

## Govt working for development of education sector

### Says PM, wishing the 53rd DU convocation success

BSS, Dhaka



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the Awami League government is working tirelessly for the overall development of the education sector to ensure equal access to quality education for all.

Various timely initiatives have been taken by the current government in the last 14 years, resulting in commendable success in the education sector, she said, adding that the number of public and private universities in the country has been increased to bring higher education facilities to the people's doorsteps.

The premier made the remarks in a message issued on the occasion of the 53rd convocation of Dhaka University slated to be observed today.

"Our government has taken and implemented various initiatives for the development of education and

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Two men, wrapping mosquito nets around their bodies, sleeping on a footpath with the hope that it would protect them from dengue. At least 220 people died from the disease this year. The photo was taken near Raju Memorial Sculpture in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Tangail Hindu home, temple ransacked over land dispute

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The home of a Hindu family was ransacked and the idols in their puja mandap were desecrated in an attack carried out by their neighbours over a land dispute in the Bhuangpur upazila of Tangail.

Five people were injured in the incident that occurred yesterday morning in the Kostapara area of the upazila.

According to sources, the family of Subas Ghosh of Ghoshpara and the family of Khorshed Bepari of neighbouring Bepari para had been in dispute for a long time over a piece of land.

Recently, the family of Khorshed had filed a case against the family of Subas over the matter.

However, the case was dismissed in court on Thursday.

Yesterday, members of both families got into an argument. At one stage, Khorshed, his brother Arshed, and their family members ransacked the house of Subas and desecrated the idols in their puja mandap.

When Subas's family resisted, Khorshed's family members attacked them with sharp weapons.

Four family members of Subas, who were among the injured, were taken to Bhuangpur Upazila Health Complex.

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# Blackouts hit 10m in Ukraine

Massive Russian strikes cripple energy infrastructure; Sweden confirms Nord Stream pipeline sabotage

AGENCIES

More than 10 million Ukrainians are without electricity after dozens of Russian air attacks on the country's energy infrastructure as winter sets in and temperatures plummet, President Volodymyr Zelensky has said.

Repeated barrages disrupted electricity and water supplies across Ukraine, but Russia blamed the civilian suffering on Ukraine's refusal to negotiate an end to the war that began on February 24.

On Thursday, residents of the recently recaptured city of Kherson in southern Ukraine rushed to stockpile food, blankets, and winter clothing, with shouting matches and shoving erupting as volunteers tossed supplies into the crowds that waited hours in freezing rain.

Several Ukrainian cities were attacked as the latest assault coincided with the season's first snow, and officials in Kyiv warned of "difficult" days ahead.

"Currently, more than 10 million Ukrainians are without

electricity," Zelensky said later on Thursday, adding the regions of Odesa, Vinnytsia, Sumy and Kyiv were most affected.

Russia's defence ministry said yesterday its forces had used long-range weapons on Thursday to strike defence and industrial facilities, including "missile manufacturing facilities".

**The UN has warned of a humanitarian disaster in Ukraine this winter due to power and water shortages.**

Ukrainian forces in the past 24 hours downed two Russian cruise missiles, five air-launched missiles and five Iranian-made Shahed-136 drones, Ukraine's military said.

The United Nations has warned of a humanitarian disaster in Ukraine this winter due to power and water shortages. One of the European Commission's three vice presidents, Valdis

Dombrovskis, arrived in Kyiv yesterday to discuss emergency EU financial support for Ukraine in the coming months, reports Reuters.

In Kherson, investigators have uncovered 63 bodies bearing signs of torture after Russian forces left, Ukraine's interior minister was quoted as saying.

The Ukrainian parliament's human rights commissioner, Dmytro Lubinets, released a video of what he said was a torture chamber used by Russian forces in the Kherson region, including a small room in which he said up to 25 people were kept at a time.

Meanwhile, Swedish officials confirmed yesterday that the September blasts which destroyed sections of the Nord Stream pipelines carrying natural gas from Russia to Germany under the Baltic Sea were acts of sabotage.

"The analyses conducted found traces of explosives on several foreign objects" found at the sites of the blasts, prosecutor Mats Ljungqvist who is leading the preliminary

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## Robbers kill man, loot Chawkbazar home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Robbers broke into a residential building in the capital's Chawkbazar area and killed a 78-year-old man before looting cash and gold ornaments from his flat.

The deceased was identified as Mansur Ahmed of Chawkbazar Khaje Dewan Lane, said Abdul Kaiyum, the officer-in-charge of Chawkbazar Police Station.

The incident occurred Thursday night after Mansur's family members went to a wedding ceremony that Mansur was unable to attend due to illness.

Mansur's children also lived in the six-storey building that he owned.

After the event, his sons returned home and found the door of the second-floor flat closed.

They forced the door open and found Mansur bleeding on the floor.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where the doctor declared him dead around 1:30am yesterday.

Mansur Ahmed had three sons and one

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## BGB man dies in accidental firing in Joypurhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur



Nepal Das

A sepoy of Border Guard Bangladesh died in accidental firing at a camp of the force in Joypurhat's Panchbibi upazila on Thursday night, said BGB officials.

Nepal Das, 31, of Faridpur's Madhukhali upazila, was a member of the 20th BGB battalion, said Lt Col Rafiqul Islam, commanding officer of the battalion.

"He was injured in an accidental firing," the BGB official said.

Nepal was rushed to Joypurhat Sadar Hospital, but doctors declared him dead, the CO said, adding, "We are looking into the matter seriously."

Contacted, Shaheed Hossain, resident medical officer of the hospital, said, "He was brought dead." The body was sent to morgue for autopsy.

Sardar Rashed Mobarak, superintendent of the hospital, said Nepal had two bullet marks on his body - one on chest and another on right hand.

Shirajul Islam, officer-in-charge of Joypurhat Police Station, said police prepared an inquest report and filed an unnatural death case in this connection.

## India launches first privately made rocket into space

REUTERS, Bengaluru



India successfully launched its first privately developed rocket, the Vikram-S, yesterday, a milestone in the country's effort to create a commercial space industry and to compete on cost.

The 545-kg rocket, developed by space

startup Skyroot, took off from the Indian space agency's launch site near Chennai and hit a peak altitude of 89.5 kilometres (km).

The rocket has the capability of reaching Mach 5 - five times the speed of sound - and carrying a payload of 83 kg to an altitude of 100 kilometres, the company said.

The Skyroot team had set a target of 80 km for its first launch, a benchmark some agencies define as the frontier of space. The Karman line - set by an international aeronautics body as defining the boundary between the Earth's atmosphere and space - is at 100 km altitude.

Video footage showed the rocket taking off from the space centre, leaving a plume of smoke and fire in its trail. It splashed down in the Bay of Bengal about 5 minutes after launch, officials said.

"I'm happy to announce the successful

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## 'Chonpara drug lord' Bazlur arrested

STAR REPORT

Rab members yesterday arrested Rupanj Awami League member Bazlur Rahman, the alleged drug lord of Chonpara slum which came to the limelight following the killing of Buet student Fardin Noor Parash.



Bazlur, who was held from Purbagram area, is also a member of Kayetpara Union Parishad and a panel chairman of the union.

Contacted, Shahjahan Bhuiyan, general secretary of Rupanj upazila unit AL, said Bazlur is a member of the unit. He heard about the arrest.

Bazlur is the key accused in a case filed over attacks on a Rab team during an anti-narcotic drive in Chonpara in September.

Lt Col Abdullah Al Momen, Rab-1 commanding officer, said Bazlur would be shown arrested in the case. He added that the arrestee is accused in a number of cases, including murder and narcotics-related ones.

The Chonpara slum, a safe haven for drug dealers, is now under the watch of law enforcement agencies after the killing of Fardin, whose last location was tracked around the slum early November 5.

His body was recovered a few kilometres away from the slum at Barnali ghat of the Shitalakkhya in Narayanganj's Siddhirganj on November 7.

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A student of Dhaka University roaming around his campus wearing convocation gown and hood while his toddler sleeping on his shoulder. The photo was taken near Curzon Hall yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Dengue: 3 dead, 250 hospitalised in 24 hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least three dengue patients died while 250 others were admitted to different hospitals across the country in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

With the new deaths, the total number of deaths rose to 220 while the total number of cases rose to 51,602 of which 18,171 are from outside Dhaka.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), of the deaths, 131 are in Dhaka, 24 in Cox's Bazar, 29 in Chattogram, nine in Barishal, seven in Khulna, five in Mymensingh, two each in Rajshahi and Narail and one each in Narsingdi, Kushtia, Pabna, Bagerhat, Khagrachhari, Bogura, Madaripur, and Feni.

A total of 48,670 patients have already been released, and 16,908 are from outside Dhaka.

Some 2,712 dengue patients are still undergoing treatment of which 1,174 are from outside Dhaka.