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7 killed as bus rams 3-wheeler

Newly married couple among dead; locals block Panchagarh-Banglabandha highway

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Thakurgaon*

A newly married couple, along with five others, were killed as a battery-run three-wheeler collided head-on with a bus on Panchagarh-Banglabandha highway in Panchagarh's Sadar upazila yesterday.

Niranjan Sarkar, station officer of Fire Service and Civil Defence unit in Panchagarh, said five of the victims died on the spot while two more succumbed to their injuries at a local hospital.

The accident happened around 1:15pm, he further said. Panchagarh Deputy Commissioner Sabina Yasmin and Superintendent of Police Yusuf Ali visited the spot right after the accident happened.

On information, agitating locals blocked the highway for around three hours. They alleged that drivers of buses and trucks steer their vehicles recklessly in the area to avoid extortion by highway police, making such accidents quite frequent.

As the agitating locals started protesting, DC Sabina and SP Yusuf took shelter at Magurmari camp of Border Guard Bangladesh near the highway.

Contacted, Mohammad Jahangir Hossain, superintendent of highway police in the region, said he never heard of such allegation against cops previously and would take action against the law enforcers if anyone can prove the claim.

"The highway police set up check posts on the highway to prevent movement of unauthorised vehicles. Not to collect toll from drivers," he said.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



Indian writer Shashi Tharoor speaking at a panel discussion on "Sheikh Mujib: Icon of post-Colonial Liberation" held as part of the literary festival Dhaka Lit Fest at Bangla Academy yesterday. Columnist Afsan Chowdhury and poet Kamal Chowdhury also took part in the discussion moderated by Professor Shamsad Mortuza.

PHOTO: STAR

Bangabandhu envisioned postcolonial identity

Says Shashi Tharoor at DLF discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The long-awaited panel discussion on "Sheikh Mujib: Icon of Postcolonial Liberation", which featured Indian writer, diplomat and politician Shashi Tharoor, was held on the second day of the three-day long Dhaka Lit Fest (DLF) yesterday.

Liberation War researcher and journalist Afsan Chowdhury, and poet and former principal secretary to the prime minister Kamal Chowdhury were the other speakers at the discussion.

Professor Shamsad Mortuza, pro vice-chancellor of University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, moderated the discussion, which was held at a packed Abdul Karim Shahitya Bisharod Auditorium in Bangla Academy.

"It is a fitting moment a few months before we reach his [Sheikh Mujib's] birth centenary to think aloud of

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Not all of them are infiltrators

Says Quader about those who joined AL from other political parties

BSS, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said not all of those who joined the AL from other parties were infiltrators.

"Not all of those who joined our party are infiltrators... if there is no allegation of wrongdoing or link with communalism against them, they are not infiltrators," he said.

Quader was talking to reporters after a meeting with the AL joint general secretaries and organising secretaries at the party's central office on Bangabandhu Avenue.

He said many people with a clean image joined the AL and they were not infiltrators.

He reiterated that the wrongdoers and those having links with communal forces would not be included in the new AL committees.

Replying to a question about the recent resignation of some senior BNP leaders, Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, said it was the outcome of the BNP's "negative politics".

Yesterday, AL central working

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Kidney donors beyond relatives not necessary

Says expert committee in report to HC; writ petition filed in 2017 sought court order to allow voluntary donors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is no need to allow voluntary donors beyond certain relatives to donate kidneys as it may give rise to several problems, including organ trafficking, said a report submitted by an expert committee to the High Court.

It said the inclusion of a provision allowing voluntary kidney donors may give rich people an opportunity to exploit the poor by offering them benefits or subjecting them to physical and mental torture.

The seven-member committee headed by Md Rafiqul Islam, president of Bangladesh Renal Association and pro-vice-chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, handed over the report to the Supreme Court registrar general's office on October 29 for placing it to the HC as per its earlier order.

Deputy Attorney General Saifuddin Khaled on Thursday placed the report before the HC bench of Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Khandaker Diliruzzaman during the hearing of a writ petition filed in the regard in 2017.

The bench fixed November 21 for further hearing on the issue. Gonoshasthaya Kendra founder Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury, who voluntarily attended the hearing, told the HC that the Organ Transplantation Act 1999 needs to be amended so that any healthy person other than the relatives can donate organs.

He also said there must be a provision in the law so that the poor people are not victimised and the donors are compensated appropriately.

Writ petitioner's lawyer Barrister Rashna Imam told The Daily Star that as per the definition of the Organ Transplantation Act 1999, the relatives

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

HK student's death triggers fresh outrage

AFP, Hong Kong

A Hong Kong student who sustained head injuries when he fell during clashes with police died yesterday, triggering a fresh wave of outrage from the pro-democracy movement and fears of more violent unrest.

Although the precise chain of events leading to 22-year-old Alex Chow's fall are unclear and disputed, his death is the first student fatality during five months of demonstrations.

Protesters, who have made alleged police brutality one of their movement's rallying cries, responded to Chow's death with tearful vigils last night and calls for fresh rallies over the weekend.

"Today we mourn the loss of a freedom fighter in Hong Kong," Joshua Wong, a prominent pro-democracy campaigner, said on Twitter.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Astronaut casts his vote from the ISS



CNN ONLINE

Defying their earthly bounds doesn't stop many astronauts from exercising their civic duties.

Andrew Morgan cast an early vote from space last month, weighing in on a Pennsylvania election, Nasa says.

According to his official biography, Morgan is a physician who was selected to join the astronaut corps in 2013, and completed his training in 2015. He's now aboard the space station as a flight engineer for several expeditions.

The father of four considers New Castle, about 55 miles north of Pittsburgh, to be his hometown. And he voted early in the election held Tuesday.

Ed Allison, who heads up voter registration for Lawrence County, told CNN that Morgan sent in what's called a federal post card application. Elections officials sent Morgan a ballot via email, SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Youth lands in jail for raping girl

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

A Feni court yesterday sent a youth to jail on charge of raping a teenage girl in Dagonbhuiyan upazila on Thursday.

Police arrested Noor Mohammad, 28, a resident of Aziz Fazilpur in the upazila on Thursday night, said Aslam Siddik, officer-in-charge (OC) of Dagonbhuiyan Police Station.

Quoting the case statement, the OC said Noor, a caretaker of a building in the area, abducted the 16-year-old girl from in front of her house around 9:00pm. He tied her up with rope and took her to a nearby banana orchard where he raped her. He fled immediately after that, he said.

The victim's family members found her there around two hours later, the official said.

After the girl's parents

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Cattle trader shot dead by BSF

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Indian Border Security Force men shot dead a Bangladeshi cattle trader on Moheshpur border in Jhenidah early yesterday.

Sumon, 25, of Shyamkur village in Moheshpur upazila, was returning home from India with cattle when he was shot around 4:00am, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB)-58 officials said.

BSF personnel of Pakhiura camp opened fire on Sumon near border pillar No 60/133-134.

Kamrul Hasan, additional director of BGB, said Sumon went to India

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Rows of shops are being constructed illegally ahead of the tourist season on Kuakata beach in Patuakhali. The view on the wide-open beach gets ruined by these shops. Moreover, these shops are a major source of litter that diminish the joy of going to the beach. The photo was taken last week.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

SC RULING ON AYODHYA CASE

More than 500 arrested ahead of verdict

Thousands of paramilitaries deployed in the north Indian city

AFP, New Delhi

Indian police have arrested more than 500 people ahead of a Supreme Court ruling on a hotly disputed religious site in the holy city of Ayodhya, media reports said, with authorities fearing the verdict could trigger unrest.

The decision on the future of the site claimed by both Hindus and Muslims is due by November 17 and thousands of paramilitaries have already been sent to the northern city.

Hindu hardliners want a temple built on the site, currently barricaded off decades after a 16th-century mosque there was demolished during 1992 riots that left 2,000 people dead.

Hindus believe the mosque was built over the site of the birthplace of their god Ram.

Security is being tightened across India in the run-up to the ruling and Uttar Pradesh state police chief O P Singh told the Economic Times that more than 500 arrests had been made.

"The main message to the police force is to maintain peace at any cost," the newspaper quoted him as saying.

Most of the suspects were taken into custody while a further 70 people were detained over their social media posts, he said -- warning the internet could be blocked in the region if required.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 9

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-00 12-45 3-45 5-25 7-00
JAMAAT 5-35 1-15 4-00 5-30 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION