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CEMENT

Demo for safe roads continue

Students check documents of vehicles, drivers at several places in city; police quiz leading protestor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students demonstrating for safer roads and half bus fare for them said they would continue with their demonstrations until their demands are met.

The nine-point demand includes ensuring justice for all killed in road accidents, alongside students, via speedy trials, compensation for the families of the deceased, half fare on all modes of public transports for students, safety for females on public transports, and establishment of a modern traffic system.

On Saturday, the students issued a 48-hour ultimatum to the government to meet their demands.

Yesterday, hundreds of students of various institutions in Dhanmondi, Mohammadpur and Lalmatia areas blocked the street in front of Rapa Plaza at Dhanmondi-27 intersection and checked documents of vehicles and licences of drivers. In many cases, they found that the helpers were driving in absence of drivers.

In two hours, police sued five vehicles and fined Tk 9,000.

The students put up placards with different slogans like: 'If you don't give a half pass, we will see how the vehicles are run', 'Why my brother died, the administration must answer', 'There is only one demand -- we want safe roads'.

Similar protests were also held in Kakrail, Rampura and Uttara areas.

Meanwhile, police yesterday picked up at least two demonstrators for interrogation.

A female student of Holy Cross College, who

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Students demanding safer roads stop a vehicle of Armed Police Battalion in the capital's Dhanmondi-27 area as the vehicle had no number plates. Since a Notre Dame College student was run over and killed by a garbage truck on Wednesday, they have been demonstrating on the streets and checking vehicles' documents and drivers' licences.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

BUSINESS

Investment summit gets underway

Investment opportunities have opened up in Bangladesh for its competitive wages, strategic location, stable policies, exchange rate and political situation, developing infrastructure and huge youth population, said Ahmad Kaikaus, principal secretary to the prime minister.

Besides, Bangladesh is making the transition from being a source of low-skilled workers to creating skilled professionals, which is important for investors, he said.

He made the comment at the two-day investment summit that began at the Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden yesterday. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the summit, joining virtually from her official residence Gono Bhavan.

STORY ON B1

Elephant tramples man accused of elephant killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man, accused in a case for killing an elephant earlier this month, was trampled to death by a herd of elephants in Cox's Bazar Chakaria on Saturday.

The deceased is Jane Alam, 35, son of Shamsul Alam of the upazila's Harbang area.

Shafiqul Islam, divisional forest officer of Chattogram Forest Division (south), said Alam had set up an electric trap to stop elephants from raiding his crops in the village.

On November 13, a male elephant walked into the trap and was killed. Its remains were then buried by the accused.

Later, the forest department filed a case against Alam and four others over the incident.

On Saturday evening, Alam along with some other locals went to see his crops when he was suddenly attacked by a herd of elephants. He was trampled and killed on the spot, the forest official said.

A spate of elephant killings has been reported in Sherpur, Chattogram and Cox's Bazar. In November alone, seven elephants were electrocuted and shot dead.

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in a study in 2016 found Bangladesh had 256 elephants.

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ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Bangladesh will stand by India: Qamaruzzaman

NOVEMBER 29, 1971
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

WORLD JURIST BODY DEMANDS DETAILS OF MUJIB'S TRIAL

The Pakistan government was called upon today to release details of the trial of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The demand came from the independent International Commission of Jurists which expressed its deep concern over the cloak of silence as to the trial.

In a statement, the commission said the Pakistan government's handling of the trial created unrest, fear and rumour to a limitless proportion.

The commission repeated its request to Pakistan President Yahya not to allow a death sentence to be carried out if the trial had already been held and Mujib been sentenced.


BANGLADESH WILL STAND BY INDIA

The Home Minister of Bangladesh Qamaruzzaman said today that 75 million people of Bangladesh would stand solidly by India against any attack by Pakistan.

On his return from extensive tour in the liberated areas inside Bangladesh, the minister said, "India is a peace-loving friendly country and the people of Bangladesh will not tolerate an attack on her by Yahya and his henchmen."

Referring to the border clash, he said that Pakistan had committed "naked aggression" on India by frequent violations of

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Chattogram Test on knife-edge

SPORTS REPORTER from Chattogram

It was an action-packed days' play as a total of 14 wickets fell yesterday during the ongoing first Test between Bangladesh and Pakistan at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram and the fourth day certainly has more suspense and drama in store.

Bangladesh started off brilliantly yesterday and headed for tea with a first innings lead of 44 runs, courtesy of Taijul Islam's superb seven-wicket haul. But when the umpires called off the day's play, 14 overs before the scheduled time due to bad light, Bangladesh were shaking at 39 for 4 in their second innings with Mushfiqur Rahim (12) and Yasir Ali (8) set to resume the fourth day under tremendous pressure.

With the total lead of 83 runs in the second innings,

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Archaeologists find 800-year old mummy in Peru



REUTERS, Lima

A team of experts has found a mummy estimated to be at least 800 years old on Peru's central coast, one of the archaeologists who participated in the excavation said on Friday.

The mummified remains were of a person from the culture that developed between the coast and mountains of the South American country. The mummy, whose gender was not identified, was discovered in the Lima region, said archaeologist Pieter Van Dalen Luna.

"The main characteristic of the mummy is that the whole body was tied up by ropes and with the hands covering the face, which would be part of the local funeral pattern," said Van Dalen Luna, from

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Gazipur mayor Zahangir sued for defamation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A man yesterday filed a defamation case against suspended Gazipur city mayor Mohammad Zahangir Alam for making derogatory comments on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Liberation War martyrs.

Atiqur Rahman, chairman of Antorjatik Bhasa Andolon Parishad, a cultural organisation in Gazipur, filed the Tk 100 crore defamation case against him with Gazipur Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court.

In the case statement,

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PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 29

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-10 12-45 3-45 5-19 7-00
JAMAAT 5-45 1-15 4-00 5-22 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Argentina to open Rohingya genocide case

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Argentinian judiciary has taken a historic decision of opening a court case against the Myanmar military, including army general Min Aung Hlaing, over genocide against the Rohingya.

On November 26, the Second Chamber of Argentina's Federal Criminal Court in Buenos Aires confirmed the step under the principle of universal jurisdiction, said the Burmese Rohingya Organisation UK (BROUK) yesterday.

Universal jurisdiction holds that some crimes are so horrific that they can be tried anywhere. This will be the first universal jurisdiction case related to the situation of the Rohingya.

BROUK first petitioned the Argentinian judiciary to open such a case in November 2019, two years after some 750,000 Rohingyas fled a military crackdown. The UN said it is the hallmark of genocide and a classic example of

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Traders gather winter vegetables like cauliflower and radishes at a market in Mohasthanagarh of Bugura's Shibganj upazila yesterday. Winter vegetables are flooding the markets across the country as farmers, who had planted early, are harvesting their crops now.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ABDUL MOMIN

Omicron keeps spreading

Borders slam shut as more countries rush to contain new Covid variant

AGENCIES

A new, heavily mutated Covid-19 variant spread across the globe yesterday, shutting borders, renewing curbs, and sparking fears for the fight against the nearly two-year-old coronavirus pandemic.

Dubbed Omicron, the strain has cast doubt on global efforts to battle the pandemic because of fears that it is highly infectious, forcing countries to reimpose measures many had hoped were a thing of the past.

Dutch health authorities said they had identified at least 13 cases of Omicron among 61 quarantined passengers who tested positive for coronavirus after arriving from South Africa.

"The investigation has not yet been completed. The new variant may be found in more test samples," the National Institute for Public Health warned.

Despite the alarm, in Austria tens of thousands rallied to protest against the government's introduction of compulsory vaccination -- the first EU country to do so.

Chancellor Alexander Schallenberg said it was "a minor interference" compared to the alternative for a country with one of the lowest vaccination rates in Western Europe.

With many European nations, including Germany and France, already bringing back curbs to counter surges in infections, Swiss voters broadly backed a proposed Covid pass law in a referendum yesterday.

In Britain, Health Secretary Avid Javid said new Covid rules will be enforced from tomorrow.

Mask-wearing will again be mandatory in shops and on public transport in England. All passengers arriving in Britain will have to take a PCR test and self-isolate until negative.

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