



MYANMAR BORDER

Two mortar shells land in Bandarban

STAR REPORT

Two mortar shells from Myanmar landed on Tumbru border of Ghumdhum union in Bandarban's Naikhyongchari yesterday afternoon. Police said the incident, which created panic among locals, occurred near border pillars numbers 34 and 35 around 2:30pm, adding that the shells did not explode.

Tariqul Islam, superintendent of police in Bandarban, told The Daily Star the two mortar shells from Myanmar were fired half a kilometre from the Zero Line (No Man's Land zones) in Bangladesh.

One landed next to the North Jame Masjid in ward 2. The other landed around 200 meters from the mosque, he said.

He added the two mortar shells were most likely "not targeted towards us".

"It landed on our border possibly due to firing by an insurgent group with Myanmar's Border Guard Force. No one was injured in the incident."

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The Dhaka North City Corporation installing sewers in West Tejturi Bazar area without keeping any space for city dwellers' movement. People were risking injuries while crossing the area yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

ACTOR SOHEL MURDER

Trial finally begins after two decades

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The trial of the Sohel Chowdhury murder case began yesterday – two long decades after the popular film actor was gunned down in the capital's Banani.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of Dhaka's Speedy Trial Tribunal-2 recorded the statement of Towhidul Islam Chowdhury, brother of the victim and also the plaintiff, for over an hour and half.

In his statement, Towhidul sought justice for his brother's murder.

After that, the defence for two of the accused – Sanzidul Islam Emon and Adnan Siddiqui – cross-examined the witness on different points.

Towhidul narrated what he had heard from the victim's driver Md Selim, who was with Sohel when he was shot dead on the night of December 18, 1998.

Selim first informed the then security guard of Towhidul's house. Around 4:00am, the guard told him that a gang had shot Sohel at the Trumps Club in Abedin Tower in Dhaka's Banani Road-17.

"Then I went to Dhaka Medical

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Russia destroys ammo depot in Ukraine

Shoots down MiG-29 aircraft in Donetsk; towns near Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant shelled

AGENCIES

The Russian defence ministry said it had destroyed a large ammunition depot in Ukraine's Dnipropetrovsk region that had contained US-made HIMARS rocket systems and shells for M777 Howitzers.

The announcement in June that Washington would provide the rocket systems, which are lightweight and easily manoeuvrable while generally considered more accurate than other systems, was considered a major battlefield gain for Ukraine.

The Russian Air Force late on Saturday also said it shot down a MiG-29 aircraft in the Donetsk region in the Donbas, destroying six missile and artillery weapons depots in the Donetsk, Mykolaiv and Kherson regions.

Meanwhile, fighting has continued in the south and east of Ukraine, with Ukrainian forces pushing ahead with a counter-offensive centred around the city of Kherson, which was captured by Russian troops shortly after the invasion was launched on February 24.

Ukrainian strategy has focussed on destroying four bridges Russian forces must hold to supply Kherson, located at the southern end of the Dnipro river.

In the eastern Donbas region, Russian forces were continuing to target the strategic city of Bakhmut, which was shelled again, according to Russian a Ukrainian military report.

Still, Ukraine has been able to stave off the Russian advance at Bakhmut and near Sloviansk and Kramatorsk, according to the military.

Russian artillery also fired at Ukrainian towns across the river from the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant overnight, local officials said yesterday, adding to residents' anguish as reports of shelling around the plant fuelled fears of a radiation disaster.

Russia's defence ministry said yesterday there was more Ukrainian shelling of the plant over the past 24 hours, just a day after Moscow and Kyiv traded accusations of

Reports of shelling around the plant fuelled fears of a radiation disaster, say Ukrainian officials

targeting Europe's biggest nuclear plant, which has prompted grave international concern.

Ukrainian nuclear company Energoatom said it had no new information about attacks on the plant, reports Reuters.

Captured by Russian troops in March, but still run by Ukrainian staff, the complex on the southern front line of the war has been one of the major hotspots in the six-month-old conflict.

Regional governor Oleksandr Starukh said on Telegram yesterday that Russian

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Dysfunctional alliance can't continue

Jamaat chief says on 20-party combine

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman has said the BNP does not want to make the 20-party combine effective and such a "dysfunctional alliance" cannot continue year after year.

At a virtual meeting of Jamaat on Saturday, the Jamaat chief said, "We have been in an alliance for a long time. You might be thinking that something has happened... It was an alliance till 2006. On October 28, 2006, the alliance failed to fulfil its due responsibilities. Bangladesh lost its way that day ..."

October 28, 2006 was the last day of the BNP-led four-party alliance government. A clash erupted between supporters of the then ruling coalition and the opposition Awami League, leaving a few people killed.

The Jamaat ameer also said, "This kind of dysfunctional alliance cannot continue year after year. The other alliance partners, especially the main party [BNP], have no intention of making this alliance active. This is very clear to us..."

He also said they discussed this issue with the BNP with an open mind. "Now everyone will do their best from their positions ... we have

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'THEFT' OF 89 MT GRAIN

Food official suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

Ziaur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Bonarpara Local Storage Depot in Gaibandha's Saghatapazila, has been suspended for allegedly misappropriating around 89 tonnes of food grain and 4,000 empty jute sacks.

Saghatapazila Food Controller AHM Touhidullah said, "We earlier received many corruption allegations against Ziaur. We informed the higher authorities of the matter and they withdrew and attached him to the District Food Controller Office in the second week of this month."

"Food Inspector Parvez Hossain was supposed to join his post within August 17, but Ziaur did not give him the charge. Later, we formed a committee, and the charge was handed over to Parvez on August 24."

Touhidullah said during the handover, they found that around 89 tonnes of food grain – 67 tonnes of rice, 21 tonnes of paddy, 750kg of wheat – and 4,000 empty jute sacks had gone missing from the depot.

After that, Ziaur, a food inspector, was suspended for his alleged involvement in misappropriating the grain, he said.

Touhidullah added that a case was filed against Ziaur with Saghatapazila Police Station in this connection on 24 August.

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Mars isn't entirely red, scientists say

Planet includes green rocks

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Mars is not entirely red, a new study has indicated. Often referred to as the red planet, popular depictions of Mars call to mind red rocks, stretching on forever.

But Nasa's Perseverance rover found something else besides – something green. As it arrived at Mars's Jezero crater, looking for information on its past as a lake, it found surprising rocks, scientists say.

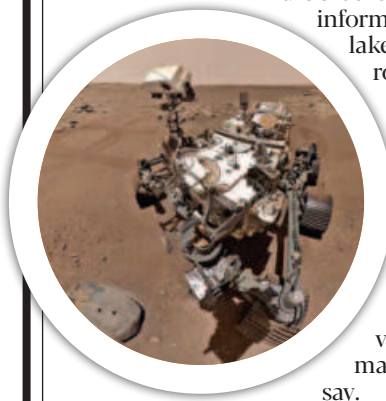
First, scientists were startled to find that the ground was not made up only of sedimentary rocks that had accumulated during the crater's time as a lake. There were also volcanic rocks, and many of them, scientists say.

What's more, those rocks are made up of chunks of olivine. That is a muddier and less shining version of peridot, which gives the beaches of Hawaii their deep green colour.

The finding is one of many that came from analysis of early data sent back to Earth from Perseverance, the Nasa Mars rover that arrived on the planet in 2020.

There are similar rocks to those examined in the new study that can be found on Earth, scientists say – but they are generally blasted by billions of years of wind, water and the rest of their busy lives

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Tea workers return to work after 15 days

Many of them say Tk-50 hike inconsistent with current prices of essentials

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

After a 15-day work abstention, tea workers resumed work for a daily wage of Tk 170 yesterday morning.

Majority of them expressed their dissatisfaction over the Tk 50 pay hike and said they resumed work as they had no alternative.

"My family and I ate rice once a day for the last 15 days. I even could not purchase medicine for my father. I have no option but to resume work," said Sukhia Ghatual, a worker in Moulvibazar's Sreemangal.

"We have resumed work as per the directives of the prime minister. But Tk 50 hike will not make any change in our lives," said Sadhana Bauri, another tea worker in the area.

Jyotirmoy Kanu, former president of the University Tea Students' Union, said, "The wage has been fixed after a discussion with the tea estate owners, not the workers."

"We request the prime minister to revise the wage after talking to the workers."

Meanwhile, the tea estates went back to normalcy yesterday as thousands of workers were seen working as usual.

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After a 15-day work abstention, workers are seen plucking tea leaves at a garden in Sylhet's Malnichhara yesterday. They resumed work after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, at a meeting on Saturday, directed tea estate owners to raise their daily wage to Tk 170 from Tk 120. Tea workers across the country had been demanding a daily wage of Tk 300.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

ROHINGYA CAMP

It operation to curb narco trade, crimes

Says home boss

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Joint operation would be conducted in the Rohingya camps to prevent criminal activities and the spread of contraband drugs, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said yesterday.

Along with police and members of Rab, BGB and Ansar, army personnel would join the operation, if necessary, he told journalists at the secretariat after the fifth meeting of the National Committee on Coordination, Management and Law and Order of Displaced Myanmar Citizens.

The foreign minister, secretaries of the foreign and disaster management and relief ministries, members of the Office of Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner and intelligence agencies were present there.

The home boss said, "We are witnessing bloodshed in the camps for no reason, while drugs are being

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