

Seven hurt as supporters of Argentina, Brazil clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushiya
At least seven people were injured in a clash between supporters of Argentina and Brazil in Kushiya town. The injured are Mofazzal, Sayem Ali, Amit Hossain, Jewel Rana, Shipon Mia, Bijay, and Chand Ali, of Hariপুর area in Sadar upazila. Of them, two were hospitalised. The rest received primary treatment. Quoting witnesses, police said an arrangement was made to watch the final match of the Fifa World Cup on a giant screen at Hariপুর market. But soon after Argentina won, supporters of Argentina and Brazil, who were supporting France, locked in a clash that left seven people from both sides injured, said OC of Kushiya Model Police Station Delwar Hossain.

Vulnerable British era bridge poses serious risk



Longevity of the century-old Sonahat Bridge over Dudhkumar river in Kurigram's Bhurungamari upazila expired a long time ago, and it needs urgent renovation.

PHOTO: STAR

Man killed in elephant attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar
A man was killed in a wild elephant attack in Chakaria upazila on Sunday night. The victim, Saiful Islam, 37, was a resident of Banchiri area under Kaiarbel union. Seeing Saiful's blood-stained body in Kabirghona area near Chattogram-Cox's Bazar highway yesterday morning, locals informed police, who recovered the body, said OC Chandan Kumar Chakrabarty of Chakaria Police Station.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat
Large number of heavy vehicles use the risky Sonahat Bridge on the Dudhkumar river in Kurigram's Bhurungamari upazila every day, posing serious risk of accidents. Many locals also cross the age-old iron-structure bridge regularly risking their lives. Longevity of the 366-metre-long iron bridge, built during the British era, in Bangasonahat union, expired in 2001. The bridge was repaired and made usable after it was damaged partially during the 1971 Liberation War. But the pressure of vehicular movement, especially goods-laden trucks, on the bridge increased since the opening of Sonahat Land Port in 2012. Besides, many heavy vehicles, carrying various imported goods,

ply over the vulnerable bridge every day, taking risk of accident any time. Meanwhile, construction of a new 645-metre-long concrete bridge over the Dudhkumar river under Roads and Highways Department (RHD) at a cost of over Tk 136 crore is going on. Locals said the construction is running at a slow pace and only 18 to 20 percent work has been done in the last one and a half years. The construction work of the concrete bridge, which was scheduled to start in January, 2019, started in June 2021. Banga Sonahat Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Mainul Islam said, importance of the old iron-structured bridge has increased a lot since the start of Sonahat Land Port. More than 300 cargo trucks pass this bridge every day, the UP

chairman said, adding that they have a fear that the old iron bridge may collapse at any time and cause major accidents. Local resident Hashem Ali urged the authorities concern to complete the new bridge as soon as possible. Jafar Ali, a trader at Sonahat Land Port, said they have been facing difficulties in carrying imported goods as many truckers did not want to cross the old bridge with loaded trucks. Kurigram RHD Sub Divisional Engineer Tanvir Ahmed said they could not start the bridge construction work in time as there was delay in getting approval of new design of the bridge. He said the construction work was delayed due to fresh flood and hope it would be completed by 2024.

Schoolboy among three killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT
Three people were killed in road accidents in Brahmanbaria, Cumilla and Dinajpur in the last two days. A motorcyclist was killed and two others were injured after being hit by a lorry on Cumilla Sylhet highway in Brahmanbaria Sadar yesterday. The deceased is Anis Miah, The injured are Basir Miah and Jewel. In Cumilla, a schoolboy was killed when a motorbike hit him at Khila in Monohorganj yesterday. The deceased, Shawon, 12, was a fifth grader at Khila Primary School, said OC Shaful Alam of Monohorganj Police Station. Meanwhile, a local Jubo League leader was killed in a road accident in Dinajpur's Phulbari upazila on Sunday night. Mamunur Rashid Prince, 38, was also a teacher at a local college.

EVM not a problem, its operators are

Sujan secretary tells Rangpur event
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur
Using the Electronic Voting Machine to cast vote is not a problem, but those behind its operation are the real issue, said Badiul Alam Majumdar, secretary of Sushasoner Jonno Nagorik (Sujan) yesterday. Badiul Alam was speaking at an event hosted by Sujan at the Public Library in Rangpur city. All the nine contenders for the mayoral post of Rangpur City Corporation election, slated to be held on December 27, were present at the event. "We have been against the EVMs as the result of the device depends on its inputs. The persons who are entitled to handle it are the real troublemakers," Badiul said. In that sense, its not possible to hold a free and fair election through the EVM, he said. He also said the ruling party used to appreciate the voice of Sujan when it was in the opposition. But, they are now against Sujan when the organisation raises voice against irregularities and corruption. Prof Farkhrul Anam, president of Rangpur city unit Sujan, chaired the programme.

We must end child marriage: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi
Child marriages remained higher than usual since the pandemic began in Rajshahi due to inefficient social and administrative initiative. The above information was revealed by speakers at a dialogue titled "What to do to prevent violence and child marriage against women". Netz Partnership for Development and Justice, Human Welfare Council and DUSCOH Foundation jointly organised the event at a city community centre yesterday. A research paper presented during the dialogue showed at least 51.4 percent of girls are still getting married before 18, when the government plans to reduce child marriage of girls aged between 15-18 years to 30 percent by 2021, it says. Representatives of civil society, academics, government officials, journalists took part in the dialogue. Lawmaker Ayeen Uddin said he would play his role in ensuring no discriminatory laws against women get passed in the parliament. Additional Commissioner of Police Touhidul SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Chevron donates ambulance to SCC



CITY DESK
Chevron Bangladesh has donated an ambulance to Sylhet City Corporation. President and Managing Director of the company Eric M Walker handed over the ambulance to the SCC at its Jalalabad Gas Field Office in Sylhet, said a press release yesterday. Walker visited Sylhet and Habiganj where he attended events to support the local community as part of its social investment initiatives. He also visited the Integrated Support for Children with Disabilities (ISCwD) Project at SSKS Clinic - Karimpur, Bibiyana, Habiganj -- to provide assistive devices among children with disabilities.

DHAKA-SYLHET HIGHWAY Over 100 illegal structures knocked down

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar
The Habiganj district administration yesterday dismantled hundreds of illegal structures from the side of Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Shayestaganj of Habiganj. It was done as part of a project to upgrade the highway to four lanes. Executive Magistrate Shah Zahurul Hossain of the Habiganj Deputy Commissioner's Office led the drive. Shayestaganj Assistant Commissioner (Land) Nahid Bhuyan and sub-divisional engineer Rakib Akbar were also present.



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(Engr. Anupam Datta)
Deputy General Manager
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