarram office in the evening, with State Minister for Religious Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah in the chair.

Shab-e-Barat is observed on the 15th night of Shaban month.

According to Muslim belief, Shab-e-Barat is the night when Allah arranges the affairs of the following year.

On this night, Allah writes the destinies of all the creations for the coming year by taking into account their past deeds.

To mark the night, Muslim devotees will offer special prayers, recite from the Holy Quran, hold milad, zikr and other religious rituals seeking divine blessings for the wellbeing of mankind.

## BUSINESS RUBANA FIRST WOMAN TO LEAD BGMEA



Rubana Huq, managing director of Mohammadi Group, is set to be the next BGMEA president after her panel managed a clean sweep at the biennial election -- becoming the first woman to lead the garment sector's apex trade body.

Some 1,492 out of the total 1,956 voters cast their votes in the election to choose the leaders of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association for the next two years.

Her panel, Sammilita Forum, won all 35 available posts for directors.

Huq is scheduled to take helm

STORY ON B1

## No space for dissent under Modi govt

Accuses Sonia Gandhi; Modi says poverty biggest political tool for Congress

NDTV ONLINE

UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi yesterday in an apparent attack on the BJP said that the constitutional institutions are being tampered with and there is no space for dissent in the current regime.

Addressing 'People's Agenda - Jan Sarokar 2019' event in Delhi, she said, "Today, we are being taught new definition of patriotism while those not accepting diversity are being called patriots. Country's soul is being crushed through well-planned conspiracy, it's matter of concern for all of us."

The current government is not focussing on creating opportunities for people but on politics to benefit certain industrialists, she added.

Gandhi alleged the current government was not ready to respect dissent, and said when there are attacks on people who stick to their faith, this government turns away.

The Congress leader called on the civil society to come together to fight against attempts by the current government to tamper with the constitutional institutions established over the last 65 years.

"India today needs a government that is nishpaksh (impartial). Secularism needs to be re-established and the constitutional framework secured," Sonia Gandhi said.

On the Congress's polls promises, Gandhi said if the party comes to power, a system will be developed to monitor their implementations.

"I have no doubts about the promises we have made. After our government

INDIAN ELECTION 2019

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## 3 'robbers' killed in a 'gunfight'

STAR REPORT

Three Rohingya men, suspected to be robbers, were killed in a "gunfight" with police near Nayapara Refugee Camp in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar yesterday.

The dead -- Nur Alam, 23, Mohammad Jubayer, 20, and Hamid Ullah, 21 -- used to live in B, H and A blocks of the camp respectively, said police.

Pradip Kumar Das, officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station, claimed they conducted a raid near "H-block" of the camp on information that a gang of robbers was hiding their arms in the area.

Sensing police presence, the gang members opened fire, forcing the law enforcers to retaliate, he added.

At one point of the "gunfight", the three sustained bullet injuries. They were then rushed to Teknaf Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared them dead, the OC further claimed.

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## First picture of black hole soon



AFP, Paris

The world, it seems, is soon to see the first picture of a black hole.

On Wednesday, astronomers across the globe will hold "six major press conferences" simultaneously to announce the first results of the Event Horizon Telescope (EHT), which was designed precisely for that purpose.

It has been a long wait.

Of all the forces or objects in the Universe that we cannot see -- including dark energy and dark matter -- none has frustrated human curiosity so much as the invisible maws that shred and swallow stars like so many specks of dust.

Astronomers began speculating about these

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## Girl, 9, dies as ceiling chunks fall in class

10 others hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A nine-year-old girl died in her classroom in Barguna's Taltali upazila yesterday as chunks of ceiling plaster fell on her.

At least 10 more students were injured in the incident at PK Government Primary School.

The dead child is the school's third-grader student Mansura, daughter of Najir Hossain Hawlader, of

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### PRAYER TIMING APRIL 7

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-40 12-45 4-35 6-21 7-45

JAMAAT 5-15 1-15 5-00 6-24 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Rain damages haor crops

Farmers go for early harvest

MINTU DESHWARA

Farmers were harvesting boro paddy days before those could ripen in Hakaluki Haor in Moulvibazar after rain accompanied by hailstorm damaged crops on vast tracts in the last few days.

They feared further crop loss in flash floods, a calamity the region suffers frequently during this time of the year. The floods are triggered by heavy rains and onrush of water from the hills.

In 2017, flash floods wreaked havoc on the country's haors. They submerged the wetland of Sylhet, Sunamganj, Habiganj, Netrokona, Kishoreganj, Brahmanbaria and Moulvibazar. Agriculture officials said crops worth Tk 95 crore were damaged in Moulvibazar alone.

The memory is still fresh in the farmers' mind in Hakaluki, the country's largest wetland situated in five upazilas of Moulvibazar and Sylhet.

Anisur Rahman, an official from the Met office in Sreemangal, said it had been raining in Moulvibazar over the last one week.

The agriculture department in the district said most of the boro paddies cultivated this year on 53,162 hectares of land in the district were in Hakaluki.

During a visit of the haor in Kulaura upazila a few days ago, this correspondent

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Farmers harvesting unripe boro paddy in Hakaluki Haor of Moulvibazar's Kulaura upazila as recent rain damaged the crop in the area. Growers said around 15 percent of their standing crop have been damaged. The photo was taken on Friday.

PHOTO: STAR

## BCL men 'bore holes' into a youth's legs

Family alleges they did it on failing to extort money

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh Chhatra League men allegedly drilled holes in the legs of a 28-year-old man on Thursday night, after failing to extort money from his father.

The incident took place in the port city's Hajir Pul area around 10:30pm.

The victim, Md Amzad Hossain, a worker of Chowdhury Engineering Workshop in the city, was undergoing treatment at the casualty ward of Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

His father Md Azim, who was also injured in the attack while trying to save his son, filed a case against eight named accused and 15 others unnamed with Chandgaon Police Station on Friday night in this connection.

The victim's family members alleged that the attackers swooped on Amzad and bored holes in his legs, leaving him critically injured, because they failed to extort money from Azim.

They also added that on February 22 the attackers vandalised and looted Azim's broiler chicken shop in the city's Panchlaish area after previously failing to extort money

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