

2 Rohingya

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Salam said. “They were taken to Teknaf Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared them dead.”

The bodies were sent to Cox’s Bazar Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsies.

A total of 20,000 yaba pills, two firearms, a magazine and eight bullets were also recovered from the scene, the Rab official claimed.

Mouth ulcers

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TREATMENT

Ulcers will disappear faster if they are not irritated or interfered with.

It, therefore, may be a good idea to avoid chewing on the side of the mouth where you have an ulcer.

You can use over-the-counter painkillers to reduce the discomfort caused by the ulcer. Anti-inflammatories fight infection as well as reduce pain.

Inflammation can also be reduced by rinsing the ulcer with warm salty water. Saltwater solution will also gently disinfect your mouth ulcer.

But if the ulcer is too painful and is unusually big, you should definitely see a doctor.

CANCER RISK

Mouth ulcers are usually benign, and are not a symptom of cancer.

However, those that do not go away can be a rare symptom of oral cancer.

Two killed

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said he along with eight UP members and several others was going to Bhola Sadar upazila from Madanpur union under Daulatkhan upazila by a trawler.

When the trawler reached Nasirmajhi channel of the Meghna river, a group of criminals reached there by a speedboat and opened fire.

Injured by a bullet, Khorshed was taken to Bhola Sadar Hospital.

Nirupam Sarkar, resident medical officer at the hospital, said the injured died before being brought to the hospital.

ANOTHER KILLED IN TANGAIL

The deceased in Tangail was identified as Tota Sheikh, 40.

His brother Rafiq Sheikh, who was also injured in the violence, told journalists that being supporters of Awami League, they were campaigning for the local AL chairman candidate in the UP elections.

However, the former president of Doptior union Chhatra League, Saifuddin, alleged that they were not working in favour of the AL candidate and they had an altercation yesterday afternoon, he added.

In the evening, a group of people, led by Saifuddin, attacked them, injuring several people, including Tota, said Rafiq.

SM Musa, assistant superintendent of police (Mirzapur Circle) in Tangail, said Tota was declared dead after locals rushed him to Doulatpur Upazila Health Complex in Manikganj.

He said another injured was sent to Manikganj General Hospital.

This newspaper could not reach Saifuddin for comments as he did not answer calls.

The third phase of UP polls will be held tomorrow.

French army convoy halted by Burkina protests on the move

AFP, Ouagadougou

A French military convoy heading to Mali has resumed its trek through Burkina Faso after being delayed for more than a week by protests, the French army said yesterday.

The supply convoy of several dozen vehicles arrived in Africa at Ivory Coast last week and has to transit through Burkina Faso and Niger before arriving in central Mali.

Its destination is a base at Gao -- a hub of France’s Barkhane operation, which is shoring up allies in the Sahel against a jihadist insurgency that began in northern Mali nearly a decade ago.

“The French convoy resumed its journey last night with a Burkina police escort and is heading smoothly for the Nigerien border, which it will reach today. It will then arrive in Niamey (the Nigerien capital) as scheduled,” French military headquarters spokesman Colonel Pascal Lanni told AFP.

After entering Burkina’s territory last week, the convoy was slowed by protesters at Bobo-Dioulasso, the country’s second largest city, and then in Ouagadougou, the capital.

On November 19, several thousand demonstrators blocked the convoy at Kaya, about 100 kilometres (60 miles) north of Ouagadougou.

The following day, four people suffered gunshot wounds in Kaya, in circumstances that remain unclear -- French and Burkinabe soldiers fired warning shots to disperse demonstrators.

The convoy on Thursday was stationed in a military area 30 kilometres (18 miles) northeast of Ouagadougou, pending the outcome of talks between the government and the protest organisers to let the trucks leave for Niger.



A student (R) receives food from a delivery man at a university that is under restrictions following a recent coronavirus outbreak in Hangzhou, in China's eastern Zhejiang province yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

UN alarmed over reported attack on Libyan court

REUTERS, Tripoli

The UN mission to Libya expressed alarm yesterday about a reported attack on a court where Saif al-Islam Gaddafi’s lawyer said armed men stopped him from lodging an appeal against his disqualification from next month’s presidential election.

The elections commission disqualified Saif al-Islam, son of the late Libyan dictator, and 24 others on Wednesday from the December 24 election, which is part of a peace

process meant to end a decade of turmoil but has stirred fears of renewed conflict.

Gaddafi’s lawyer, Khaled al-Zaidi, said in a video that armed men had raided the court in the southern city of Sebha, one of only three registration centres, and stopped him entering to lodge his client’s appeal.

The United Nations Support Mission in Libya said it was alarmed by the reported attack on the appeal court in Sebha, strongly condemned any form of electoral-related violence,

and reiterated that the electoral process must be protected.

“The Mission reiterates its call for holding transparent, fair and inclusive elections on 24 December,” it said.

Rival camps are disputing the election rules and the eligibility of candidates, threatening to derail the vote and with it the U.N.-backed peace process.

Sebha is under the control of a group allied to the eastern-based Libyan National Army force commanded by Khalifa Haftar, another of the main

candidates.

The Justice Ministry in Tripoli said an armed group had forced everyone to leave the court building.

Gaddafi’s candidacy was rejected on the basis of a 2015 conviction in absentia by a Tripoli court for war crimes committed during the fighting that ousted his father in 2011.

He has spent the last decade in the mountain town of Zintan, where his captors took him after he was seized trying to flee Libya during the uprising.

Kyrgyzstan detains 15 in ‘coup plot’ before vote

AFP, Bishkek

Security services in Kyrgyzstan said yesterday they had detained 15 “active members” of a coup plot involving lawmakers and former officials ahead of a parliamentary vote at the weekend.

The detained were part of a plan to get “1,000 aggressive young people” to protest the results of the vote, the state committee for national security said in a statement.

“After the announcement of the results of the upcoming parliamentary elections...this group planned to organise mass protests in (the capital) Bishkek and subsequently to aggravate the situation, provoking clashes with the forces of law and order and further violent seizure of power,” the statement said.

Security services “obtained irrefutable evidence of the criminal activity of a group of persons under the leadership of certain destructive political forces, including deputies of the (parliament) and former high-ranking officials.”

Without naming the detained, the committee also said it had “found and seized firearms, ammunition and drugs” in a raid on the alleged group’s office.

Kyrgyzstan, a poor, mountainous Central Asian country which has seen three presidents overthrown since its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, hopes to avoid further instability from the first parliamentary vote since unrest brought the current leader, Sadyr Japarov, to power last year.

After rising to the presidency from a prison cell during the last post-vote

crisis, Japarov pledged to hold free and fair elections.

But electoral authorities have already excluded one candidate and fined another, both of whom are regarded as independent voices in the outgoing parliament.

The president was serving a sentence for hostage-taking prior to his release amid the protests over alleged vote-buying by pro-government parties last year.

He has always insisted that the charges were a punishment for his campaign to nationalise a key gold mine upon which the largely resource-poor economy depends.

The new administration moved in May to seize the Kumtor mine from the Canadian company that controlled it, Centerra Gold, citing environmental violations.

Philippines reopens to vaccinated tourists next week

AFP, Manila

The Philippines will welcome back fully-vaccinated tourists from most countries next week, the government said yesterday, over 20 months after shutting its borders to keep out the coronavirus.

Falling Covid-19 infections and rising vaccine coverage will allow the country to revive its battered tourism sector with the December 1 reopening, President Rodrigo Duterte’s spokesman Karlo Nograles told reporters.

Fully vaccinated tourists from 157 countries will not be quarantined if they test negative for the virus just before their flight and if they have not travelled to countries with high infection rates in the previous two weeks.

A list of approved countries

provided by Nograles, excludes China, the Philippines’ fastest-growing tourist market, as well as Taiwan and India.

But it includes Manila’s remaining top-10 tourism sources, which include the United States, South Korea, Japan, Australia, Canada, Britain, and Germany.

The list allows the resumption of visa-free travel for short visits of under 30 days to nationals from the 157 countries who already enjoyed permit-free entry to the Philippines before the pandemic began.

“This is really our chance and opportunity to rebound the economy,” he added.

Tourism is a major driver of the Southeast Asian country’s economy, accounting for nearly 13 percent of gross domestic product in 2019, when more than eight million people visited, official data shows.

support from administration and police in every drive”, the official said.

Following the death of two elephants in the last 10 days in the Mymensingh region, a six-member “Elephant Conservation Committee”, headed by Assistant Conservator of Forest Md Harun-Or-Rashid, has been formed on Monday.

The committee will monitor the elephants’ movement, patrol in the elephants’ visiting areas, and create awareness among the local people to save these gentle giants, said sources.

First ‘robotaxis’

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The roll-out is a significant step forward for the driverless ambitions of Chinese tech giant Baidu and start-up Pony.ai, who were given the green light to deploy the cars on Thursday.

But it is expected to be years before the taxis operate fully without human intervention, due to regulations and safety requirements.

Developers are hoping Chinese consumers -- who have embraced e-commerce, online payments and other digital solutions -- will quickly get used to the sensation of travelling in a car without a driver.

Pony.ai co-founder Peng Jun said the key to moving the industry forward is “policy, technology and public acceptance”.

More than 500,000 trips have already been made in Pony.ai’s robotaxis during earlier testing stages, the Toyota-backed start-up said.

Passengers using Baidu’s “Apollo Go” cars must download an app called “Luobo kuaipao” -- meaning “radish run” -- and can hail a cab at one of 600 pick-up and drop-off points.

Sixty-seven Baidu taxis are on the roads in Beijing charging just over two yuan (\$0.30) for a 5.9-kilometre (3.66-mile) journey.

Jolt sends out

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and take steps to make them resilient, he said.

Mehedi, a professor of civil engineering, who along with a group of students conducted a survey in Dhaka between 1999 and 2005, said unplanned urbanisation and construction of buildings ignoring the construction code were rampant.

According to experts, non-compliance with the building code by both the public and private sector builders has been making Dhaka vulnerable.

Prof Maksud Kamal, pro-vice chancellor (academic) of Dhaka University, said there are 13 small geological faults in Bangladesh that can cause an earthquake anytime.

A quake of around 7 magnitude in Srimangal happened in 1918 along a fault line, he said. There is a chance of another major quake from the fault line as over a century has passed without one.

Sixty-five percent of the land in Dhaka is on soft soil, said the professor of disaster science and management.

“Structures on soft soil are particularly vulnerable as waves of tremor remain active for longer in soft soil,” said prof Maksud.

He urged construction firms to strictly follow the building codes.

In most cases, people do not follow the BNBC, he said, adding that there is a lack of preparation for rescue operations in case of an earthquake.

He said many buildings in Dhaka have heavy overhangs and short columns, making them particularly vulnerable.

FB, others must

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Adern said the next step was to focus on prevention, looking at how people are finding or coming across hateful or terror-motivating content online and perhaps becoming radicalised.

“That’s where we are really interested in the ongoing work around algorithms and the role that we can all play to ensure that online platforms don’t become a place of radicalisation,” she said.

A Christchurch Call conference earlier this year was attended by the United States and Britain.

Free Mujib

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Bahini fighters attacked Hili from three sides. The northern part of Bengal was disconnected from the Rangpur Cantonment as a result of the attack. Pakistan lost a few tanks as well.

Mukti Bahini attacked Pakistan positions in Islampur and Chatuidubi, three miles away from Nawabganj in Rajshahi, with heavy mortars. Pakistan troops suffered heavy casualties in these battles.

Mukti Bahini attacked Rajshahi telephone exchange and disconnected Sharda Police Training Centre.

Muktibahini attacked Razakar base in Munshiganj and took captive four Razakars with weapons and ammunition.

Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com



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