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## Six killed in 2 road accidents

STAR REPORT

Four people were killed and four others injured when a vegetable-laden truck rammed a CNG-run autorickshaw and then ploughed into a vegetable market in Narsingdi's Raipura upazila yesterday.

Three of the victims -- Siddik Mia, 55, Md Siddik, 62, and Abul Kalam, 40 -- died on the spot, said Nur Hossain, sub-inspector of Bhairab highway police.

The other dead, Abul Kalam, 55, died on the way to a hospital in Dhaka, and was later brought back to the upazila, said Monzur Elahi, chairman of Mirzapur union.

Police and locals said the truck was headed towards Kishoreganj's Bhairab from Dhaka.

While crossing Raipura's Mahmudabad area on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway, the truck hit a CNG-run auto-rickshaw, leaving two of its passengers dead on the spot.

As the driver lost control of the vehicle, it ploughed through a vegetable market, leaving one vendor

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PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

The Hari river, which was once 300 metres in width, now looks like a mere canal due to grabbing and siltation in Khulna's Dumuria upazila. For this, farmers are facing shortage of irrigation water. The photo was taken from Shalgatia bridge recently.

## Power price to go up soon

### BERC lowers LPG price by Tk 35 per 12kg cylinder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission will soon announce a fresh hike in bulk power price, said BERC Chairman Abdul Jalil yesterday.

"We are at the final stage. The announcement will come in due time," he said while announcing the LPG price for October.

On May 18, BERC held a public hearing over an application of the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB). During the hearing, the technical committee of BERC recommended around 58 percent hike in bulk electricity price.

According to Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission Act 2003, the authorities must announce the revised price within 90 working days from the date of the hearing.

The bulk power price is set for the BPDB, which supplies electricity at this price to the supplier companies at the consumer level.

In the recommendation of BERC technical committee, it was mentioned that the implementation of the bulk power price could not be possible unless the price was increased at the consumer level.

Asked about the announcement, BERC chairman said, "We are going through a judgment [on the hearing] of 50 to 60 pages, of which every word must be checked. We are taking some time for that."

**12KG LPG PRICE SLASHED BY TK 35**  
Meanwhile, BERC slashed the price of private operators' liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) by Tk 35 per 12 kg. The price of each 12kg cylinder is now Tk 1,200.

The announcement came in a virtual press conference yesterday.

BERC lowered the LPG price by Tk 2.87 per kg for October, which reduced the price to Tk 100.01 per kg.

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# Major setback for Moscow

Ukraine claims full control of Lyman, eyes further gains

AGENCIES

Ukraine yesterday claimed full control of the eastern logistics hub of Lyman, Kyiv's most significant battlefield gain in weeks, providing a potential staging post for further attacks to the east while heaping further pressure on the Kremlin.

The stinging setback for Russian President Vladimir Putin came after he proclaimed the annexation of four regions covering nearly a fifth of Ukraine on Friday, an area that includes Lyman. Kyiv and the West have condemned the proclamation as an illegitimate farce.

"As of 1230 (0930 GMT), Lyman is fully cleared," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said in a short video clip on his Telegram channel. "Thank you to our troops ... Glory to Ukraine!"

Russia's defence ministry said on Saturday that it was pulling troops out of the area "in connection with the creation of a threat of encirclement".

It did not mention the city in its daily update on fighting in Ukraine yesterday, although it said Russian forces had destroyed seven artillery and missile depots in the Ukrainian regions of Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia, Mykolaiv and Donetsk.

Russian forces captured

Lyman from Ukraine in May and had used it as a logistics and transport hub for its operations in the north of the Donetsk region. Losing it is Russia's largest battlefield loss since Ukraine's lightning counteroffensive in the northeastern Kharkiv region last month.

Serhiy Gaidai, governor of the Luhansk region that neighbours

**"Throughout this week, more Ukrainian flags have been raised in the Donbas. There will be even more in a week."**

**Volodymyr Zelensky, Ukrainian President**

Donetsk, said control over Lyman could prove a "key factor" in helping Ukraine reclaim lost territory in his region, whose full capture Moscow announced in early July after weeks of grinding advances.

Britain's Ministry of Defence described Lyman as operationally important as it commanded a key road crossing over the Siverskyi Donets River, behind which Russia has been attempting to consolidate its defences.

Russia likely experienced heavy

casualties during the withdrawal, the ministry said in a statement. Russia had 5,000 to 5,500 troops in the city before the Ukrainian attack, a spokesperson for Ukraine's eastern forces said on Saturday.

The areas Putin claimed as annexed - the Donbas regions of Donetsk and Luhansk plus Kherson and Zaporizhzhia in the south - form a swath of territory equal to about 18 percent of Ukraine's total surface land area.

"Over the past week, the number of Ukrainian flags in Donbas has increased. There will be even more a week's time," Zelensky said on Saturday in an evening address.

The battlefield setbacks have triggered a fresh wave of criticism within Russia of how its military operation is being handled. Britain's defence ministry said that was likely to intensify with further setbacks, reports Reuters.

The United States, whose military aid is widely seen as crucial to the counteroffensive successes, hailed the latest Ukrainian gain.

"We're very encouraged by what we're seeing right now," US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said on Saturday, telling a news conference that Lyman's capture would create new problems for Russia's military.

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## GM Quader ousts JP chief of Mymensingh

RASHIDUL HASAN

In another development within the Jatiya Party, Chairman GM Quader yesterday relieved KR Islam of acting president post of Mymensingh district JP and the party's primary membership.

The decision came into effect immediately, the party said.

This was the third incident since September 14 that the JP chairman fired its leaders following conflict between JP chief patron and opposition leader Raushan Ershad and Quader, party insiders said.

On September 14, JP Presidium Member Moshir Rahman Ranga was removed from all party posts. Three days later, Ziaul Haque Mridha, an adviser to the JP chairman, met the same fate.

The three JP leaders were working in favour of Raushan, said party insiders.

According to the party charter, the chairman is empowered to make any decision unilaterally. For this, the JP boss can form, reconstitute, and scrap any committee at any level even if the action goes against the other parts of the charter.

Raushan recently said she has suspended the "special power" of JP chairman, citing it contradictory to democracy and the constitution. She also announced reinstatement of the party's all leaders, including Ranga.

The rift between Raushan, widow of former

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## Scientists find star graveyard in galaxy

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK



Scientists have found a vast "graveyard" of dead stars that stretches three times the height of the Milky Way.

The collection of former suns was discovered in the first map of the "galactic underworld", which charts the various remnants of stars that have since become black holes

and neutron stars.

It shows that many of the objects that were once inside our own galaxy have been thrown out of it. And they are arrayed in a "fundamentally different distribution and structure" to the Milky Way as we see it, according to the researchers who first found them.

The Milky Way must have formed billions of stars since it was young. But until now, they have been largely hidden, thrown out into the darkness of interstellar space.

There, they lay unseen by astronomers. But now scientists have been able to reconstruct the full lifecycle of those long dead corpses, and find out where they may now be.

"One of the problems for finding these ancient objects is that, until now, we had no idea where to look," said Sydney Institute for Astronomy's Peter Tuthill, co-author on the paper. "The oldest neutron stars and black holes were created when the galaxy was younger and shaped differently, and then subjected to complex changes spanning billions of years."

"It has been a major task to model all of this to find them."

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## FIRST ON-GRID SOLAR PLANT

# Workers unpaid for 4 months, many quitting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

As many as 18 officials and employees of a private company working at the country's first on-grid solar plant in Sarishabari upazila have not been paid for the last four months.

A number of the officials and workers of Sarishabari 3MW Engreen Solar Plant, installed at Power Development Board (PDB) premises in the upazila, have left their jobs as the private firm failed to provide their salaries in time.

Engineer Anwarul Kabir, project manager, said as per their agreement, the PDB was supposed to pay their bills in every two months, but it has not paid the bills even after six months.

It is obvious that if the workers don't get paid in time, they will leave and the plant might have to stop power generation due to shortage of manpower, he added.

The 20-year-life span Engreen Solar Plant, set up by Concord Progoti Consortium Ltd (CPCL), started generating power for 12 hours from sunrise to sunset in August, 2017, with a view to reduce loadshedding in the upazila.

The company started its operation with 25 employees and seven of them have already left for not getting salaries in time.

According to Engreen Solar Plant Office, the company is paying Tk 5 lakh monthly for staff salary, by selling

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On the occasion of Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Hindu community, an elaborate and well-decorated entrance to Uttara Sarbojonin Puja Mandap was made. The festival began on Saturday and yesterday was Maha Saptami. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## PM returns from Washington tomorrow

### Set to make a brief stopover in London

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will return home tomorrow, wrapping up her 18-day official visit to the UK and the USA.

A chartered flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, carrying the PM and her entourage, is scheduled to depart from Washington DC around 6:00pm local time (Bangladesh time 4:00am) tomorrow.

On her way back, she will make a short stopover in London.

Hasina went to London on September 15 on an official visit to the UK, mainly to attend the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II and the ascension reception hosted by King Charles III.

On September 19, she left London for New York.

During her stay there, Sheikh Hasina addressed the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly on September 23. She also took part in several events on the sidelines.