City

#### One killed as train FROM PAGE 12

beside the rail line while the collision took place.

Hitting the Rajshahi-bound train, the brick-laden motorised threewheeler, 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



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.

WHO has already The 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

NATIONS 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.

#### Will look into provocative sermons FROM PAGE 1

Extremism" at the Islamic Foundation building in the capital's Agargaon.

Earlier on Monday, a Supreme Court lawyer served a legal notice to the authorities concerned, asking for directives on barring Islamic clerics and speakers from delivering speeches containing anti-state or fictional rhetorics at waz mahfils and ensuring that the speeches are not made without textual references to the Holy Quran and Hadith.

Supreme Court Lawyer Md Mahmudul Hasan served the notice and said he will file a writ petition with the High Court seeking a directive in this regard if measures are not taken within 30 days.

Secretaries to the ministries of religious affairs, home, education, and the director general of the Islamic Foundation have been made respondents to the legal notice.

According to it, "In many cases, alems (scholars) are delivering speeches containing fictional statements, gossip and anti-state rhetorics at waz mahfils. These misleading speeches are disseminated among people through various social media platforms such as YouTube and Facebook.

"It is also seen that, in many cases, our scholars are delivering aggressive speeches against the government and various state institutions using their own opinions and without mentioning the reference of the Holy Quran and Hadith at religious programmes and waz mahfils. Through their speeches, they are creating discord among people.'

In yesterday's programme, CITC chief Monirul further said that anyone who has a clear knowledge of Islam will never be involved in militancy. Those with a vague knowledge of Islam are involved in militancy.

"Islamic scholars can make people aware against militancy and drugs by making statements at different times. The role of scholars is to give the correct interpretation of Islam to the people and to make people aware as they listen to scholars attentively," he said.

He further pointed out the existing division among scholars themselves regarding militancy.

He advised everyone, including the alem community, to be aware so that incidents like the Holy Artisan massacre do not happen again.

The CITC chief said since militancy is a matter of ideology, the chances of rehabilitating those who knowingly turn to militancy for political gain are limited.

"Efforts will be made to rehabilitate those who are misunderstood and misinterpreted without understanding," he said, adding that steps have been taken for counselling in the prisons.

The CTTC chief said there is no presence of the Al-Qaeda in Bangladesh -- not even a branch. But many are trying to prove the existence of Al-Qaeda in Bangladesh by spreading various propaganda in this regard at different times.

Monirul said that militancy has been effectively controlled. At present, there is no risk of any major militant attack in Bangladesh.

However, everyone must remain careful so that no one carries out destructive activities he advised.

State Minister for Religion Affairs Faridul Haque Khan, Secretary of the Ministry of Religion Md Nurul Islam and Director General of the Islamic Foundation Anis Mahmud also spoke among others.

Addressing the seminar, Faridul called upon scholars to inform the people about the evils of militancy in their Friday prayer sermons and regularly before daily prayers in mosques.

The minister said he believes this will increase awareness among the people, adding, "Islam never supports militancy."

"People should always be informed about the evils of militancy in their statements before prayers in the mosque. If awareness activities are conducted here repeatedly, a sense of awareness will be awakened among many people," he said.

## Bus driver arrested in the capital

FROM PAGE 12 way to work when the bus hit their

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.

## Many suffer as dense fog causes

FROM PAGE 12 two places over Dhaka, Rangpur, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions.

24 hours was released at 9:00am vesterday.

Yesterday's lowest temperature

"Ferry operations were suspended around 3:00am yesterday due to poor visibility The weather forecast for next caused by thick fog," said Zillur Rahman, deputy general manager

hours due to dense fog.

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 of Bangladesh Inland Water stranded in the river due to Transport Corporation (BIWTC) 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.

FROM PAGE 1 scheduled to begin at 11.30 am local time. It will be a fresh start under newly appointed ODI skipper Tamim Igbal, who takes charge with a view to the 2023 ICC

World Cup. It will also be the start of the era without the country's most successful ODI captain, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza. One silver lining of the pandemic was

Int'l cricket returns with 1st ODI

Having served out his ban, Shakib will make his comeback in today's first ODI.

For Bangladesh, another positive aspect would be that they will be playing their most favoured format that -- fifty-over cricket. They will be up against a rather inexperienced Windies side after their top ten cricketers, including regular skipper lason Holder, opted to skip the tour. Stand-in West Indies skipper Jason Mohammad will have a tough job in hand to lead a young team against the Tigers, against whom they struggled even with the presence of their big names in the recent past.

# motorbike around 7:30am.

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.

GD-134

(Our Gazipur correspondent contributed to the report.) 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 vesterday at Saidpur Airport, made the landing 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

at Aricha office in Manikganj.

"Marking lights on the ferry route became almost invisible due to fog. So, the ferry services were suspended to avoid accidents."

Four ferries, which were carrying passengers and vehicles, got stranded in the middle of the Padma, the officer said.

Several hundred vehicles got stuck on both sides of the river due to the suspension of ferry services, causing passengers to suffer, said BIWTC officials and transport operations.

On the Shimulia-Banglabazar

Ramu, Cox's Bazar

Afzal Hossain, who was going to Khulna on reached the ferr 2:00am. But we services suspend wait for long to c

[Our correspond and Nilphamari

ages.

that the Tigers did not have to play too many matches without talismanic all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, who was banned by the ICC for one year in October 2019 for failing to report corrupt approaches from a bookie.

who was going bus, said, "I		গণপ্রজাত	ন্দ্র	ী বাংলাদেশ সরকার				
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nts in Manikganj		Em	ail:	eekur@rhd.gov.bd				
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report.]	সেতুর ইজারা কোটেশন আব্বান বিজ্ঞপ্তি ভ্যট ও আয়কর সনদধারী প্রতিষ্ঠান/নাগরিক, সরকারি/বেসরকারি/শ্বায়ত্তশাসিত সকল প্রতিষ্ঠানের ঠিকাদারগণের							
				মন্দায়/বেশমন্দায়/ ব্যয়ওগাগও পর্বন এওিচানের চিকানায়/বের অনুযায়ী সীলমোহরকৃত খামে কোটেশন আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।				
eeks	051	ইজারা কোটেশন নং	8	০১-ইই/ইজারা/কেআরডি/২০২০-২০২১ইং (৩য় আব্বান)।				
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on said the HC	081	ইজারা কোটেশনের সিডিউল মূল্য	0 8	টাঃ ৫০০০.০০ (পাঁচ হাজার) টাকা মাত্র।				
earing on the	001	বায়নার টাকার পরিমাণ	0 8	উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের ১০% (শতকরা দশ ভাগ) বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের				
n next Sunday. Trump	Ut 1		0	তম্বতি মূল্যের ১০% (শবর্ম্যা পশ বিশ্ব) বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের তফসিলভুক্ত যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংক হইতে পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফ্ট ইত্যাদি আকারে নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, কুড়িগ্রাম এর অনুকূলে কোটেশনের সহিত জমা দিতে হবে।				
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nd Black Lives recently the	०१।	মুখবন্ধ অবস্থায় ইজারা কোটেশন গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	8	০১/০২/২০২১ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.০০ পর্যন্ত।				
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behind the while they were t the Trump w be consigned	201	যে সকল কার্যালয়ে ইজারা কোটেশন মুখবন্ধ অবস্থায় গ্রহণ করা হবে	00	<ul> <li>(ক) অতিরিক্ত প্রধান প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, রংপুর জোন, রংপুর।</li> <li>(খ) তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক সার্কেল, রংপুর।</li> <li>(গ) নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, কুড়িগ্রাম।</li> </ul>				
dding: "We're isions that this the story.	221	ইজারা কোটেশন খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	ô	স্থানঃ নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, কুড়িগ্রাম। তারিখঃ ০১/০২/২০২১ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ। সময়ঃ বেলা ০৩.০০ ঘটিকা।				
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				ople's Republic				
			•	a Health Complex				
			Ram	iu, Cox's Bazar				
			Ten	der Notice				
/lemo	No. UHC/Ramu	/MSR Tender/2020-21/815			Date: 19/01/202			
Invi	tation for Tender (	IFT) for Procurement of MSR a	oods for Upa	zilla Health Complex. Ramu. Cox	's Bazar in the fiscal year 2020-21.			
1	Ministry/Divis			Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.				
2	Agency			Upazilla Health Complex, Ramu, Cox's Bazar.				
3	Procuring entity district			Cox's Bazar.				
	Procurement method			Open Tendering Method (OTM).				
5	Tender name			Procurement of MSR in the fiscal year 2020-21				
6		ource of funds		Revenue, Development and GOB.				
	Name of group	Description		Price of tender schedule only each, non-refundable)	Tender earnest money amounts (refundable)			
	A	Medicine		a seven hundred fifty only)	50,000/- (Tk fifty thousand only)			
7	В	MSR Instruments	750/- (Tak	a seven hundred fifty only)	50,000/- (Tk fifty thousand only)			
	С	Chemical, Re-agent, X-ray film		a seven hundred fifty only)	25,000/- (Tk twenty-five thousand only)			
	D	Gauge, Bandage, Cotton		a seven hundred fifty only)	25,000/- (Tk twenty-five thousand only)			
	E			a seven hundred fifty only)	25,000/- (Tk twenty-five thousand only)			
	F	Furniture	750/- (Tak	a seven hundred fifty only)	25,000/- (Tk twenty-five thousand only)			
		Idresses of the office						
3		nedule selling place		Upazilla Health Complex, Ramu, Cox's Bazar.				
		nedule receiving place		1. Upazilla Health Complex, Ramu, Cox's Bazar.				
c) Tender schedule opening place				Upazilla Health Complex, Ramu, Cox's Bazar.				
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.				
)	Tender dropp	ing and closing date and time		22-02-2021 at 12.00 Noon.				
		ng date and time		22-02-2021 at 12.30pm.				
2		f terms and conditions		Detailed description in Tender booklet.				
		f goods & related services		Detailed description in Tender bo	DOKIEI.			
4	RING ENTITY DE		1	Dr. Nobel Kumar Barua.				
+ 5	Name of procuring entity Designation of procuring entity			UH&FPO.				
6	Address of pr			Upazilla Health Complex, Ramu,	Cox's Bazar			
,		Is of official tenders		Phone:				
					000-2366 for The Upazilla Health & Family Plannin			
fficer,	Ramu, Cox's Baza	ar by the Sonali Bank, Ramu Br	ranch.					
b) l	the date of sellin	g, receiving and opening of ten	nder is disturb	ed under any unavoidable circun	mstances, the next working day will be applicable for			
	e respectively.			-				
			f this notice. 7	The competent authority reserves	the right to accept or reject any or all tender without			
ssignir	ig any reason wha	atsoever.						
					Dr. Nobel Kumar Barua			
					UH&FPO			
12/					Upazilla Health Complex			