

### 3 Bangladeshis of a family die in Canberra car crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A family of three Bangladeshis, visiting Australia, were killed in a car crash in Canberra on Sunday, reported Daily Mail Australia.

The deceased are Shahidul Islam, 61, Razia Sultana, 54, and their son Roni, 21, reported our Munshiganj correspondent.

The couple's elder son Rashed, who is in his 20s, was driving the car. He was rushed to Canberra Hospital where he remains in the ICU in a critical condition.

Police confirmed that the three who died at the scene on Coppins Crossing Road were visiting Australia on tourist visas, said the report.

Emergency responders had to cut the vehicle to bring out the family after a head-on collision with a van.

Shahid was a retired upazila fisheries officer at Shirajdikhan upazila and Sultana was a retired primary school teacher. Roni had just passed 10th grade, reported our Munshiganj correspondent.

"The point at which the collision occurred, the signage is ambiguous, it's pretty much a construction track being used almost as an arterial road," Weston Creek Community Council's

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PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ

**MISTY MOUNTAIN TOP ...** A part of the Himalayas, Kanchenjunga is the third highest mountain in the world and lies between the border areas of Nepal and India's Sikkim. Its peak can be seen from Panchagarh, especially Tentulia upazila, during the months of October to December. When the clouds clear and the conditions are favourable, Kanchenjunga makes for an exquisite site. The surrounding fog, greenery, and mountains only add to the mystical beauty of the summit. People, including nature lovers and photographers, rush to Tentulia to relish the view. The photo was taken from Dak-Bungalow area of the upazila yesterday.

### POWER GRID FAILURE

## Not following procedure caused it

PGCB probe finds

ASIFUR RAHMAN

Three factors caused the national grid failure on October 4, found the probe body of Power Grid Company of Bangladesh.

It found that the main factor was that the power distribution companies did not reduce load as per the National Load Dispatch Centre's (NLDC's) instruction.

Probe committee members told The Daily Star yesterday that the other factors were Ghorashal substation transforming power above its capacity and tripping; and at the same time demand increasing because a private steel mill started consuming electricity directly from the national grid without informing NLDC.

"The National Load Dispatch Centre told the distribution companies - DPDC, DESCO, PDB and REB - to shed load instantly, but they failed to do so and the grid couldn't take the load at 2:05pm [on October 4]," a member of the probe body told The Daily Star, wishing anonymity.

Yeakub Elahi Chowdhury, the chief of the probe committee, told this correspondent that the grid failed due to distribution companies not lessening the load in due time.

"All those things happened, but the main reason behind it was that they did not follow the NLDC's instruction," he said.

The power distribution companies did not heed to the NLDC's instruction. All four companies yesterday formed separate internal committees to identify what happened and verify PGCB's claim.

Referring to the probe report, a source at the power division said the grid failure was a result of a lack of coordination between the NLDC and distribution companies.

He said the Ghorashal grid substation on October 4 had the capacity to transform 900MW, but it was dealing with about 1,100MW, and tripped.

After connection between the eastern and western parts of the grid was lost, the NLDC failed to get distributors to decrease load which caused the grid failure, and power plants tripped one after another, the source said.

The national grid failure left half the country without power for four to eight hours.

The PGCB probe body submitted the report to the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources on Sunday and suspended two of its engineers for negligence.

The engineers - Allama Hasan Bakhtiar and Md Mostafizur Rahman - used to work for Single Programme-Multiple Data (SPMD) of Dhaka-1 section of PGCB. SPMD is a data management system for power transmission.

On the same day, the state minister for power, energy and mineral resources Nasrul Hamid told reporters that action would be taken against those who were involved in the incident.

Contacted, managing directors of DPDC and DESCO - power distributors in the capital, said they always follow the instruction of the NLDC.

"I never heard that such an incident of a blackout happened due to not shedding load,"

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### CONGRESS HELM

## Kharge tipped to win race

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

A 96 percent voter turnout was recorded for the election to the post of Congress' first chief outside the Gandhi dynasty in 25 years.

Senior Rajya Sabha leader Mallikarjun Kharge, pitted against Shashi Tharoor, is considered a favourite to win.

Madhusudan Mistry, the party's central election authority chairman, told the media that about 9,500 Congress Committee delegates in different states out of the total around 9,900 cast their votes.

The voting ended around 4:00pm local time, while the count is to end and be declared on October 19.

Even after 66-year-old Tharoor has pitched himself as "the candidate of change", Kharge, 78, is considered the favourite for his perceived proximity to the Gandhis and backing by senior leaders.

The party's interim president Sonia Gandhi,

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### Bandarban bans tourists in two upazilas for now

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bandarban district administration has imposed a temporary ban on tourists in Ruma and Rowangchhari upazilas until further notice, reported UNB, citing Deputy Commissioner Yasmin Parvin Tibrizi.

Tibrizi made the announcement yesterday saying that it was a preventive measure against "underground criminals".

Md Mamun Shibli and Md Khorshed Alam Chowdhury, upazila nirbahi officers of Ruma and Rowangchhari, told UNB that tourists have been banned in the upazilas because there would be a joint drive of law enforcers.

Also, security forces and Rapid Action Battalion have intensified operations in the two upazilas.

The ban was enforced after Rab on October 12 directed criminals in the hilly regions to

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### Tories will try to oust Truss this week

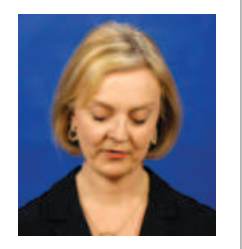
Says report; Britain junks budget tax measures in another blow to PM

AGENCIES

British lawmakers will try to oust Prime Minister Liz Truss this week, a report said yesterday, as the government axed almost all of its debt-fuelled tax cuts unveiled last month to avert fresh markets chaos, in another humiliating blow for the embattled PM.

More than 100 members of parliament (MPs) belonging to the governing Conservative Party are ready to submit letters of no confidence in Truss

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### 'Fat' parrot banned from beauty contest

AFP, Wellington



The world's fattest parrot can't fly, and now it can't run either.

Voting began on Monday in New Zealand's always-controversial Bird of the Year contest, with angry twitchers spitting feathers at a decision to ban the twice-winning kakapo.

The beguiling owl parrot - which resembles a verdant feathered bowling ball - already won the contest in 2008 and 2020, and came runner up in 2021.

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MASUM AZIZ: 1952-2022

### An actor to the core exits

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Masum Aziz, national film award and ekushey padak winning actor and screenplay writer, passed away at a city hospital in Dhaka yesterday afternoon after a hard-fought battle with cancer.

He was 70. The eminent actor had also long been suffering from heart-related issues.

Born in 1952 in Pabna, he left behind a 50-year acting career, during which he worked in plays, television dramas and movies.

Over the course of his career, he made a place for himself in the hearts of the audience by appearing in over 400 television dramas.

He rose to popularity in the 1980's with the role of Mohuri in

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PHOTO: AFP

Real Madrid's French forward Karim Benzema receives the Ballon d'Or award from former French captain Zinedine Zidane during the 2022 Ballon d'Or award ceremony at the Theatre du Chatelet in Paris yesterday.

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