

Wild elephant kills man in Cox's Bazar

UNB, Cox's Bazar

A man was killed after a wild elephant trampled him down at Purbo Bhutia Para in Sadar upazila of Cox's Bazar yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Nazir Ahmed. He was 48.

Asaduzzaman, officer-in-charge of Eidgaon Police Investigation Centre, said the elephant attacked the man while he was guarding a paddy field around 3am, leaving him injured.

Locals took him to a nearby hospital where doctors declared him dead, said Kamal Uddin, a member of Eidgaon Union Parishad.



St Jacob School arranged a clean-up programme in the capital's Mohammadpur on Thursday. Students, teachers, guardians and staff all worked together to clean the school's surrounding roads. With this initiative, the school wishes to impart knowledge outside the classroom and raise awareness.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Primary

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country around 3pm on the day.

"The government should take effective initiatives immediately to eradicate disparity in salary. Otherwise, we will continue our protest," the BPTA general secretary added.

Currently, trained and untrained headmasters are getting salary under 11th and 12th grades.

Meanwhile, trained and untrained assistant teachers are getting 14th and 15th grade salaries.

Other demands presented at the press conference include publication of gazette providing second class status to the teachers, ensuring corresponding scale to the promoted headmasters, promotion of assistant teachers up to the rank of director, publication of gazette on headmasters who got promotion, providing time scale from March 9, 2014 to December 14, 2015 to the headmasters, considering their professions as non-vocational and ensuring school schedule from 10am to 3pm.

On September 8, a finance ministry order said that there is no chance to elevate the salary grades of headmasters to 10th and assistant teachers to 12th grade.

Based on the demands made by teachers, a proposal by the ministry of primary and mass education was sent to the finance ministry on July 29.

On February 25, 2019, The High Court asked the authorities concerned to provide salary to the government primary school headmasters under grade 10.

After passing the order, the High Court bench also asked the government to implement it with retrospective effect from March 9, 2014 for all trained and untrained teachers.

University student sent

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Denying the allegation, the boy said he has never been to Rangpur until then, the SI said.

He also said his relationship with the girl was limited to Facebook and they had exchanged gifts through courier services, the police official added.

The young man's father told The Daily Star yesterday that his son informed him about his Facebook affair earlier and said he had stopped contacting her a while back as she started pressurising him to marry her.

"I called police to get help, instead they arrested my son without a warrant. I suspect my son is being victimised for certain reasons," he alleged. He did not want to elaborate further on the issue.

"What surprised me is that police showed much interest in sending him to jail. They took him in custody on Tuesday, waited for two days then travelled to Rangpur to hand him over to Rangpur police for taking legal actions against him," he said.

Contacted, Prof Abdur Rahim of law and justice department of Rajshahi University said rape allegations have to be handled sensitively. There are chances of victimising people if law enforcers do not play their roles as per law.

AL doesn't believe

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Rahman and most of his family members were assassinated in 1975.

Sponsored by the state and led by her son Tarique Rahman, a grenade attack was carried out on an AL rally on August 21, 2004, aiming to kill the then opposition leader Sheikh Hasina and make AL leaderless, the information minister said.

During the BNP era, many AL leaders including Shah AMS Kibria and Ahsanullah Master were killed, but there was no incident of attack on BNP rallies during AL administrations, he added.

"These incidents prove that you [BNP leaders] are involved in politics of vengeance... that's why you should apologise to the nation for these incidents," the AL leader said.

At the event, the minister also recalled

Suhrawardy's contribution to politics and different achievements of the country.

"Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is the founder of Bengali nation. He established the dignity of Bengalis. And AL President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is implementing his unfinished tasks," the information minister said, adding that Suhrawardy made Bangabandhu a close associate seeing his political sagacity.

Chaired by Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote President Sarah Begum Kabari, the discussion was addressed, among others, by AL deputy publicity and publication secretary Aminul Islam Amin, general secretary of AL Dhaka south city unit Shahe Alam Murad, Jubo League organising secretary Badiul Alam Bodi, Sangskritik Jote general secretary Arun Sarkar Rana, singer Rafiqul Alam and actor Aruna Biswas.

Khaleda Zia is the first female prime minister of the country, who freed the nation from the grasp of autocratic ruler HM Ershad and established parliamentary democracy. She is also the symbol and mother of democracy," he said.

Mosharraf said widespread corruption is everywhere as the government has no control over the administration and state institutions.

'JCD's council obstructed

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council as its former assistant religious affairs secretary Md Aman Ullah Aman filed a case, seeking a permanent injunction on it.

Mosharraf said JCD's council was obstructed as part of blocking the democratic process in the country.

He said the government has kept Khaleda Zia in jail with an "ulterior motive".

Clock towers of Dhaka

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But both are running a little behind when it comes to telling the exact time.

Completed in 1995, the 15-storey building was designed by A Imamuddin and Lailun Nahar Ekram. The city hall consists of offices, a bank, meeting rooms, a museum, dining facilities, a prayer hall, the mayor's office and public terraces.

The clocks were brought from Switzerland, imported by one Micro Electronics Intake, said Zafar Ahmed, additional chief engineer (electric) of Dhaka South City Corporation.

The clocks are motorised and run on electricity, said Mahtab Ahmed, executive engineer of DSCC. "We do maintenance works every year," he added.

When asked why the clocks are five to six minutes slow, he said they may have slowed down due to an electrical glitch.

RAJUK CLOCK TOWER

Situated on Rajuk Avenue in Dilkusha, Rajuk Bhaban, the head office of the capital's development authority, is one of the most well-known buildings.

It's a west facing structure, consisting of two buildings -- Rajuk main building (six-storey) and Rajuk annex building (eight-storey). They are connected by a building over-bridge.

The clock at the tower of the main building was installed in 1956, said Md Jamshed Ali, executive engineer (electric) of Rajuk.

It's a pendulum clock, brought from Scotland. Some 16 (two-volt) batteries were needed to run

it," he said. Initially, there were two clocks -- on both sides of Rajuk tower, but now only one remains, he said. There are two such clocks in Bangladesh -- one at Rajuk and another in Tongi, he said.

There were clocks at different floors of the main building, which were linked with the pendulum clock and would run using power from the master clock, he added.

Jamshed said they used to bring the batteries from Scotland as well. But in 1981, due to a fund crunch, they stopped doing so and eventually the clock became nonfunctional.

Later, it was converted to an electric clock, Jamshed said, adding that a student of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) did the conversion work.

He said when Awami League government came to power in 2009, they introduced the daylight saving time. Accordingly, the clocks were advanced by an hour. At that time, this clock was used as the base clock, he added.

The executive engineer said they do the maintenance work regularly. "We did some repair works around a year ago," he added.

Chiming or not, the clock towers of Dhaka tell more than time. They are a part of Dhaka's rich history and voice of a proud era, which still can be heard if paid attention to.

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Cargo ship sinks in Bay

Bangladesh Navy rescues 14 sailors

UNB, Ctg

Bangladesh Navy rescued 14 sailors after a cargo ship sank in the Bay of Bengal near Payra Fairway Boya yesterday morning.

The ship named "MV Golf Argo" left Chattogram Port for Kolkata, India with 152 containers on Thursday night, said SM Shamim Alam, information officer of Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

The vessel sank when its engine went out of order, said the official.

The rescued sailors are captain Kazi Abdullah Al Muhit, 35, chief engineer Hasan Reza Khalid, 32, chief officer Kazi Mahbub Alam, 28, crew members Noor Alam Himmel, 26, Mozammel Hossain, 24, Rafiq Ullah, 59, Md Jubayer Hossain, 24, Sujon Mukharjee, 20, Md Sahabuddin, 21, Shahadat Hossain, 37, Jamirul Islam, 30, Shaheed Mia, 23, Md Raju, 25, and Abdur Rashid, 50, he added.

On information, a patrol ship of navy went to the spot and rescued the sailors.

The rescued sailors were given first-aid and food. They will be handed over to their families at Payra port, the ISPR information officer added.

Govt committed to ensure safe immigration

Expatriates' welfare minister says

Bss, Habiganj

Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Imran Ahmad yesterday said the government is committed to ensure safe, regular and responsible immigration.

"The government has taken many initiatives in this regard. People have started to reap the benefits of the initiatives," he said while speaking as the chief guest at a discussion on "Strategic Consultation on Migration Management in Bangladesh" at Bahubal upazila in Habiganj.

Imran urged all authorities concerned to work together to face the challenges of safe immigration.

He also said the government is holding different training programmes to create skilled manpower.

Shafiqul takes charge

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superintendent of police of Syedpur Railway Police, Narayanganj, Patuakhali, Sunamganj and Cumilla.

Shafiqul also served as the additional commissioner and commissioner of Chattogram. He was appointed the DIG of Chattogram and Dhaka Range.

He was promoted to the rank of additional IG in September 2017 and served as the additional IG HRM and Anti-Terrorism Unit. He was transferred as the chief of CID on May 19.

Before assuming office as DMP chief, he served as chief of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police.

Outgoing DMP Commissioner Md Asaduzzaman Miah has been appointed the chief executive officer of National Security Affairs Cell under the Cabinet Division for three years on a contractual basis.

Ministry of Public Administration issued a gazette notification in this regard on September 3.

More people dying

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"Those who formulate laws are flouting them, which is frustrating," added Mayeen, also the chairman of Jatri Kalyan Samity's advisory committee.

He also said no prime minister or president in developed countries block roads for their movement, causing public suffering.

Mayeen urged the government to keep footpaths free and make those pedestrian-friendly.

Noted journalist Abu Sayeed Khan, Ganashamhati Andolan Chief Coordinator Zonayed Saki and Jatri Kalyan Samity Secretary General Mozammel Hoque Chowdhury, among others, spoke at the discussion.



Rainwater submerges parts of Barishal city's Rupatoli Bus Terminal. It has been in a dilapidated condition for a long time. Such a situation exists almost throughout the year due to poor drainage system around the major bus terminal. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Social attitude needs

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Lawmaker Wasika Ayesha Khan said women's right to health is an important factor when it comes to their empowerment.

"We will have to ensure their proper health and there should be no discrimination regarding their right to health," she said.

Taufiqul Islam Khan, senior research fellow of CPD, gave the keynote presentation where he illustrated challenges in attaining gender equality and women's empowerment in Chattogram district, especially in Sandwip upazila.

He said the upazila lacks adequate manpower at the family planning office, and there are no infrastructural facilities for caesarean section, which poses a threat to maternal health.

Many women do not know about the digital initiative taken by the government to stop repression of women and children, the senior research fellow of CPD said.

He further said child marriage rate of girls under 15 years in Chattogram is 3.4 percent, lower than the national rate (10.7), which is promising.

But when it comes to marriages of girls under 18 years, the district's rate is lower, he added.

Taufiqul Islam Khan said mortality rate in the district is 19.9 percent, which is 1.7 percent lower than the national rate.

Social activist Jesmin Sultan Paru emphasised on a uniform family code for providing equal rights to women.

Munal Mahbub, senior vice-president of Chattogram Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said satellite clinics were not functioning in many areas.

"Those clinics should be fully functional to lower maternal mortality rate," she said.

Monitoring cells should be formed to reduce the dropout rate of girls in schools, she stressed.

Lawmaker Aroma Dutta also spoke among others, while Centre for Policy Dialogue's distinguished fellow Mustafizur Rahman chaired the