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Animals dying as road, rails run thru' Lawachhara forest; LGED project to build alternative road still waiting for Ecne approval



MINTU DESHWARA

Deaths of rare and endangered species of wildlife under the wheels of vehicles and on train tracks are rampant in Moulvibazar's Lawachhara forest.

A 6.5-kilometre road connecting Sreemangal and Kamalganj and a five-kilometre portion of the Dhaka-Sylhet rail route goes through the forest.

On average, three wild animals die every day on these roads and rail tracks, found wildlife research body Creative Conservation Alliance in a survey conducted last year.

Wildlife frequently end up roadkill when trying to cross

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Five men atop a pile of mattresses, furniture and other things, on a pick-up headed outside Dhaka. As the pandemic has forced many people out of jobs, they have no option but to leave the capital and go back to their own districts, as they have become unable to meet the living cost. The photo was taken yesterday at Babu Bazar bridge.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Man held for raping blind woman

STAR REPORT

A court in Dinajpur yesterday sent a youth to jail for raping a visually impaired woman, while three others were arrested in Gazipur and Noakhali in rape cases.

The accused of Dinajpur Md Shuvo Islam, 25, is a resident of the upazila's Mirpur village.

Quoting the victim's family members, police said the 27-year-old victim was alone at home on June 12 afternoon when Dafirul Islam, 32, Jahrul Islam, 42 and Shuvo entered the house and gang-raped her.

As she started screaming, neighbours rushed there and rescued the women. However, the rapists managed to flee.

On June 27, the victim's brother filed a case against the trio. Of them, Shuvo was arrested Sunday night, said Mahmudul Hasan, officer-in-charge (OC) of Phulbari Police station.

In Gazipur, a man was arrested yesterday for raping a female garment

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Wrong man convicted HC gives him bail, seeks answers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted six months' ad-interim bail to a Manik Hawlader, an innocent man who had been serving the jail sentence served to an actual convict names Manik Miah, of Shariatpur's Bhedarganj upazila, in connection with a drug related case.

At the same time, the HC ordered convicted Manik Miah to surrender before the trial court concerned in Shariatpur immediately.

During the hearing on a writ petition, the bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Md Khairul Alam also ordered the district and sessions judge of Shariatpur to send all the relevant case documents to this court in 30 days.

The chief judicial magistrate of Shariatpur was also asked to record statements of the investigation officers of the case about implicating Manik Hawlader and to send the statements to the HC in 30 days, Tushar Kanti Roy, deputy attorney general, told The Daily Star.

He said the HC bench sought the case documents and statements in order to examine why an innocent man was

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ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Bangladeshis will not accept hoax: Bhashani

JUNE 29, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BHASHANI REJECTS 'POLITICAL SETTLEMENT'

The people of Bangladesh would not accept any political settlement short of independence, said Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani.

"The people of Bangladesh will not accept a hoax in the name of a political settlement when they have lost their possessions, when the honour of women has been violated, when so many people have shed their blood, and when millions have been ejected out of their own homes," said the Maulana.

He made it quite clear that there could be no compromise on the matter. "It is independence or death," he said.

He warned the quislings who might be tempted to strengthen the hands of President Yahya Khan of dire consequences.

Any party which ignores the demand for full independence and joins hands with Yahya will be hated more than the anti-people Muslim League. Their political death is inevitable, he predicted.

Bhashani indicted USA and China for giving aid in the shape of arms and money to Pakistan and thereby supporting and sustaining Islamabad's war of extermination on the people of Bangladesh.

HOSSAIN ALI'S PLEA FOR RECOGNITION

Addressing the Indian Council of World Affairs in Kolkata, M Hossain Ali, head of the Bangladesh mission, made an

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



Freeze eight accounts of Khokon, family

Court orders

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court has ordered a freeze on eight bank accounts of former Dhaka South City Corporation mayor Sayeed Khokon and his three family members as part of an investigation into an allegation of amassing illegal wealth.

Three of the accounts belong to Khokon's business firms, two each to his wife Farhana Alam and sister Shahana Hanif, and one to his mother Fatema Hanif, an Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) official told The Daily Star.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order on June 27 after Jalal Uddin Ahammad, deputy director of ACC and also the head of an enquiry team probing the allegation, had submitted

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New spider species named after hero cop



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists have named a new species of spider discovered in India's Maharashtra state after hero cop Tukaram Omble who took multiple bullets and helped capture terrorist Ajmal Kasab during the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks.

The researchers, including Dhruv A Prajapati from the Gujarat Ecological Education and Research Foundation in India, noted that the

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'Outlaw' shot dead in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

An outlawed party operative was shot dead by his rivals near his house in Pabna Sadar upazila on Sunday night.

Bellal Hossain, 35, of Charparavillage, was a member of outlawed Sarbahara Bhahini, police said.

Jalal Uddin, officer-in-charge of Ataikula Police Station, said some armed men attacked Bellal and shot him dead near his

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PRAYER TIMING JUNE 29

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-54 8-17
JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-57 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Trial of Suu Kyi to run longer

AFP, Naypyidaw

A Myanmar junta trial of Aung San Suu Kyi will run longer than scheduled, her lawyers said yesterday, with the prosecution still to call nearly two dozen witnesses.

The coup-ousted leader, who is under house arrest, faces an eclectic raft of charges in a trial her legal team had expected would be wrapped up by the end of July.

But with 23 witnesses still to go, "even the close of the prosecution side won't be possible" by then, said her lawyer Khin Maung Zaw.

Suu Kyi was deposed by the military in February, sparking a mass uprising and a brutal crackdown. More than 880 civilians have been killed by the junta's forces, according to a local monitoring group.

Cut off from the outside world except for brief meetings with her legal team and her court appearances, Suu Kyi appeared at the specially set up tribunal in the capital

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



An under-construction bridge collapsed in Kuakata municipality's Dobhashipara area on Sunday. Locals claim the accident occurred due to a design error and incomplete piling. They also alleged that the organisation concerned in building the bridge is a fraud.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

ASTRAZENECA VACCINE

Delayed doses boost immunity

AFP, London

Delayed second and third doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine boost immunity against Covid-19, a study by Oxford University, which developed the jab with the British-Swedish firm, said yesterday.

An interval of up to 45 weeks between the first and second dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine led to an enhanced immune response, rather than compromising immunity, the study said.

Giving a third dose of the jab more than six months after the second dose also leads to a "substantial increase" in antibodies and induces a "strong boost" to subjects' immune response, said the pre-print study, meaning that it has yet to be peer-reviewed.

"This should come as reassuring news to countries with lower supplies of the vaccine, who may be concerned about

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