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4 more lives lost in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Four people were killed in two road accidents in Tangail and Sylhet between Thursday night and yesterday morning.

In Tangail's Kalihati upazila, two riders of a horse-drawn cart died and two others were injured when a bus ran over the vehicle on Bangabandhu Bridge east link road in Hatiya area yesterday.

The deceased are Bablu Poddar, 65, of Malihata village in Sherpur upazila, and Yunus Ali, 55, of Poalgatha village in Bogura's Shajahanpur upazila.

Quoting the injured, Nazmul Hasan, a sub-inspector of Bangabandhu Bridge East Police Station, told The Daily Star that people were returning home on two horse-drawn carts from Jamalpur.

On the way, the Dhaka-bound bus hit one of those carts while crossing the Bangabandhu Bridge east link road around 5:30am, killing two riders on the spot.

A horse also died in the accident.

The injured were admitted to Tangail General Hospital. Shafiqul Islam, officer in charge of the police station, said they were trying to identify the bus.

In another incident, two motorcycle riders were killed as a truck hit them in Sylhet's Zakiganj upazila on Thursday night.

The accident took place on the Sylhet-Zakiganj regional highway in Kolakuta Banglabari area around 11:30pm.

The victims were Emon Ahmed, 24, and Muktar Hossain Lal, 23, both residents of Zakiganj upazila.

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PHOTO: MONIR UDDIN ANIK

Fishermen passing busy time in Bhola as they are taking last-minute preparation for returning to the Meghna and the Tentulia rivers after a 22-day break due to the government-imposed ban on fishing to ensure smooth breeding of hilsa. The photo was taken yesterday.

5 die from dengue in a day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least five dengue patients died and 440 were admitted to hospitals across the country in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

The total number of deaths from dengue now stands at 218 and cases at 35,262 this year, as per the Directorate General of Health Services.

Of the dead, 73 were from Dhaka, 23 from Cox's Bazar, 14 from Chattogram, five each from Barishal and Khulna, three from Mymanshingh, two from Rajshahi and one each from Narsingdi, Narail, Bogura, Kishoreganj and Feni.

Of those admitted to hospitals, 10,890 were outside Dhaka.

A total of 31,595 patients – 9,576 outside Dhaka – have already been released.

Some 3,539 patients are still undergoing treatment. Of them, 2,280 are from outside Dhaka.

Experts urged the

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LABOUR RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Address them to get GSP facility again

Washington asks Dhaka

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka and Washington have committed to work together to improve Bangladesh's labour rights conditions which have been an issue of concern for the US.

The commitment came at the first-ever US-Bangladesh Labour Working Group meeting held virtually on Thursday.

Washington maintains that GSP suspension could be lifted and Bangladesh could be eligible to receive funding from the US International Development Finance Corporation if the concerns about labour rights violations were addressed.

The US suspended Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) facility to Bangladesh in 2013 following the Rana Plaza collapse. It has not been withdrawn despite repeated calls from Bangladesh. Under the GSP facility, Bangladesh enjoyed trade benefits.

Jose W Fernandez, US under-secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment, and Salman F Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's adviser for private industry and investment, led the respective delegations.

Washington also wants improvement of the workplace safety and full implementation of the ILO roadmap, whose priority areas are labour law reform, trade union

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Russia a threat to Europe

Says Germany after Putin predicts 'dangerous' decade; several Ukrainian cities grapple with power cuts

AGENCIES

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has plunged Europe into an era of insecurity, Germany said yesterday, a day after Russian President Vladimir Putin predicted a "dangerous" decade ahead.

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, who is from a wing of Germany's Social Democrats that long argued for closer economic ties to Moscow, said the February 24 invasion had ruptured those hopes.

"When we look at the Russia of today, there is no room for old dreams," Steinmeier said, referring to former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev's dream of a "common European home".

"It has also plunged us in Germany into another time, into an insecurity we thought we had overcome: a time marked by war, violence and flight, by concerns about the expansion of war into a wildfire in Europe," he said. "Harder

years, rough years are coming."

Germany, which has joined European sanctions against Russia and weapons deliveries to Ukraine, has recorded the arrival of more than a million Ukrainian refugees and warned of possible energy shortages this winter after cuts in Russian gas supplies.

President Volodymyr Zelensky

"Shelling will not break us... We are not afraid of the dark."

President Volodymyr Zelensky

On Thursday stood outside in the dark beside the wreckage of a downed drone and vowed that widespread Russian attacks on power plants would not break Ukrainian spirits.

"Shelling will not break us - to hear the enemy's anthem on our land is scarier than the enemy's rockets in our sky. We are not

afraid of the dark," he said, adding that Russia had so far launched more than 8,000 air strikes and fired 4,500 missiles.

A senior official said that Kyiv and four regions might have to cut electricity supplies for longer than planned after Russian attacks.

Meanwhile, the head of Moscow-annexed Crimea has said civilian departures from occupied Kherson organised by Russia's forces amid a Ukrainian counter-offensive were "completed", after he visited the region with the Kremlin's domestic chief Sergei Kiriyenko.

Moscow-installed authorities in the southern Ukrainian region have urged residents to cross to the left bank of the Dnipro River as Ukrainian forces make gains in the south.

Ukraine has accused Moscow of forcibly removing some people and recruiting others to fight against their will. Its general staff said what it called Russia's so-called

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Nasa lander reveals details on outermost layer of Mars



REUTERS, Washington

Nasa's robotic InSight lander, in the twilight of its service after nearly four years on Mars, is revealing new details about Earth's closest planetary neighbour based on data from two big meteorite impacts that shed light on the Martian crust's structure.

Researchers said on Thursday that the stationary lander for the first time detected seismic waves traveling along the Martian surface, as opposed to deeper in the body of the planet, caused by two space rocks striking Mars in September and December last year.

The reverberation of these waves along the surface gave clues about the crust, the planet's outermost layer, over a wide geographical expanse in the northern hemisphere.

These were the largest impacts detected by

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Man sent to jail over killing, rape of 1st-grader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chattogram court yesterday sent a man to jail for his alleged involvement in the rape and murder of a minor girl in Chattogram city.

Police arrested Laxman Das, 28, in Jamal Khan area of Chattogram city on Thursday, said police.

Laxman kept the seven-year-old victim captive, raped her, and then suffocated her to death on Monday, said Nobel Chakma, additional deputy commissioner of Chattogram Metropolitan Police (south zone).

After the murder, he wrapped the body in a sugar sack and threw it in a nearby canal. Police recovered the body from the canal on Thursday, the police official added.

The victim went to Laxman's shop to purchase chips on Monday. On her way home, he forcibly took her to the store room of the shop and committed the

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Australia's Pat Cummins (R) and Mitchell Starc pose for selfies with fans after their key T20 World Cup Super 12 fixture against England was called off due to rain at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Friday. The scheduled first match of the day, between Afghanistan and Ireland, suffered the same fate.

PHOTO: AFP

POLITICAL TURMOIL IN PAKISTAN

Imran begins 'long march' for early polls

AFP, Lahore

Former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan yesterday launched a so-called "long march" on the capital Islamabad to demand early elections, piling pressure on a government already in crisis.

The former international cricket star was booted from office in April by a no-confidence vote after defections by some of his coalition partners, but he retains mass public support in the South Asian country.

Thousands of people gathered in the eastern city of Lahore, from where a convoy began the 380-kilometre journey to the capital, expected to take around a week with rallies planned along the route.

"We need to rid the country of looters and thieves who are taking the country's money for their own interests," said supporter Muhammad Mazhar, 36.

"We need to save the country and change this system, so I am supporting Imran Khan."

Khan was voted into power in 2018 on an anti-corruption platform by an electorate tired of dynastic politics.

But his mishandling of the economy -- and falling out with a military accused of helping his rise -- sealed his fate.

Since then, he has railed against the establishment and

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