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METRO RAIL

Huge crowd for weekend ride

HELEMUL ALAM and PRABIR DAS

Mohammad Soheli, an employee at a firm, did not get metro tickets after waiting in a long queue for around three hours at Agargaon Station yesterday.

He could not fulfil his desire to travel in the country's first metro rail service as the demand for tickets was higher than the capacity at which the trains were running.

"I came here at 9:00am and could not enter the station until noon. When I returned, around 500 more people were in front of me for tickets."

Tickets are available from 8:00am to noon. Sayma Khatun said she waited for around two hours to buy a ticket, but could not get one.

Like Soheli and Sayma, a large number of people failed to get tickets at Agargaon and Uttara North stations on the second day of the opening of the metro rail service.

Yesterday was the weekend. Most people went there to have the trip for pleasure rather than commute.

Kamruzzaman, who could get tickets to Agargaon from Diabari, said he was very happy as he could ride on the metro along with his family members. "All of my family members enjoyed the journey."

Rayhan Chowdhury, a resident of Mirpur, said he got tickets after some hurdles. But then he was thinking about how he would return as it was not possible for him to buy a return ticket.

Sharmin Aktar had to wait 30 minutes at a ticket vending machine of Uttara North Station as it was not functioning. "It is really painful when you have to start from the beginning after standing in line for so long."

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People queueing up in Agargaon for a ride on the metro on the first weekend since the service was opened to the public on Thursday. Many had to return home disappointed as the service was sold out for the day.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Adani firms up NDTV takeover

His conglomerate now owns 64.71 PC stake

AFP, Mumbai

Indian tycoon Gautam Adani yesterday secured a majority stake in leading news broadcaster NDTV, finalising a hostile takeover that has sparked press freedom fears in the world's biggest democracy.

Adani, 60, is the world's third-richest person, with an estimated net worth of \$130 billion and interests ranging from Australian coal mines to India's busiest ports.

He is also seen as a

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Mild cold wave sweeping over the north

Poor, elderly people suffering

STAR REPORT

A mild cold wave sweeping over Naogaon, Panchagarh, Jashore and Chuadanga is causing immense suffering to poor people.

Yesterday's lowest temperature, 8.7 degrees Celsius, was recorded in Tentulia, Panchagarh, according to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department.

A 24-hour bulletin released at 6:00pm yesterday said, "Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy skies over the country."

Night and day temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country today, it said.

Meteorologist Bazlur Rashid yesterday evening said the weather might remain almost like this for the next three to four days. "But the mild cold wave may spread to some other districts on January 5-6."

Low-income people, especially the elderly ones, have been suffering a lot and many could not work yesterday in different areas of Panchagarh.

"It is difficult to stay at home. How can we go to the farm for work when it is much colder outside?" said Anukul Barman, 50, a farmer of Maidan Dighi area of Boda.

"It is time to cultivate winter vegetables. But I have not been able to leave home in the last few days."

Shariful Islam, a 55-year-old rickshaw puller in Sakowa village of the same upazila, said, "It feels like my body does not want to move. But I am trying to pull my rickshaw. If I don't work, my family will starve to death."

[Our Thakurgaon correspondent contributed to this report]

Tributes pour in for The King

REUTERS

Football fans were united in mourning on Thursday after the death of Pele at the age of 82, with tributes pouring in for the Brazil great who defined his sport and inspired generations.

Brazil's government declared three days of mourning and the arch at soccer's cathedral, Wembley Stadium, was lit in the colours of Brazil, while icons of sport and heads of state bowed to the man who rose up from childhood poverty to become a legend.

"I had the privilege that younger Brazilians didn't have: I saw Pele play, live, at Pacaembu and Morumbi. Play, no, I saw Pele give a show," said Lula, the president-elect of Brazil.

"Because when he got the ball he always did something special, which often ended up in a goal."

Former Brazil President Dilma Rousseff wrote: "Thank you for the joy you gave the Brazilian people and the people of the world. No one has been a king so loved."

Sao Paulo's government said it would name a new road complex to the city of Santos, where Pele played club soccer, "Rei Pele" (King Pele).

There was a minute's silence at Spain's LaLiga games and a minute's applause at Olympique de Marseille's Stade Velodrome as the sport heaped honour on one of the greatest athletes in modern history. Rio's "Christ the Redeemer" statue was lit up in green and yellow in tribute.

"Before Pele, football was just a sport. Pele changed everything. He turned football into art, into entertainment," wrote Brazil forward Neymar. "He's gone, but his magic will remain."

Former Brazil striker Ronaldo

wrote: "The world mourns. The sadness of farewell mixed with the immense pride of history written."

FIFA President Gianni Infantino wrote in a lengthy tribute that Pele had "achieved immortality," recalling the top moments from his career, including the "Pele run-around" at the 1970 World Cup and his goal in the 1958 World Cup final at the age of only 17.

"The sight of him punching the air in celebration is one of the most iconic in our sport, and is etched into our history," said Infantino, who recalled as a child watching Pele starring alongside Hollywood star Sylvester Stallone in the 1981 film "Escape to Victory."

"In fact, because televised football was still in its infancy at the time, we only saw small glimpses of what he was capable of."

With 1,281 goals in 1,366 games, according to FIFA, his on-field statistics were matched only by his social impact. The Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) declared Pele, the only player to win the World Cup three times, "The King of Soccer."

"A Black, poor boy born in Tres Coracoes, Pele showed us that

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Jubo League leader hacked to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A Jubo League leader was hacked to death and at least five others were injured in a clash over a land-related dispute in Chatmohar upazila of Pabna yesterday.

Anisur Rahman Anis, 50, was vice president of JL's Parshadanga union unit, confirmed Chatmohar Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Jalal Uddin.

Anis had a long-standing dispute with his neighbour, Ainul Haque, over a piece of land at their ancestral homes in Provakorpora village.

Last morning, Anis and his men decided to erect a boundary wall around this disputed land.

As his men started working on the wall, Ainul's men arrived on the spot and attacked them, resulting in a clash, with both parties wielding local weapons.

The skirmish left five

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A pair of elderly men dressed in traditional winter attire sip cups of hot tea amid the chill that has crept into mornings over the past few days. The photo was taken yesterday in front of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Women more empathetic than men: study



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Women are on average more empathetic and better than men at putting themselves in others' shoes, according to a new study involving over 300,000 people in 57 countries.

One fundamental quality of being human is the ability to imagine what another person is thinking or feeling, applying what is known as the "theory of mind", also known as "cognitive empathy".

The research, published in the journal PNAS, found women across all ages in most countries had more cognitive empathy than men.

Women scored more than men in a widely used test called the "Reading the Mind in the Eyes" Test – or Eyes Test for short – that measures cognitive empathy.

To study the development of the "theory of mind" using the Eyes Test, participants are told to look at a photo of a person and pick a word that best describes what that person is thinking

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GRAFT, OTHER CHARGES Junta jails Suu Kyi for 33yrs

US, EU condemn the ruling

AFP, Naypyidaw

Ousted Myanmar democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi was sentenced to another seven years in jail as her long series of trials ended yesterday, with the Nobel laureate now facing more than three decades behind bars.

A prisoner of the military since a coup last year, Suu Kyi, 77, has been convicted on every charge levelled against her ranging from corruption to illegally possessing walkie-talkies and flouting Covid restrictions.

Yesterday she was jailed for seven years on five counts of corruption related to the hiring, maintaining and purchase of a helicopter for a government minister, a case in which she allegedly caused "a loss to the state".

Suu Kyi – sentenced to a total of 33 years following 18 months of court proceedings that rights groups have dismissed as a sham – appeared in good health, a legal source familiar with the case told AFP.

"All her cases were finished and there are no more charges against her," said the source, who requested anonymity as they were not authorised to speak to the media.

Journalists have been barred from attending the

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