



A crimson sunset appears marking the end of the day, but not everyone has the luxury to enjoy the view. Just like these workers in the photo who are seen to be loading and unloading food products at Karnaphuli ghat in Chattogram. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

# Dating apps new way to extort money

## Say law enforcers after arresting 3

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Using dating apps like Tinder, Tantan and Mamba, criminals are extorting money from people by ensnaring and abducting them. Cyber and Special Crime Division of Detective Branch (DB) revealed the information to The Daily Star after conducting drives at different areas of the capital and arresting three people on Wednesday. The arrestees are Sonia Meher (18), her father Abdul Jalil Howlader (56), and their associate Yousuf Molla (43). Investigators said Sonia would first target men through the apps and develop a relationship. After some days, she would invite them to a location, where her father Jalil and Yousuf would be present. Once the target reached the location, Jalil and Yousuf would abduct and confine the man to a flat in Jatrabari, and take compromising photos. The cybercrime division arrested the three, after a victim on December 28 filed a case with

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## Elephant calf found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Forest Department in Cox's Bazar yesterday recovered body of an elephant calf from a foothill adjacent to Unchiprang Rohingya refugee camp in Whykong union of Teknaf upazila. "Some shepherds saw the calf lying on ground in the morning. They informed the forest officials, who rushed to the spot and found the calf dead," said Md Tareq Rahman, assistant forest conservator at Whykong range office of the Forest Department. Contacted, Sarwar Alam, divisional forest officer at Cox's South Forest Division, said, "The calf might have died moment after it was born or the mother elephant might have given birth to a dead calf." "Some people saw two elephants a few yards away from the spot where the calf's body was lying," he said. The forest officer also informed that sample from the calf's body has been collected for autopsy.

# 'Anchal' saving lives

## Parents await reopening of community-based initiative to protect children from drowning

NILIMA JAHAN

In low and middle-income countries, many children die every year by drowning, usually when the parents are occupied with household chores or wage-earning activities. According to World Health Organization (WHO), 43 percent of children die due to drowning. Every day, at least 30 children aged under five die by drowning. According to a 2017 WHO report, interventions like community-based institutional supervision during the parents' busiest hours have proved to be useful. Anchal, a community-based daycare centre in Bangladesh, operated by Centre for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh (CIPRB), has been helping prevent such incidents by providing institutional supervision for vulnerable age groups (under-five) from 9:00am to 1:00pm through trained caregivers. CIPRB's study also found that death by drowning has dropped by 86 percent in areas where Anchal's free of cost interventions are at play. "Anchal is a symbol of safety, security and mother's love. It's a day-care centre where parents drop their children at



PHOTO: COLLECTED

the start of the day and pick them up later, after they are done with the day's work," said Dr Aminur Rahman, deputy executive director of CIPRB. The project is currently supported by Royal National Lifeboat Institution and Bloomberg Philanthropies. Since its inception in 2012, Anchal has been serving around 75,000 children in 3,084 centres. However, following the government's decision to close educational institutions

for containing the spread of Covid-19 in March 2020, all Anchal centres remained closed. According to CIPRB data, at least 36 children between March 2020 and November 2021, all beneficiaries of the project, died in Barishal alone due to drowning. One of those kids was four-year-old Arifa of Kalapara upazila in Patuakhali. Arifa, the youngest of four siblings, drowned in a pond nearby her uncle's home in May 2020. She went there without informing her mother. According to Arifa's mother Rebeka, Arifa started going to the nearby Anchal centre some eight months before her death, during Rebeka's busy hours of maintaining the household. "If the centre was open, my daughter's fate could be different," said Rebeka. According to Nazmun Nahar Jhuma, locally known as "Anchal Ma" (child-caregiver), of Baliatali centre of Kalapara, all the parents are now eagerly waiting for the centres to reopen. "We are waiting for government orders to start all in-person activities at pre-schools," said Rehana Parveen, ECD specialist of the International Drowning Prevention and Research Division of CIPRB.

## Cop among three killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Three people were killed and another was injured in road accidents during the last two days, according to reports from our correspondent and a news agency. Our Patuakhali correspondent reports, a policeman was killed and his cousin injured in a road accident in the district yesterday. The accident took place when a truck without a number plate rammed a motorcycle they were on around 1:00pm at the Payra Bridge toll plaza on Patuakhali-Barishal highway, said police. The deceased – Shawkat Hossain (45) from Hijlatla village, Barishal – was a constable posted at Patuakhali Police Lines, they said. He was riding the motorbike towards Patuakhali from Barishal with his cousin Rafiqul Islam sitting on the pillion seat, said Dumki Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Abdus Salam. Rafiqul was admitted to Barishal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, said the OC, adding that the truck was seized. UNB from Faridpur adds, two motorcyclists were killed on Dhaka-Khulna highway in Gajaria area of Nagarkanda as their bike was hit by a bus on Friday night.



## A TREAT INDEED

The squirrels race and hurry to find their winter meals, but not this one. This little fellow was seen treating itself to a star fruit, complementing the greeneries around it and serving as a treat to spectators' eyes as well. The photo was taken from Cumilla on Wednesday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## PADMA RIVER Measurement of water level starts

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Monitoring of water level at different points of the Padma and Ganges, the two major rivers of the neighbouring countries, started yesterday by Bangladesh and India under the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty 1996. Water Development Board (WDB) sources said the flow of water in the mighty Padma is much better than that of the previous years. Two Indian experts – Dipankar Das, executive engineer of central river commission, India, and Prakash S, assistant director of Indian central water commission, started recording water level at Hardinge Bridge point, about 2,500 feet upstream of the Padma river, Md Roich Uddin, executive engineer of Hydrology, Pabna, told The Daily Star. At the same time, a four-member team from Bangladesh, headed by executive engineer Rashidul Kabir, has already reached India and began measuring water level at the downstream of the Farakkah point, he said. Like every year, Bangladesh and India will record water level at different points of the Ganges and Padma from January 1 to May 31.

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### e-Tender Notice No. 17/2021-22

Memo No. PD/Dhaka Project/21 Date: 28/12/2021

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works.

| Tender ID | Name of works                                                       | Tender document last selling date & time | Tender closing date & time | Tender opening date & time |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 631210    | Repair/renovation work of basement (1 & 2) of Jamuna Bhaban, Dhaka. | 18/01/2022 15:00 hrs                     | 19/01/2022 15:00 hrs       | 19/01/2022 15:00 hrs       |

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

**Md. Mahidur Rahman**  
Project Director

GD-03