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40 hurt in clashes between BNP and BCL, cops

STAR REPORT

At least 40 people were hurt in two separate clashes involving BNP men and police; and BNP men and Chhatra League men in Kishoreganj and Jhenidah yesterday.

In Kishoreganj, at least 31 people were injured after police clashed with BNP men over a procession marking the "National Revolution and Solidarity Day".

According to the BNP, 20 of their party activists suffered injuries as police charged truncheons and fired rubber bullets at the procession in front of the party office in the district.

The district BNP General Secretary Mazharul Islam said police obstructed the procession and at one stage charged truncheons.

Md Daud, officer-in-charge of Kishoreganj Model Police Station, said, "BNP men blocked the road with the procession and vandalised vehicles. When we tried to control the situation they threw brick chunks and injured 11 policemen."

"We fired 10-12 shots in the air to control the situation," he said.

Police arrested two people over the incident, the OC said.

In Jhenidah, at least 10 people were injured in a clash between Bangladesh Chhatra League and BNP men in the Old DC Court area.

According to witnesses, BCL activists brought out a procession from KC College to observe the "Day of the Killing of Freedom Fighters" while BNP activists brought out their procession from the Press Club premises to

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6



Even with a footbridge just a few yards away, two adults are risking their own and a child's life by crossing a busy road in the capital's Uttara. With road accidents rampant across the country, such mindless acts by pedestrians only add to the death toll. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Buett student's body found on Shitalakkhya

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Buett student Fardin Noor Parash, who went missing on Friday, was found dead yesterday afternoon.

His body was found floating on the Shitalakkhya river near Narayanganj's Siddhirganj.

The district's river police recovered the body around 5:00pm, said Rafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Rampura police.

Fardin, 24, was a third-year student of the civil engineering department at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology. He went missing after he left his

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Last chance for Belgium's golden generation

AFP, London

Belgium's "golden generation" have one more chance to shed their reputation as serial underachievers after Kevin De Bruyne signalled the end of an era by admitting the World Cup in Qatar is likely to be his last.

Boasting a star-studded line-up featuring De Bruyne, Thibaut Courtois, Eden Hazard and Romelu Lukaku, Belgium will be ranked as one of the favourites when the tournament gets underway on November 20.

Yet Belgium have struggled to live up to the hype in the decade since

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

'Cooperate or perish'

UN chief tells world leaders at COP27 on curbing global warming, seeks coal phase-out by 2040

AGENCIES

UN chief Antonio Guterres yesterday warned world leaders at a climate summit in Egypt that humanity faces a stark choice between working together or "collective suicide" in the battle against global warming.

Nearly 100 heads of state and government are meeting for two days in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, facing calls to deepen emissions cuts and financially back developing countries already devastated by the effects of rising temperatures.

"Humanity has a choice: cooperate or perish," Guterres told the UN COP27 summit.

"It is either a Climate Solidarity Pact or a Collective Suicide Pact," Guterres said, urging the world to ramp up the transition to renewable energy and for richer polluting nations to come to the aid of poorer countries least responsible for heat-trapping emissions.

Nations worldwide are coping with increasingly intense natural disasters that have taken thousands of lives this year alone and cost billions of dollars -- from devastating floods in Nigeria and Pakistan to droughts in the United States and Africa and unprecedented heatwaves across three continents.

"We have seen one catastrophe after another," said Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al Sisi. "As soon as we tackle one catastrophe, another one arises -- wave after wave of suffering and loss."

"Is it not high time to put an end to all this suffering?"

But a multitude of other crises, from Russia's

war in Ukraine to soaring inflation and the lingering effects of the Covid pandemic, has raised concerns that climate change will drop down the priority list of governments, reports AFP.

Guterres, however, told world leaders climate change could not be put on the "back burner".

He called for a "historic" deal between rich emitters and emerging economies that would see countries double down on emissions



reductions, holding the rise in temperatures to the more ambitious Paris Agreement target of 1.5 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial era.

Current trends would see carbon pollution increase 10 percent by the end of the decade and put the world on a path to heat up to 2.8C.

"We are on a highway to climate hell with our foot still on the accelerator," Guterres said.

He asked countries to agree to phase out the use of coal, one of the most carbon-intense fuels, by 2040 globally, with members of the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Int'l alliance launched to fight drought Declaration made on COP27 sidelines

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders from over 25 countries and 20 organisations yesterday launched the International Drought Resilience Alliance to accelerate action and help countries be better prepared for future droughts.

The declaration was made at the sidelines of the Sharm el-Sheikh Climate Change Conference that opened in Egypt, said a press release of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

It said leaders from all sectors pledged to drive change in how the world tackles the growing drought risks: moving from emergency response to building long-term resilience.

Droughts have been hitting more often and harder than before, up nearly by a third since 2000 and climate change is expected to cause more severe droughts in the future.

The recent ones in Australia, Europe, western United States, Chile, the Horn and Southern Africa, shows no country or region is immune to their impacts. Billions of dollars are

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

New star system found could be oldest in galaxy

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK



Scientists may have discovered one of the oldest star systems with rocky planets in our galaxy, consisting of two white dwarf stars and the remains of rocky planets that are more than 10 billion years old.

A star like our sun will eventually use up most of its thermonuclear

fuel, at first swelling into a large red giant star, and then shrinking and cooling into a smaller white dwarf star.

Researchers at the University of Warwick have discovered two white dwarf stars about 90 light years from Earth, whose light is changing colour due to material from former rocky planets, likely destroyed by the stars' red giant phase, falling into the two stars.

The slightly reddish WD J2147-4035 white dwarf star is about 10.7 billion years old, according to a paper published on Saturday in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, while a second blueish star, WD J1922+0233, is just slightly younger.

"We're finding the oldest stellar remnants in the Milky Way that are polluted by once Earth-like

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



HC extends Khaleda's bail in 2 cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday extended its bail orders in the two defamation cases against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

The bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice Md Aminul Islam passed the extension orders following two separate prayers moved by Khaleda Zia's lawyers.

The defamation cases were filed against Khaleda Zia in Narail and Dhaka in 2015 and 2017 for her statements over Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Liberation War, and the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2



Villagers doing their best to avoid injury as they attempt to cross a partially collapsed bamboo bridge over the Belta canal in Jashore's Sharsha upazila. Villagers of Dihni union built the bamboo bridge after their pleas for a permanent bridge over the canal were apparently not heeded. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

MEET WITH US OFFICIAL AL, BNP won't budge on polls-time govt

STAR REPORT

The ruling Awami League spoke against caretaker government while the BNP said it won't join polls under incumbent government at a meeting with US Deputy Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs Afreen Akhter.

Akhter all along stressed the need for participatory, free and fair elections.

At the meeting with the US deputy assistant secretary yesterday, AL International Affairs Secretary Shammi Ahmed said the caretaker government system was spoilt in the past.

BNP Standing Committee Member Amir Khashru Mahmud Chowdhury said his party would not join polls under Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government.

The meeting was held at the residence of a US embassy official in the capital. Jatiya Party chairman's special envoy and adviser Masroor Mawla and US Ambassador to Bangladesh Peter Haas were also present.

Masroor said the two major political parties should find a middle ground ending enmity.

Akhter told reporters that the US wants to see

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



Afreen Akhter