

Another elephant found dead

Seven killed in 11 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An elephant calf was found dead at Islampur Union of Cox's Bazar district yesterday.

Forest officials recovered the calf from Gojalia area of Islampur Union at 10:00am.

Anwar Hossen Sarkar, divisional forest officer of Cox's Bazar Forest Division (north), told The Daily Star that locals informed that an elephant calf, aged around two, was lying dead in Gojalia area of Fulchhari village.

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PHOTO: COLLECTED

Act now to save the gentle giants

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

People from all strata of life formed a human chain on the premises of the deputy commissioner's office in Sherpur yesterday protesting the recent killing of elephants.

Jonouddyog, a citizens' platform, organised the event.

The human chain was joined by volunteers, cultural activists, journalists and professionals. It was presided over by Abul Kalam Azad, convener of the organisation.



PHOTO: STAR

Speakers said it is high time to take steps to protect the endangered Asian elephants.

They also expressed deep concern over the death of two elephants in Sreebordi and Nalitabari upazila in Sherpur since November 9.

Since 1995, deaths of 31 elephants were reported in the hilly regions of Sherpur. The protestors also submitted a four-point memorandum to the deputy commissioner demanding immediate steps in this regard.

Petition seeks HC directive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday filed a writ petition seeking the High Court directives to stop the killing of elephants and human intrusion into elephant corridors.

Barrister Khan Khalid Adnan filed the petition requesting the HC to issue a rule asking the authorities, including the secretary of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry and Forest Department to issue a gazette for the twelve corridors identified by the department and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

"We requested the High Court to issue directives through a gazette to preserve twelve elephant corridors for their safe movement," he said.

Seven elephants in total were killed in just eleven days this month. Among them, two were in Sherpur and the rest in Cox's Bazar and Chattogram.

Workers by day, muggers by night

CID arrests 5 members of mugging gang in connection with college student's murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In daylight, they work as auto-rickshaw drivers, bus helpers or day labourers. But when the night gets dark, they get on auto-rickshaws, get out on the highways, and target people for robbery.

Recently, a college student in Gazipur -- Mehedi Hasan Tuhin (23) fell prey to the gang. When he refused to hand them his phone, they slit his throat and left him to die.

Over the last two days, Criminal Investigation Department of police conducted two raids in Keraniganj and the capital's Demra area and arrested five members of the gang.

This was revealed by CID Special Superintendent Mukta Dhar, who spoke at a press briefing at its headquarters in the capital's Malibagh yesterday.

The arrestees are -- bus helper Masud Rana (22), auto-rickshaw driver Fakhrul Islam (38), and day labourers Sumon Hossain (24), Hazrat (22), and Aliar Rahman Raju (38).

Mukta Dhar said deceased Tuhin, a final-year management student at a Gazipur college, worked as a sales staff at a mobile company's store at Runu Super Market in Konabari, Gazipur for the last six months.

On November 12, Tuhin was on his way home when the muggers stopped him on Gazipur-Tangail highway in Naojor area around 8:30pm. Following his death at their hands, his father filed a case against unidentified accused at Basan Police Station in Gazipur the next day.

"When the victim tried to stop their advances, the muggers hit him with an iron rod or stabbed them with a knife and fled," she said.

The official said they carry out two-three such operations every day and have 10-15 members in the gang.

CID seized five mobile phones, including the victim's one, and an auto-rickshaw from their possession.

BANIYARCHAR CHURCH BOMBING Fugitive accused held after 20 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty years after a bomb attack at Baniyarchar Catholic Church in Gopalganj, the Counter Terrorism Unit of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) arrested a fugitive accused in Dhaka yesterday morning.

The arrestee is Obaidur Rahman bin Abdullah (41).

A team of the CTU raided a house in New Town Residential area of Haji Badshah Mia Road in Demra around 7am and arrested Obaidur, said CID Special Superintendent Muhammad Nazmul Alam at a press conference at its headquarters in Malibagh.

The official said Obaidur was a charge-sheeted accused.

A warrant was issued against him by a court.

After receiving a petition from the OC of Jamalpur Sadar Police in this regard, CID started trying to identify the accused and arrest him, he added.

On June 3, 2001, a weekly prayer at Baniyarchar Catholic Church was going on around 8:00am.

Shortly after the prayer, a bomb exploded, spreading panic throughout the area.

The bombing killed 10 members of the Christian community and injured at least 50 others.

BHANGA-PAYRA PORT RAIL LINE Railway in search for investors

Delegation led by minister to hold talks with UK-based company

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

In a bid to manage funds for the Bhangra to Payra Port rail line, railways authorities have started talks with a UK-based company -- IM Power PLC -- over the 214km line.

During their UK tour slated to start from tomorrow, a delegation led by Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujon will hold further discussions with the company.

"They have shown interest for both investing and providing technology [for the rail line]. They have already met with us in Bangladesh, now we will hold a meeting with them there," the minister told The Daily Star yesterday.

An eight-member delegation led by the minister will visit four European countries, including the UK, from tomorrow to December 5 to see developed railway systems there.

Besides, they will hold talks with different government agencies and businesses that showed interest in investing in BR. They were scheduled to leave the country last night.

PROJECT TIMELINE

The development comes months after Bangladesh Railway (BR) has completed feasibility studies and detailed designs for the rail line.

As part of the government's plans to bring the entire country under the rail

network and establish a direct link between the under-construction Payra Sea Port and the capital, BR intended to construct the rail line from Bhangra to Payra.

The line, which will have 19 stations, will cost around Tk 41,797.6 crores, or \$4.93 billion. The proposed deadline of the project is June 2029.

BR authorities expect the direct link between the sea port and the capital as a way to boost its income by operating freight trains on the line.

BR has already sent the Preliminary Development Project Proposal to the Railways Ministry to forward it to the Economic Relations Division (ERD) to find financiers for the project, sources said.

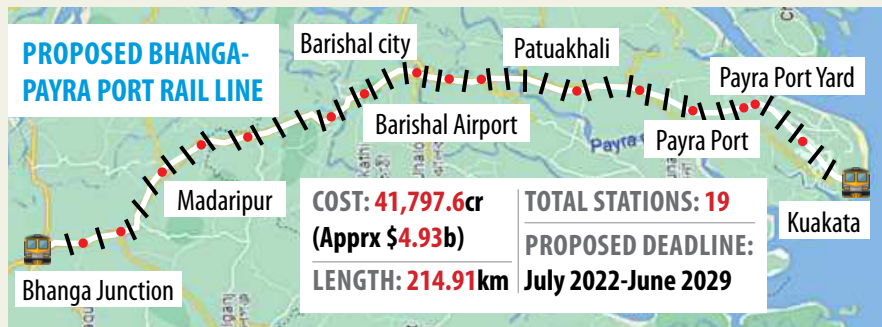
Bhangra has already been connected with the railway network from Faridpur and it will be linked directly with the capital once the ongoing Padma Bridge Rail Link Project -- under which a rail line from Dhaka to Jashore is being constructed -- is completed by June 2024.

TRANSPORT EXPERTS SHED DOUBT

However, transport experts have raised questions over the viability of the project, considering how much money is required for it.

Prominent transport expert Prof Shamsul Hoque said the government has decided to build a sea port in Payra

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STATIONS (Red dots): Bhangra Junction, Boroitola, Tekerhat, Madaripur, Kalkini, Gour-nadi, Ujirpur, Barishal Airport, Barishal city, Dapdapia, Bakerganj, Badarpur, Patuakhali, Kukua, Amtali, Payra Port, Payra Port Yard, Lemupara and Kuakata.

Recognition ever-elusive for martyred Harijans



PHOTO: STAR



Inside the colony, Harijan Sevak Samity built a memorial, whose plaque reads the names of the 10 martyred.

DIPAN NANDY

Today is November 22. On this day in 1971, 10 members of the Harijan community were picked up and killed by the Pakistan forces.

Their crime? Aiding freedom fighters.

They all lived in the Mirin Jilla Harijan City Colony in the capital's Aga Sadek Lane. But despite their valiant efforts and eventual tragedy, they're yet to get recognised as freedom fighters 50 years on. Instead,

losing the prime bread-earners, their families have lived this half-a-century mired in misfortune.

During the Liberation War, locals of the Harijan colony helped out freedom fighters in whatever way they could, up to varying degrees of danger. From supplying food to even carrying arms inside brooms.

But as news of this got to the aggressors' camp, on November 21 midnight, the Pakistan forces picked up 10 Harijans. They could never be traced again.

They are: Mahabir Lal Samund, Nandu Lal, Anowar Lal, Ishwar Lal, Khalbal Das, Ghashita Das, Sankar Das Hela, Nanda Lal, Lalu Das, and Ramcharan.

As homage to them, Harijan Sevak Samity has built a memorial inside the colony. On November 22 every year, relatives of the martyrs, along with residents of the colony, gather there to lay down floral tributes and host remembrance programmes.

Visiting the area yesterday, this

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

She's asleep on a footpath, completely unbothered by the chaotic Dhaka morning, wrapped up in her scarlet blanket. But as winter approaches, life is set to get more difficult for homeless children like her across the capital. This photo was taken from Bailey Road area yesterday.

Four workers die in Dhaka, N'ganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least four workers died in the capital and Narayanganj over the last two days.

In Dhaka, two persons died from electrocution and two others sustained minor injuries while working at an under-construction house in Badda yesterday afternoon.

The deceased are Ariful Islam Sohel (28), owner of Ma Engineering Workshop at Satarkul area; and Jahangir Alam (32), his employee. Nine workers were welding metal frame of a shed of the house when four of them got electrocuted around 2:00pm.

Two of them were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared them dead around 3:00pm," said one Md Hossain, who took them to DMCH.

Meanwhile, two of the four workers, who were injured in a fire at City Auto Rice Mill in Narayanganj on Saturday, have died at a Dhaka hospital.

Hazrat Ali (50) succumbed to his injuries around 10:00pm on Saturday while Belayet Hossain (60) died around 9:00am yesterday at the Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery.

"Hazrat had 99 percent burn injuries and Belayet 95 percent," said Dr Aiyub Hossain, resident surgeon of the institute. Another injured, Sirajul Islam (60), is in a critical state at the burn institute with 65 percent burns while Md Rana (45), a security guard of the mill, is undergoing treatment at a private hospital.

Flames engulfed the mill located at Rupganj upazila after a boiler pipe exploded due to excessive heat while the workers were packing rice husk around 2:30pm on Saturday.

Tk 1.58CR GRAFT Court frames charges against ex-MP Mizanur

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against former Awami League lawmaker of Khulna-2 Mizanur Rahman in a case filed over amassing wealth worth Tk 1.58 crore illegally.

The former lawmaker, now on bail, pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after Judge Mohammed Ali Hussain of the Special Judge's Court-3 of Dhaka read out the charges to him.

Earlier in the day, the judge dismissed the petition submitted for discharging him from the charges. The judge fixed December 21 for starting trial.

On March 8 in 2018, ACC launched an investigation against Mizanur over allegations of acquiring wealth illegally.

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