

## One killed as train

FROM PAGE 12  
Sujanagar Police Station, Dabir and some other people were standing beside the rail line while the collision took place.

Hitting the Rajshahi-bound train, the brick-laden motorised three-wheeler, locally known as Nosiman, skidded off the rail track and hit the people standing there.

Being hit by the Nosiman, Dabir died on the spot, the police official said.

Of the six injured, four men -- Alom Hossain, 50, Asif Iqbal, 22, Aminul Islam, 45, and Sajahan Ali, 70 -- were in critical condition.

All of them were admitted to Pabna General Hospital and undergoing treatment, he added.

Contacted, Nasir Uddin, divisional transportation officer (DTO) of Pakshey, said the railway authorities would not take responsibilities for the accident.

"The villagers make illegal level crossings as per their choices. As a result, no gatemen are deployed there."

Nobody has the right to use rail line for their own purpose but the vehicles were using the illegal level crossing, he said, adding, "That caused the accident."

No investigation would be conducted for the accident, he said.

Bangladesh Railway, however, filed a case against the drivers of two Nosimans that were illegally crossing the rail line at the moment of the accident.

## Jute price soars

FROM PAGE 12  
This year, I am seeing the highest rate of jute sales. However, some greedy middle men have been mixing sand and water to make the product weigh more and so, jute mill owners and exporters are being cheated."

Faraque Mollah, 41, a jute grower of the district's Nagarkanda upazila, said, "Jute growth was good but I had to suffer for the lack of water. We have to sell all the jute we grow to collect money for the cultivation of other crops. After we sold all the jute, the middle men stocked them up. Now, they are getting more profits than us."

Achamat Mollah, 34, another grower, added that because they haven't been making profit, many growers have lost their interest in the cultivation of jute.

## Man held over

FROM PAGE 12  
against the three and sought help from Rab, he said.

Rab was able to arrest the main accused following a shadow investigation. The law enforcers said it is trying to arrest the others accused.

Meanwhile in Jamalpur, police arrested Nazmul Hasan Babu, 25, on charges of raping a garments worker on Monday night.

Nazmul is an entrepreneur of an information service centre of Nilkhira union parishad in the district's Bakshiganj upazila, police said.

The victim, 20, filed a case with Bakshiganj Police Station on Monday night, accusing two, including Nazmul, said Shafiqul Islam Samrat, officer-in-charge (OC) of the police station.

On January 14, Nazmul instructed the victim to come to the union parishad office when she asked for her birth certificate.

After she arrived, Nazmul took the help of another man and raped her there.

Police is trying to arrest the other accused, the OC said.

(Our Gazipur correspondent contributed to the report.)



General view shows the site where cars were involved in a series of crashes when a snow storm struck a stretch of highway on the Tohoku Expressway in Osaki, Miyagi prefecture, northern Japan yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## WHO, China could have acted faster

FROM PAGE 12  
level -- until a week later.  
TRUMP ACCUSATIONS  
"It is not clear why the committee did not meet until the third week of January, nor is it clear why it was unable to agree on the (PHEIC) declaration... when it was first convened," the report said.

The WHO has already faced claims it was too slow to declare an international crisis, to acknowledge the virus was spreading through the air, and to recommend face masks.

Outgoing US President Donald Trump accused the organisation of botching its handling of the pandemic and of being a "puppet of China."

The panel began its work in July after WHO member states called for an "impartial, independent and comprehensive evaluation" of its response to the pandemic.

### 'HIDDEN EPIDEMIC'

Just over a year after the first cases of Covid-19 were detected in China, experts agree that the official tally of over two million deaths and close to 100 million infections is an underestimate.

And according to the panel report, the case numbers have been undercounted from the start.

"In retrospect, it is clear that the volume of infections in the

early period of the epidemic in all countries was higher than reported," it said.

"A largely hidden epidemic contributed to the global spread."

The WHO and national authorities were not quick enough to warn that the virus could spread between people, including those without symptoms could pass it on, the panel said. It also questioned whether the WHO should have used the word pandemic earlier than it did.

### VACCINES FOR POORER COUNTRIES

The European Union wants to set up a mechanism that would allow the sharing of surplus Covid-19 vaccines with poorer neighbouring states and Africa, the EU health chief said yesterday, in a move that may undercut a WHO-led global scheme.

The EU, with a population of 450 million, has already secured nearly 2.3 billion vaccines and candidates from six companies, although most of them still need regulatory approval.

"We are working with member states to propose a European mechanism to share vaccines beyond our borders," EU health commissioner Stella Kyriakides told EU lawmakers yesterday, confirming a Reuters report from

December.

She stressed the mechanism would get vaccines to poorer countries "before COVAX is fully operational", referring to the global scheme co-led by the World Health Organisation set up last summer to ensure a fair distribution of Covid-19 shots across the world.

Meanwhile, a senior WHO official said on Monday the world health body is in advanced negotiations with Pfizer to include the firm's Covid-19 shot in the body's vaccine-sharing scheme, which would speed vaccine deliveries to poorer countries.

"We are in... detailed discussions with Pfizer. We believe very soon we will have access to that product," WHO senior adviser Bruce Aylward told the WHO's executive board meeting, adding that it would then look to add others.

COVAX aims to deliver 135 million doses of all shots it has deals for to 92 lower and middle income countries in the programme by the end of March, he said.

So far, over half of the 50 million inoculations given globally in 50 countries have been done in the United States and China, according to Aylward. None have yet been given in Africa, he said.

## EU warns Iran nuclear deal at 'critical juncture'

AFP, Brussels

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell has warned the Iran nuclear deal is at a "critical juncture", as Tehran's moves to breach it threaten efforts to get the US back on board.

"We have seen very concerning developments on the nuclear side as well as new rounds of US sanctions," Borrell wrote to EU foreign ministers in a letter seen by AFP yesterday.

"That risks undermining diplomatic efforts, including ours, to facilitate a US return to the JCPOA and to bring back Iran to the full implementation of its JCPOA commitments," said the

letter sent ahead of a meeting of the top diplomats on Monday.

The JCPOA, or Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, is the instrument agreed to implement the 2015 accord.

The EU and other signatories to the pact are pushing to get US President-elect Joe Biden to return to the agreement after scrambling to keep it alive following Donald Trump's withdrawal over two years ago.

But they face a struggle to get Iran and the US back on the same page after Trump reimposed harsh sanctions and Tehran responded by breaching limits set by the deal.

The Iranian government has signalled a readiness to engage

with Biden, who takes office on January 20 and has himself expressed willingness to return to diplomacy with Tehran.

But supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has insisted the US must start out by lifting its sanctions on Tehran.

That could be a tough sell as Iran has set about pushing back against the constraints in the deal that sought to curb its nuclear programme in return for relief from the punitive measures.

Signatories Britain, France and Germany on Saturday called on Iran to halt plans to produce uranium metal, after Tehran told the UN's nuclear watchdog it was advancing research on the issue.

## Writ seeks

FROM PAGE 12  
The victims and their families are being maligned by the publication of their identity, he said.

Lawyer Mahfuzur Rahman Milton said the HC may hold hearing on the writ petition next Sunday.

## Baby Trump

FROM PAGE 12  
"From the Suffragettes of the early twentieth century to the anti-austerity marches, free speech and Black Lives Matter most recently -- the capital has always been the place to have your say," said Sharon Ament, Museum of London director.

"By collecting the baby blimp we can mark the wave of feeling that washed over the city that day and capture a particular moment of resistance."

The team behind the balloon said while they were "pleased that the Trump Baby can now be consigned to history", adding: "We're under no illusions that this is the end of the story."

"We hope the baby's place in the museum will stand as a reminder of when London stood against Trump."

The balloon will join the museum's protest collection, which includes banners, flags and tents belonging to demonstrators through the ages.

## Many suffer as dense fog causes

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sky over the country having chances of light rain at one or two places over Dhaka, Rangpur, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions."

The weather forecast for next 24 hours was released at 9:00am yesterday.

Yesterday's lowest temperature was recorded at 10 degrees Celsius in Sreemangal of Moulvibazar, according to the Met office.

In Nilphamari, the fog was so thick that the first flight, which was scheduled to land at 11:00am yesterday at Saidpur Airport, was prevented from taking off around 3:15pm, said Supallab Kumar Ghosh, manager of the airport.

Subsequently, the rest three flights were delayed for almost similar hours, he added.

On the Paturia-Daulatdia ferry route, the authorities kept ferry services halted for around eight hours due to dense fog.

"Ferry operations were suspended

around 3:00am yesterday due to poor visibility caused by thick fog," said Zillur Rahman, deputy general manager of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) at Aricha office in Manikganj.

"Marking lights on the ferry route

way to work when the bus hit their motorbike around 7:30am.

The husband and wife were thrown onto the highway and the bus driver, attempting to escape, drove over them, sub-inspector Imran Hossain of Airport Police Station, who is investigating the case, said earlier.

The couple have a five-year-old daughter Afra Anjum.

CID official Mukta said Tasikul in primarily interrogation claimed he could not see clearly as there was fog on that day.

He claimed that he lost control over the steering when the motorcyclist appeared

in front of his bus suddenly and slowed its speed, she added.

Airport Police Station which is investigating the case, who look into whether he was trying to pass the buck, Mukta said, adding that CID would hand him over to Airport police.

Two others, including the bus helper, were absconded and the law enforcers were trying to arrest them.

Maya's father Manik Miah filed a case with the police station, demanding justice.

According to media reports, Ajmeri Glory Paribahan buses killed a mother and her daughter in Gazipur in February 2020, and two more people in Gazipur in 2018.

On the Shimulia-Banglabazar route, thick fog forced the authorities to halt ferry operations for around 10 hours from 12:00am yesterday.

"At least seven ferries carrying passengers and vehicles were stranded in the river due to fog," said Ahmed Ali, manager (marine) of BIWTC at Shimulia terminal.

Around 500 vehicles got stuck at both the ends of the river. The ferry services on the route resumed around 9:00am, said the official.

Afzal Hossain, who was going to Khulna on a bus, said, "I reached the ferry ghat around 2:00am. But we found the ferry services suspended. We had to wait for long to cross the river."

[Our correspondents in Manikganj and Nilphamari contributed to this report.]

## Cops arrest bus driver in capital

FROM PAGE 12

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## Libyan leaders approve interim executive mechanism: UN

AFP, Tripoli

Libyan envoys at UN-backed talks to end nearly a decade of war yesterday voted to pass the mechanism to choose an interim executive to govern until polls in December, the UN said.

The UN called it a "significant step forward".

Libya has been torn apart by civil war since the Nato-backed uprising that ousted long-time dictator Moamer Gaddafi in 2011, with an array of militias filling the vacuum and civilian bodies struggling to impose their authority.

But talks held in the Swiss city of Geneva have brought together 75 delegates -- selected by the UN to represent a broad range of constituencies -- in the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF).

"Following the agreement on a proposal for the selection mechanism of a unified executive authority... the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) conducted a one-day voting process," the UN said, with the vote running from Monday to yesterday.

A total of 73 percent backed the proposal.

"Libyans have now a genuine opportunity

to move past their differences and divisions, (and) select a temporary government to reunify their institutions through the long-awaited democratic national elections" on December 24, interim UN envoy Stephanie Williams said.

The UN was "finalising the nomination procedure" and an election timeline, she added.

The UN-recognised Government of National Accord controls Tripoli and most of the west, while a rival administration dominated by military strongman Khalifa Haftar controls Benghazi and the east.

Both camps in Libya's complex war have received extensive backing from foreign powers.

A fragile ceasefire between the two sides, agreed in Geneva last October, has largely held despite threats by Haftar to resume fighting.

On Monday, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres hailed "tangible progress" made in recent months in Libya.

But Guterres also urged "regional and international actors to respect the provisions of the ceasefire agreement", with its three-month deadline to withdraw foreign forces from Libya expiring on January 23.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh				
Upazilla Health Complex Ramu, Cox's Bazar Tender Notice				
Memo No. UHC/Ramu/MSR Tender/2020-21/815	Date: 19/01/2021			
Invitation for Tender (IFT) for Procurement of MSR goods for Upazilla Health Complex, Ramu, Cox's Bazar in the fiscal year 2020-21.				
01	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.		
02	Agency	Upazilla Health Complex, Ramu, Cox's Bazar.		
03	Procuring entity district	Cox's Bazar.		
04	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).		
05	Tender name	Procurement of MSR in the fiscal year 2020-21		
06	Budget and source of funds	Revenue, Development and GOB.		
07	Name of group	Description	Price of tender schedule (only each, non-refundable)	Tender earnest money amounts (refundable)
	A	Medicine	750/- (Taka seven hundred fifty only)	50,000/- (Tk fifty thousand only)
	B	MSR Instruments	750/- (Taka seven hundred fifty only)	50,000/- (Tk fifty thousand only)
	C	Chemical, Re-agent, X-ray film	750/- (Taka seven hundred fifty only)	25,000/- (Tk twenty-five thousand only)
	D	Gauge, Bandage, Cotton	750/- (Taka seven hundred fifty only)	25,000/- (Tk twenty-five thousand only)
	E	Linen goods	750/- (Taka seven hundred fifty only)	25,000/- (Tk twenty-five thousand only)
	F	Furniture	750/- (Taka seven hundred fifty only)	25,000/- (Tk twenty-five thousand only)
08	Name and addresses of the office			
	a) Tender schedule selling place	Upazilla Health Complex, Ramu, Cox's Bazar.		
	b) Tender schedule receiving place	1. Upazilla Health Complex, Ramu, Cox's Bazar.		
	c) Tender schedule opening place	Upazilla Health Complex, Ramu, Cox's Bazar.		
09	Tender schedule selling date	Tender booklets will be sold from the date of 23-01-2021 to 06-02-2021 during the office hour. No Tender booklet would be sold after schedule date and time.		
10	Tender dropping and closing date and time	22-02-2021 at 12.00 Noon.		
11	Tender opening date and time	22-02-2021 at 12.30pm.		
12	Description of terms and conditions	Detailed description in Tender booklet.		
13	Description of goods & related services	Detailed description in Tender booklet.		
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>				
14	Name of procuring entity	Dr. Nobel Kumar Barua.		
15	Designation of procuring entity	UH&FPO.		
16	Address of procuring entity	Upazilla Health Complex, Ramu, Cox's Bazar.		
17	Contact details of official tenders	Phone:		
Note: a) Price of tender schedule would be paid by Treasury Challan into the Code No. 1-2711-0000-2366 for The Upazilla Health & Family Planning Officer, Ramu, Cox's Bazar by the Sonali Bank, Ramu Branch. b) If the date of selling, receiving and opening of tender is disturbed under any unavoidable circumstances, the next working day will be applicable for the same respectively. c) Corrigendum if necessary in future will be a part of this notice. The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender without assigning any reason whatsoever.				
		<b>Dr. Nobel Kumar Barua</b> UH&FPO Upazilla Health Complex Ramu, Cox's Bazar		

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার		
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ এর কার্যালয় সড়ক বিভাগ, কুড়িগ্রাম		
ফোনঃ ০৫৮১-৬১৬৫৮, ফ্যাক্সঃ ০৫৮১-৬২৬৮৫ Email: eekur@rhd.gov.bd		
সেতুর ইজারা কোটেশন আধ্বান বিজ্ঞপ্তি		
ড্যাট ও আয়কর সনদধারী প্রতিষ্ঠান/নাগরিক, সরকারি/বেসরকারি/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত সকল প্রতিষ্ঠানের টিকাদারগণের নিকট হতে স্ব-স্ব লাইসেন্স-এর ক্ষমতা/অভিজ্ঞতা অনুযায়ী সীলমোহরকৃত খামে কোটেশন আধ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।		
০১।	ইজারা কোটেশন নং	০১-ইইজারা/কেআরডি/২০২০-২০২১ইং (৩য় আধ্বান)।
০২।	ইজারার বিবরণ	২০২১-২০২২, ২০২২-২০২৩ ও ২০২৩-২০২৪ অর্থ বৎসরের জন্য কুড়িগ্রাম সড়ক বিভাগধীন কুড়িগ্রাম-নাগেশ্বরী-ভুরুঙ্গামারী (জেড-৫৬২২) জেলা মহাসড়কের ৩য় কিলোমিটারে ধরলা সড়ক সেতুতে টোল আদায়ের নিমিত্তে ইজারাদার নিয়োগ।
০৩।	ইজারা চুক্তির মেয়াদ	১০৯৫ দিন বা ৩ বছর।
০৪।	ইজারা কোটেশনের সিডিউল মূল্য	টাঃ ৫০০০.০০ (পাঁচ হাজার) টাকা মাত্র।
০৫।	বায়নার টাকার পরিমাণ	উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের ১০% (শতকরা দশ ভাগ) বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের তফসিলভুক্ত যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংক হইতে পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট ইত্যাদি আকারে নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, কুড়িগ্রাম এর অনুকূলে কোটেশনের সহিত জমা দিতে হবে।
০৬।	ইজারা কোটেশন বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	৩১/০১/২০২১ খ্রিস্টাব্দ তারিখ বিকাল ৫.০০ পর্যন্ত।
০৭।	মুখবন্দ অবস্থায় ইজারা কোটেশন গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০১/০২/২০২১ খ্রিস্টাব্দ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.০০ পর্যন্ত।
০৮।	ইজারা ডাকে অবশ্যগ্রহণের যোগ্যতা	ড্যাট ও আয়কর সনদধারী প্রতিষ্ঠান/নাগরিক, সরকারি/বেসরকারি/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত সকল প্রতিষ্ঠানের টিকাদার।
০৯।	যে সকল কার্যালয়ে ইজারা কোটেশন জয়ের জন্য পাওয়া যাবে	অতিরিক্ত প্রধান প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, রংপুর জোন, রংপুর/তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক সার্কেল, রংপুর/জেলা প্রশাসক, কুড়িগ্রাম/নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, গ্রানিং বিভাগ-১, সড়ক ভবন, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা/নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, রংপুর/কুড়িগ্রাম/লালমনিরহাট/উপবিঃপ্রঃ, সওজ, সড়ক উপ-বিভাগ-১/২, কুড়িগ্রাম।
১০।	যে সকল কার্যালয়ে ইজারা কোটেশন মুখবন্দ অবস্থায় গ্রহণ করা হবে	(ক) অতিরিক্ত প্রধান প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, রংপুর জোন, রংপুর। (খ) তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক সার্কেল, রংপুর। (গ) নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, কুড়িগ্রাম।
১১।	ইজারা কোটেশন খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	স্থানঃ নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, কুড়িগ্রাম। তারিখঃ ০১/০২/২০২১ খ্রিস্টাব্দ। সময়ঃ বেলা ০৩.০০ ঘটিকা।
১২।	ইজারা আধ্বানকারী যে কোন সময় যে কোন কোটেশন/সকল কোটেশন বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।	
আলী নুরায়েন পরিচিতি নং-৬০২১৮৭ নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ (৩য় দাঃ) সড়ক বিভাগ, কুড়িগ্রাম		
জিডি-১০৯		