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Crashes claim eight lives in three districts



STAR REPORT

At least eight people were killed and three others injured in road accidents in three districts yesterday.

Of them, five died in a head-on collision between a bus and a battery-run three-wheeler on Dhaka-Rangpur highway in Gaibandaha. Three others were injured in the accident.

The dead are Ashraf Ali, 70, Nazrul Islam Tuku, 65, Sujon Kumar Biswas, 38, Mohammad Ripon, 32, and Sohag Sheikh, 19, all from Gaibandaha's Gobindaganj upazila, said police.

Arif Anwar, station officer of Gobindaganj Fire Service and Civil Defence, said all the victims were passengers of the three-wheeler.

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An elephant calf lying dead at Panihata of Sherpur's Nalitabari upazila yesterday. The four-year-old male mammal was killed by electrocution. Raising concern, seven elephants were killed across the country in the last 10 days.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Elephant calf killed by electrocution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An elephant calf was killed by electrocution in Sherpur's Nalitabari early yesterday.

The male mammal was aged around four, said Prof Monirul H Khan, eminent wildlife biologist who was staying in the area for wildlife photography.

"There is an injury on the calf's trunk caused by electrocution. Perpetrators removed the electric fence after the death of the elephant," he said.

Locals said when the elephant died late at night, those who involved in the incident tried to bury the calf to cover up the killing. As it was dawn, they left the area after digging the ground next to the elephant's body, they said.

AKM Ruhul Amin, divisional forest officer of Mymensingh Forest Division, told The Daily Star that they heard about the death of an elephant.

There was no electric fence where it died, he said.

In the last 10 days, seven elephants were killed across the country, raising concern.

AMAZON RAINFOREST Deforestation hits 15yr high

REUTERS, Brasilia

Deforestation in Brazil's Amazon rainforest soared 22% in a year to the highest level since 2006, the government's annual report showed on Thursday, undercutting President Jair Bolsonaro's assurances that the country is curbing illegal logging.

Brazil's space research agency, INPE, recorded 13,235 square kilometres (5,110 square miles) of deforestation in the world's largest rainforest in its PRODES satellite data, an area nearly 17 times the size of New York City. The official deforestation data covers a period from August 2020 through July 2021.

The surging destruction comes despite Bolsonaro's efforts to show his government is serious about protecting the Amazon, considered critical to staving off catastrophic climate change.

The far-right former army captain still calls for more mining and commercial farming in protected parts of the rainforest.

At the UN climate summit in Glasgow this month, COP26, Brazil's government brought forward a pledge to end illegal deforestation by two years to 2028, a target that would require aggressive annual reductions in the destruction.

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ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Yahya declined to discuss with Mujib

NOVEMBER 20, 1971
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

KISSINGER'S MEMORANDUM
Henry Kissinger, US president's assistant for national security affairs, in a memorandum dated November 20, 1971, informed president Nixon that Yahya had expressed disinclination to permit Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to designate a Bangladesh representative who could speak on his own behalf and negotiate for the Bangladesh movement with the Pakistanis. On the other hand, Yahya's government would be happy to meet Bangladesh representatives under other conditions. Mujib, according to Yahya, was not the key to negotiations but rather Indira Gandhi held "both the key and the lock". Yahya shared this view during a recent meeting with Joseph Farland, US ambassador to Pakistan.

The memorandum further informed that Yahya sketched his scenario for a political settlement through promulgation of a constitution in mid-December, convening the National Assembly on December 27, 1971 and transfer of power "several weeks" thereafter. Then the new civilian government could, if it wished, deal with Mujib and Bangladesh.

Yahya reaffirmed his decision to avoid war if at all possible and said that he would not start war. He was thinking of a plan which would turn over completely to the UN the administration of camps for returning refugees, added the memorandum.



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Joypurhat rape victim ends her life

UNB, Joypurhat

Eleven days after she was raped, a grade-VIII student ended her life in Khetlal upazila of Joypurhat on Thursday night.

According to her family members, the girl took the extreme step as she was unable to bear the trauma and embarrassment.

Her body was found hanging from the ceiling of her house.

On November 7, she was returning home around 5:00pm after attending a ceremony at her school.

Shahinur, a local youth, offered to drop her on his motorcycle but instead took her to an abandoned school building and allegedly raped her.

His friend too came to the spot and took turn to violate her. The girl was later rescued by locals.

On November 8, a case of sexual harassment was filed against Rafikul and Shahinur, following

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Rare original copy of US constitution auctioned for \$43m



AFP, New York

An extremely rare original copy of the US Constitution sold Thursday for \$43 million -- a world record for a historical document at auction -- with a cryptocurrency consortium that coveted the text outbid by another investor.

Sotheby's auction house, which staged the sale, said the item was one of only 13 known surviving copies of the US charter, signed on September 17, 1787 at Philadelphia's Independence Hall by America's founding fathers including George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and James Madison.

The winning bidder was not immediately identified.

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7 more die of Covid, 253 infected

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh logged seven more Covid-linked deaths and 253 fresh infections in 24 hours till yesterday morning, according to Directorate General of Health Services.

Of the deceased, three were men and four women, said DGHS.

The daily-case positivity rate increased to 1.40 from Thursday's 1.25 percent.

The fresh numbers took the total fatalities to 27,946 while the country's caseload mounted to 15,73,711, said the DGHS.

Dhaka division logged six Covid-related deaths while Chattogram division recorded one during the period, it said.

However, the mortality rate remained static at 1.78 percent.

The fresh cases were detected after testing 18,124 samples.

Besides, the recovery rate remained the same as 97.72 percent with the recovery of 294 more patients during the 24-hour period.

'A bit hypocritical'

Thunberg slams UK PM over COP private jet
AFP, Stockholm

Climate activist Greta Thunberg yesterday slammed British Prime Minister Boris Johnson for using a jet during his hosting of the COP26 summit in Glasgow and called world leaders' behaviour "hypocritical".

Thunberg was holding her first School Strike for the Climate in Stockholm since the close of the Glasgow summit last weekend, which the 18-year-old Swede termed "a failure".



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PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 20

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
5:05	12:45	3:45	5:21	7:00
JAMAAT	5:40	1:15	4:00	5:24
7:30				

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Eighteen-year-old Dipa, who cannot walk, is carried by her elder sister out of Covid vaccination centre at Karail slum in the capital after getting her dose yesterday. It was the fourth day of a week-long campaign to inoculate the slum dwellers aged 18 and above.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Star HEALTHLINE The seasonal RISK OF NIPAH VIRUS

STAR HEALTH DESK

Nipah virus (NiV) is a zoonotic virus, meaning it is transmitted from animals to humans. It can also be transmitted through contaminated food or directly between people, according to World Health Organization.

It was first identified in Bangladesh in 2001. Since then, the Nipah virus has been prevalent in 31 south-western and north-western districts, during the time from December to March, according to the Institute



Hyginex
Instant hand sanitizer



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