

## 3 friends on bike die in Khilgaon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three men were killed in a road accident in the capital's Khilgaon area early yesterday.

Jaz Mia, 36, employee of a printing press, Al Amin, 34, employee of a dairy farm, and Mehedi Hasan, 28, a rice trader, were the victims, said police.

The three friends, of the capital's Mugga area, were riding a motorcycle early yesterday.

Around 3:30am, their motorcycle hit a parked lorry and all three fell on the road. They were then runover by another lorry.

Police found a CCTV footage of the accident.

They were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared them dead around 4:15am, said Salahuddin.

Solaiman, the victims' friend, said they played carrom together till late at night and then went to Old Dhaka for dinner.

After dinner, they roamed around the city for some time on two motorcycles.

Inspector Bachchu Mia, in-charge of DMCH Police Outpost, said the bodies were sent to the hospital's morgue for autopsies.

Faruqul Alam, officer in charge of Khilgaon Police Station, said they were trying to identify the lorry and its driver.

## One killed, 5 hurt over AL factional clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

One died and five others were injured in a clash between two Awami League rival groups over establishing supremacy in Narsingdi's Raipura upazila.

The clash began in Gozariakandi char under Srinagar Union around 6 pm and continued until police brought the situation under control at 10 pm.

Locals and police said the clash took place between the supporters of Raipura Jubo League executive member Shah Alam Mia and Srinagar Union unit Awami League vice president Abdul Khalek Mia over establishing supremacy.

Shah Alam is also a former Union Parishad member while Khalek is a current member of the Srinagar Union Parishad.

"They had an altercation over taking supremacy of the area about 6 am and one was killed in the clash. We informed the police and they took the situation under control at around 10 pm," said Riaz Morshed Khan Rassel,

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BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir addressing a huge rally on the ground of Sylhet Alia Madrasa in Chowhatta area in the city yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

### CLIMATE FINANCE

## COP27 nears 'breakthrough'

REUTERS, Sharm El-Sheikh

Countries were considering a draft for a final COP27 climate deal yesterday, with some negotiators saying they were close to a breakthrough in contentious efforts to compensate poor nations already burdened by costly climate impacts.

The UN climate agency released a new draft of the so-called cover decision yesterday, but it was not immediately clear if all 197 governments at this year's summit would back it.

Hours earlier, officials from the 27-country European Union said they were ready to walk away from the talks if the deal did not advance efforts to curb global warming by requiring that countries take more ambitious action in cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

"We'd rather have no decision than a bad decision," EU climate policy chief Frans Timmermans said.

He expressed concern that some countries were resisting efforts to agree on bolder emissions cuts in this decade. He did not name the countries.

The outcome of the two-week conference, which was meant to end on Friday, is seen as a test of global resolve to fight climate change, even as a war in Europe and rampant consumer inflation distract international attention.

With countries still divided on a number of key topics on Saturday morning, Egypt's

COP27 President Sameh Shoukry urged delegates to "rise to the occasion" and unite around a final deal.

The latest draft is not the final one, as it contains a placeholder on funding arrangements for "loss and damage" - the money demanded by developing countries suffering damage from climate-linked events like floods, drought and sea-level rise.

But countries said they were nearing an agreement for setting up such a fund,



and the UN climate agency released a separate draft of that language that several negotiators said was broadly supported.

Kunal Satyarthi, a negotiator for India, said he thought the loss and damage deal would "certainly" pass, and thanked other countries for their flexibility.

Norway's climate minister, Espen Barth Eide, meanwhile, said his country was happy with the agreement to create a loss and damage fund.

Barbados negotiator Avinash Persaud called it a "small victory for humankind"

that had resulted from leadership by small island nations and solidarity from the rest of the world.

"Now we need to redouble efforts behind an energy, transport and agriculture transition that will limit these climate losses and damages in the future," said Persaud.

The idea of a loss and damage fund has been discussed for decades, but had never before made the official agenda at a climate summit as rich nations worried it could open them up to liability for their historic contribution to emissions.

The EU had boosted the discussions earlier in the week by offering to support setting up a new loss and damage fund, but only provided that large polluters including China pay into it and countries also ramp up efforts to cut emissions.

It was not yet clear if the EU's conditions would be met.

Complicating matters, US Special Climate Envoy John Kerry - a powerful force in climate diplomacy - tested positive for Covid-19 after days of bilateral in-person meetings with counterparts from China and the EU to Brazil and the United Arab Emirates.

In line with earlier iterations, the draft did not contain a reference requested by India and some other delegations to phasing down use of "all fossil fuels". It instead asked countries to phase down coal only, as agreed under last year's Glasgow Climate Pact.

## Unidentified body found in Balu river

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The body of a man, tied to 45kgs of stones and bricks, was found floating on the Balu river near the capital's Khilgaon area yesterday.

The victim, aged around 35, could not be identified as his body was swollen and decomposing.

Asaduzzaman, OC of Demra Rajakhali River Police Outpost, said, the man was probably thrown into the river after the killers tied a plastic bag filled with stones and bricks to his body to stop it from floating.

The body was recovered by the locals and police later sent it to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Earlier on November 7, the body of Buet student Fardin Noor Parash was recovered from Narayanganj's the Shitalakkhya while Awami League leader Duroto Biplob's body was found in the Buriganga on November 12.

## Lawyer found dead in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of a woman from the capital's Shyampur area on Friday night.

Mitu Fakir, 25, a lawyer based in Dhaka, was found hanging from a ceiling fan in her room of a flat in Karimullahbagh area around 8:00pm.

Police arrested Mitu's husband Miraz, a lawyer, after her father Mosharraf Fakir filed a case accusing him of abetting suicide. The couple got married about three months ago, said Md Hasan, sub-inspector of Shyampur Police Station.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

## Man held with 91,000 yaba pills

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rab yesterday arrested a man and recovered 91,000 yaba pills from his possession in Chattogram's Banshkhali upazila.

Shahid Ullah, 35, son of late Sayedul Islam, confessed to hiding drugs in his house after he was arrested following a tip-off. Based on his confession, Rab dug up the floor of his house and found the pills, said Nurul Absar, senior assistant director of Rab-7's media wing.

The arrestee was handed over to Banshkhali police while a case was filed in this connection.

## Woman arrested for 'burning son to death'

STAR CORRESPONDENT

A woman was arrested yesterday for allegedly burning her 14-year-old son to death on November 13.

Locals caught Lipi Begum, 34, yesterday evening and handed her over to police.

Police showed her arrested after the victim's father filed a case with Narayanganj Sadar Police Station, OC of the police station said.

Redwan Ahmed Raju breathed his last at 3:30pm on Friday while undergoing treatment at the Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery.

On November 13, Raju suffered injuries after his mother allegedly burnt him after tying him up and pouring kerosine on him.

## Chhatra Dal man killed in 'police firing'

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hospital late in the evening also claimed the same, stating that police aimed directly at him and fired.

He stated that this is the fifth such death to take place in recent months.

Locals and witnesses said that the Bancharampur upazila unit BNP and its front organisations were distributing leaflets around 3:30pm.

The BNP men then began marching from Mollabari chanting slogans.

Police intercepted the procession and tried to arrest a local BNP leader which triggered a clash, reported our correspondent.

Both the groups chased and counter-chased each other.

At one stage, the BNP men started hurling brick chunks at police. In response, police opened fire and Nayan sustained bullet injuries, said witnesses.

Nayan fell to the ground. He was rushed to local upazila health complex. Later, he was moved to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Local police claimed that at least seven policemen were also injured.

Inspector Bacchu Miah of Dhaka Medical College Hospital police outpost, said, "A youth, Nayan, was brought to the hospital in critical condition, but he succumbed to his injuries shortly after."

Bancharampur Police Station Officer-in-Charge Nore Alam claimed that the BNP men attacked police first and that they tried to snatch firearms from two constables.

At that time, police fired one shot in the air.

He said that it was not clear whether Nayan was hit by a bullet shot by police.

Two BNP men were arrested from the spot, he said.

## 'Struggle for right to vote starts now'

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the venue. The event started around 12:30pm.

Police set up 19 check points at different places and a large number of law enforcers were present near the venue.

Fakhrul said, "Sylhet BNP leader Ilias Ali is no longer amongst us. We don't know whether he is alive... Six hundred individuals have gone missing. Their families still don't know where they are."

"The general people, farmers, workers, vanpullers, boatmen - they are not at peace. Oil price increased once again yesterday, sugar price increased, vegetable salt-egg everything is pricier. Our farmer parents cannot afford to feed an egg to their children."

"The Awami League promised to make rice Tk 10 a kg. That's not the reality. Three crore people are jobless. This government also shattered the youths' dreams of a bright future."

"Bangladesh fought in 1971 to gain their rights, build a democratic country, reinstate the right to vote and freedom of speech. Sheikh Hasina will be punished by the people's court"

for snatching away these rights and shattering people's dreams."

BNP Standing Committee Member Gayeshwar Chandra Roy said, "There is not enough money in the reserve to pay the interest on loans this government has taken. Democracy is now like Ilias Ali - disappeared. We are looking for them both."

The rally was presided by Abdul Quiyum Choudury, president of Sylhet Zilla BNP while Standing Committee Member Abdul Moyeen Khan, and Joint Secretary General Moazzem Hossain Alal spoke as special guests.

The BNP's rallies in different divisional cities will conclude with the December 10 rally in Dhaka.

### SUFFERINGS OF CITY DWELLERS

"My younger brother has suddenly fallen sick. This is an emergency. I must go to his house immediately. But I have been waiting for over an hour without any luck," said Husna Begum, 40, who was waiting for transport at Bandar Bazar intersection around 10:00am.

Husna's brother's house is only 1.5km away, but she could not start walking because her five-year-old son

was with her at the time.

Those who were lucky to find a rickshaw saw a threefold increase in fare.

Besides, many people complained that they could not access mobile data from 10:00am to 6:00pm, said MA Kaium, a resident of the city's Upashohor area.

Saddam Hossain, a resident of Dhakkhin Surma upazila, said he and six others had to travel on a rickshaw van to Sylhet bus station. "I have to go to Dhaka because of an emergency," he told The Daily Star in the morning. He returned home a few hours later after failing to find any vehicle.

This correspondent talked to two dozen people in the city yesterday and most of them expressed frustration and anger over the transport strike.

Transport strikes were also called ahead of recent BNP rallies in Mymensingh, Khulna, Rangpur, Barishal, and Faridpur.

The BNP maintains that these strikes are part of an attempt by the ruling Awami League to keep BNP supporters away from the rallies.

themselves and said that their passion will take them a long way.

"Bangladesh has made remarkable achievements in the last 50 years and everyone should be proud of it. However, many challenges are still waiting to be uprooted. Be brave and bold, and behave in a socially responsible way," he added.

DU VC Prof Dr Md Akhtaruazzaman and two pro-vice chancellors also spoke at the convocation.

A total of 30,348 undergraduate degrees were conferred on young graduates while 97 academics received their Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and 35 received their Master of Philosophy (MPhil).

A total of 153 gold medals were awarded to teachers, researchers, and students for excelling in academics and research.

## Qatar faces acid test

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Sanchez's men have been tasked with getting out of a group also containing European giants the Netherlands and African champions Senegal.

A win against the less-fancied Ecuador would make those next two matches appear less daunting.

"On paper, they (Qatar's three opponents) should get the three points, but we of course are here to show our people that we can be a competitive team," said Sanchez.

"We'll bring our 'A' game and play our football, and try to bring joy..."

"We know that it will be a great challenge for us but we're very eager to play this match and are very happy to be here."

Qatar have improved on the pitch since winning the World Cup bid, beating Japan in the 2019 Asian Cup final and finishing third in the Arab

Cup last year.

Results have slipped in recent months, though, with a 1-1 draw against Jamaica and 3-0 defeat by Croatia's Under-23 team particularly disappointing.

Ecuador will be no pushovers after coming through the notoriously difficult South American qualifying.

"We think we have the same chance as Qatar for this opening match," said Ecuador's Brighton midfielder Moises Caicedo.

"We know how Qatar play, they're strong, they're powerful. I know this will be a very difficult game tomorrow."

After the tumultuous build-up, capped by Friday's surprise U-turn on the sale of beer in stadiums, Qatar's players will be aiming to take the limelight and ease the scrutiny on off-field issues.

## Things will be better

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During her introductory speech, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged the countrymen to maintain austerity in using oil and water.

"Be frugal. Because there is economic recession all over the world. We are not free from its impact."

She also reiterated her call to increase production.

"We have land. Even one inch of land should not be left unused. Produce whatever you can, even at the rooftop gardens."

"The global economic situation is very bad. The situation is terrible," said the PM, reported BSS.

"We are finding out ways... We have increased food production. We are producing more than we need. We always keep more food in stock for emergencies so that the people of my country don't suffer."

Talking about her government's steps in providing free and low-cost food to people, she said, "We are buying all the things at a high price

and providing those to people at a low price so that none suffers from food shortage."

The PM said the Awami League, after assuming power, restored the democratic process as the people of this country did not have real democracy or democratic rights.

"The people of this country didn't have real democracy or democratic rights before the Awami League came to power. Since the AL government assumed office, we started the democratic process," she said.

"The transparency and accountability that have been ensured in the election are the result of our movement and struggle."

She said that now Bangladesh is recognised as a role model for development all over the world although some people in the country don't see any development.

"A lot of criticisms had to be endured... the outsiders see the development... But, some people inside our country don't even see it."