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## Biker killed as 2 buses race on highway

Mob torches the vehicles; traffic halted on Dhaka-Tangail highway for an hour

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A motorcyclist was run over and killed when two buses were racing one another in Savar's Jirabo area yesterday morning.

A mob torched the two buses following the incident on the Dhaka-Tangail highway around 7:45am.

The victim, Mehedi Hasan, 32, of the capital's Demra area, was working as a local sales representative of an electronics company. He lived in Ashulia's Goshbagh area.

Witnesses said two buses of Ali Noor Paribahan were heading towards Abdullahpur from Nabinagar in the morning.

When both buses reached Jirabo bus station area, they started racing.

At one stage, one bus rear-ended the motorbike, causing the rider to fall and the other bus then ran him over.

The victim died on the spot, said Masud Al Mamun, sub-inspector of Ashulia Police Station.

The incident enraged locals who set

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Desperate for rice at subsidised prices, people from the low-income group crowd an OMS truck in the Boikali Mor area of Khulna city. With prices of essentials soaring beyond their reach, countless poor people wait under the scorching sun every day to buy affordable necessities.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## CLASH WITH COPS Over 800 BNP men sued in Khulna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

More than 800 BNP leaders and activists were sued yesterday over Saturday's clash with police during the party's sit-in protest in Khulna city's KD Ghosh Road area.

Sub-Inspector Ajit Kumar Das filed the case with Khulna Sadar Police Station against 59 BNP leaders and activists, including its Central Information Affairs Secretary Azizul Bari Helal, Khulna District Unit President Amir Ejaz Khan and General Secretary Monirul Hasan Bappi.

Of them, seven were already shown arrested in the case.

The arrestees are Isharat Islam, 23, Sheikh Kamal Uddin, 47, Jalal Hossain, 35, Raju Sheikh, 28, Abdul Hai Rumi, 46, Delwar Hossain Jasim, 34, and Mizanur Rahman, 32.

Besides, another 700-800 unnamed BNP men were made accused in the case, said Officer-in-Charge (OC) Hasan Al-Mamun.

According to the case statement, BNP leaders and activists, armed with locally-made weapons, blocked the movement of the common people and vandalised

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## BREASTFEEDING Set up corners at workplaces, malls, stations HC orders government

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to take necessary steps for setting up breastfeeding corners in all workplaces, shopping malls, airports, bus stops and railway stations across the country.

The verdict was delivered following the filing of a writ petition by Advocate Ishrat Hasan on October 24, 2019. Her nine-month-old child Umair Bin Sadi was also mentioned as a petitioner.

Ishrat told The Daily Star that the HC has given the government a reasonable amount of time to set up the breastfeeding corners in the aforementioned places.

The details of the verdict can be known after its full text is released, she added.

The writ petition said mothers feel uneasy to feed their children at workplaces, malls, airports, bus stops and railway stations in the absence of designated corners.

It also said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in 2009 had directed the authorities concerned to establish breastfeeding corners and daycare centres at all public and private workplaces in order to ensure proper childcare and a healthy environment for the children.

But those directives are yet to be fully implemented, Ishrat said in the writ petition.

Deputy Attorney General SK Saifuzzaman represented the state during the hearing of the petition.



## Russia intensifies attack in eastern part of Ukraine

6 killed; Blinken seeks immediate release of US journo in call with Lavrov

AGENCIES

Russian missiles hit a densely populated area of the eastern Ukrainian city of Kostyantynivka yesterday, killing six people, police said.

There was a large crater in a yard and windows were shattered from ground to top floors in two 14-storey tower blocks, while nearby private houses had smashed roofs, AFP journalists saw.

Donetsk regional police said that Russia fired S-300 and Uragan missiles in a "massive attack" involving six strikes just after 10:00 am local time.

Kostyantynivka is around 27km (17 miles) from the city of Bakhmut, where the war's heaviest fighting is continuing.

Prosecutors said three women and three men aged from late 40s to mid-60s were killed, while eight more were injured.

The blast hit "16 apartment buildings, 8 private residences, a kindergarten, an administrative building, three cars and a gas pipeline", police said.

Liliya, a 19-year-old psychology student, stood outside her severely damaged high-rise block. Broken glass rained down from windows as she spoke.

**Lavrov told Blinken that the fate of Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich would be determined by a Russian court.**

"Everything is bombed out. And I think it's like that in every flat in fact. Because it was such an impact that it was very hard for anything to stay unbroken."

Nina, a pensioner, was looking at the damage to her ground-floor flat

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## Bangladeshi man shot dead by BSF

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A Bangladeshi man was shot dead by the Indian Border Security Force along the border in Lalmonirhat's Patgram upazila on Saturday night.

Another was injured after being shot in the leg. The incident took place around 11:30pm near the main pillar number 864 in the Medical Bridge area of Shamshernagar.

The dead is Rabiul Islam, 54, of Kalabagan area in Patgram.

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and police sources said a group of 9-10 Bangladeshis were bringing cattle illegally from Pathantari area in Behar district of West Bengal when the BSF patrolling team of Chungarkhata camp opened fire.

Confirming the incident, Officer-in-Charge of Patgram Police Station Omar Faruk said police recovered the body and sent it to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

## Mexico regains ancient statue from US

AFP, Mexico City

Mexico has recovered from the United States a giant stone statue known as an "Earth monster" that dates to the Olmec civilization before the Christian era, authorities said.

The elaborately carved statue weighs more than a tonne and is nearly six feet (1.8 metres) tall and five feet (1.5 metres) wide, the National Anthropology and History Institute (INAH) said in a release.

"Our Consul Jorge Islas in New York confirms to me that Mexico's most sought Olmec piece has been recovered and is about to return home, from where it never should have been taken," Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard tweeted.

The Olmec civilization predated those of the Maya and Aztec cultures, and its artisans were known for creating colossal stone heads, statues and upright slabs.

The institute said it believes the statue was created sometime between 800-400 BC.

Known as Monument 9 of Chalcatzingo and found in the central Mexican state of Morelos, the bas-relief piece is believed to represent an "Earth monster," a creature that often appears in Olmec iconography, INAH said.

The open jaws of the piece symbolize the access

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## 12kg LPG cylinder price cut by Tk 244

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission has fixed Tk 1,178 as the price of the 12kg LPG cylinder for April, down by Tk 244 from the previous month.

In March, the price was Tk 1,422.

The new price went into effect yesterday, according to a Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission notice.

With the revised price, per kg of LPG has become Tk 98.17.

Meanwhile, the price of autogas, the LPG used in cars, is now Tk 54.9 per litre, which was Tk 66.22 in March.

BERC sets the price of private companies' bottled LPG in line with Saudi Arabia's Aramco's contract prices of propane and butane, the main ingredients of LPG.

Bangladesh's annual LPG consumption is about 14.28 lakh metric tonnes, with households accounting for about 84 percent of the consumption.



A man leaps across the rail tracks with a train just seconds away at the Moghbazar level crossing yesterday morning. Despite numerous deaths at level crossings across the country, people still seem to remain ignorant and risk their lives and limbs.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## DEFAMATION CASE Rahul to challenge conviction today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Disqualified Indian Congress lawmaker Rahul Gandhi will move an appeal before a court in Gujarat state today against his conviction in a criminal defamation case.

Rahul Gandhi was disqualified from the Lok Sabha on March 24 following his conviction by a Surat court in the criminal defamation case.

Rahul, the 52-year-old scion of the Gandhi family, is likely to remain present in the sessions court in Surat when the plea will be filed challenging the lower court's order sentencing him to two years in jail, PTI and ANI reported yesterday quoting unnamed sources.

"A petition challenging the lower court order will be filed in the sessions court of Surat on Monday [today], with Rahul Gandhi remaining present," a member of his legal team said requesting anonymity.

The court of Chief Judicial Magistrate HH Varma in Surat had on March 23 convicted Rahul Gandhi and sentenced him to two years in jail in a 2019 criminal defamation case filed against him over his "Why all thieves have Modi surname" remark.

It held Rahul Gandhi guilty under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 499 and 500.

The court had also granted him bail and suspended the sentence for 30 days to appeal in a higher court.

Opposition politicians say Gandhi's trial and the disqualification is the latest evidence of the Modi government's strong arm tactics and follows investigations and legal troubles faced in recent months by other opposition parties.