3 bullet-riddled bodies recovered in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Police yesterday recovered the bulletriddled bodies of three people from Rowangchhari upazila in Bandarban.

The deceased are Lal Lian Bawm, 32, son of Lian Thon Bawm, Simlian Thang Bawm, 30, son of Non Dao Bawm, and Nemthang Bawm, 43, son of Doukhar Bawm, of Ronin Para area of Rowangchari upazila, said Bandarban's Superintendent of Police Tariqul Islam.

Saiful Islam, sub-inspector at Rowangchhari Police Station, said the bullet-hit bodies were recovered from the Paikhongpara area around

The SP said infighting among hill terrorists might have killed the three. All three deceased were from the Bawm community.

Police beefed up security in the area, he said, adding they are trying to identify the culprits behind the incident. A probe has been launched to know the motive behind the killings, he added.

A case will be filed by the police if the victims' families fail to file one, he

On April 7, police recovered the bullet-riddled bodies of eight individuals from Khamtangpara of the same upazila.

The bodies were sent to Bandarban Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

RIOT-HIT NORTHEAST Indians return home from camps

REUTERS, New Delhi

Indian security personnel are escorting back to their homes thousands of people who fled to temporary camps after rioting and ethnic clashes in the northeast that killed about 70 people last week, officials said yesterday.

Fierce fighting broke out in the state of Manipur bordering Myanmar when members of about 30 tribal groups clashed with a non-tribal group, the ethnic majority Meitei, over the economic benefits and reservation status extended to some tribes.

"We are trying to ensure villagers return to their homes as leaders from opposing sides have started holding peace talks today," said Lorho S. Pfoze, a member of parliament from

"The situation is extremely tense and victims are scared to return to their villages as they fear clashes could erupt again."



An elderly woman stands outside a burning house after shelling in the town of Chasiv Yar, Donetsk region, on Sunday, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Tiger numbers expected to rise

Camera traps in Sundarbans find big cats in places not seen before

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The number of tigers in the Sundarbans is expected to rise due to successful conservation efforts in the world's largest mangrove forest, said officials concerned.

The forest department officials involved in the ongoing tiger census said they have found evidence of tigers using camera traps in areas where a previous survey failed to find any.

According to the preliminary data obtained from the cameras installed inside the forest, the number of tigers in the Khulna and Satkhira ranges has increased, they said.

However, they could not provide specific numbers.

The result of the census is expected to be published in 2024.

Surveys conducted in 2015 and 2018 did not find any tigers in parts of the Khulna range. But the camera traps this time captured adult tigers with cubs. Locals and forest rangers also reported frequent tiger sightings. There has also been a flurry of incidents in which tourists saw tigers in the Sundarbans.

On March 12, four tigers were spotted

Sundarbans.

Besides, tiger attacks on fishermen have also increased, according to officials.

Under the current tiger census, camera traps had been set up in Khulna and Satkhira ranges between January 1 and



The traps will be installed in the Chandpai and Sharankhola ranges between November 1 and February 29,

In total, 665 cameras will be installed. Abu Naser Mohsin Hossain, divisional forest officer of Khulna, told The Daily Star that the information obtained from the traps has not been verified yet.

"It is not possible to say how man in a tourist area in the Mongla end of the tigers are present in the two ranges. After 2013 and 114 in 2018.

collecting and analysing all the data from all ranges surveyed, the tiger census result will be published in 2024," said the DFO, also the director of Sundarbans Tiger Conservation Project.

Like the fingerprints of humans, the stripes on tigers are unique, said the forest official. The number of tigers will be determined by analysing their stripes, he He said the expected increase in the

number of tigers might be attributed to the forest department's increased vigilance against poachers and locals' change of attitude towards the big cat.

"Besides, deer and wild boar numbers have also increased in the forest, providing enough food for tigers," he said.

He said the government's decision to compensate families of tiger victims has also helped change locals' attitudes towards the tigers.

The government's "Sundarbans Tiger Conservation Project" is expected to be completed by March 2025. However, the tiger census programme will end in

In the first tiger census conducted in 1982, at least 453 tigers were found in the Sundarbans. Only 106 tigers were found in

Mahout killed in elephant attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A 40-year-old mahout died after being attacked by an elephant in the Chungabari area of Juri upazila of Moulvibazar on Sunday evening.

The deceased was identified as Russell Mia, 40, of Karmadha union under the Kulaura upazila.

His body was sent to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital for post-mortem yesterday. Chinu Mia, another mahout who was with Russell at the time, said they were working in the

Chungabari area on Sunday evening. Meanwhile, Russell, who had come to catch the elephant from Kulaura, went in front of the elephant and it attacked him.

Later he was rescued from there and taken to Kulaura Upazila Health Complex where the doctor

declared him dead. Dr Zakir Hossain, resident medical officer of Kulaura Upazila Health Complex said, the body was handed over to the Juri Police Station early yesterday.

Juri Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mohammad Mosharraf Hossain said, "The body was sent to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital for post-mortem yesterday. We have registered an unnatural death case over this incident."

Illegal structures evicted from Shimulia ghat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) vesterday conducted an eviction drive and removed some illegal structures built at Shimulia ghat in Munshiganj's Louhajang upazila.

The drive began 10:00am and continued till 2:00pm. At this time, 58 illegal structures, such as restaurants, the boundary walls of residential houses, including the boundary wall of Haldia Union Parishad Chairman Mozammel Haque's house, and other business establishments were removed from the ghat area.

BIWTA Joint Director (Land and Estate) Golam Mostafa said, "The illegal structures were built on BIWTA's land. They were demolished as the establishments were not removed even after multiple notices."

2 men held with firearm, ammo

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

The Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested two people with an illegal firearm and ammunition in their possession in Baliadangi upazila of

Thakuraon early yesterday.

They are Rana Mister, 35, and his cousin Rakib Hasan, 26, of Ratandighi village in the upazila. Inspector of DB police Anwarul Islam said, "A Sub-Inspector of DB police Nabiul Islam was

interrogating one Sabur Hasan, 26, of Jiabari village under the same upazila who was arrested with 130 bottles of phensidyl on Saturday.

"Based on the information provided by Sabur, a police team led by Nabiul arrested Rakib and then Rana while recovering the firearm (one-shooter gun) along with one bullet around 2:00am on Monday [vesterday]."

A Thakurgaon court sent the duo to jail in the afternoon following an arms case filed earlier Inspector Anwarul added.

Escape from Khartoum

cut off amid heavy bombing near her building, and Kamal Hossain was a victim of robbing and mugging that took place amid the conflict.

Fortunately, they too were able to come back home on Sunday. Welcoming the returnees at the

HSIA, Asad Alam Siam, additional secretary of the foreign ministry, said those who are still in Sudan will hopefully be evacuated and repatriated home safely soon.

Different ministries, the IOM, Biman, and Bangladesh missions in Saudi Arabia and Sudan have been doing their best to this end, he added.

Speaking to journalists at the airport, Expatriates' Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad said his ministry, through the Wage Earners' Welfare Board, has

In October 2013, the company

the provision of cost recovery," Imam

said, adding that there are much

In the new PSC, Petrobangla's

The move to draft a new PSC comes

income will initially be lower but it

will gradually pick up, said one of the

as the government is gearing up to

well in the Bay of Bengal.

revenue-sharing model.

Petrobangla officials.

readied \$200,000 for the repatriation of the Bangladeshis from Sudan.

Besides, it will reintegration support, he said, urging the returnees to register themselves in this regard with the ministry to avail the facilities.

He added that the flight carrying the next batch of evacuees may reach Dhaka today or tomorrow.

Fathima Nusrath Ghazzali, officerin-charge of IOM Bangladesh, said the UN migration agency will continue to provide its support for the safe return of the Bangladeshi nationals stranded in Sudan.

Siddiqur Rahman, managing director of Biman, said the national flag carrier will operate flights gradually to carry home all 1,500 Bangladeshis back home.

The draft PSC is now sitting on the

Prime Minister's Office for approval

But ExxonMobil is one of the best

companies in the world with huge

Taiwan in talks for \$500m weapons package from US

AFP, Taipei

Taiwan is expecting a fast-tracked \$500 million weapons package from Washington this year to make up for delays in arms procurements, the island's defence minister said

The self-ruled, democratic island lives under constant threat of an invasion by China, which claims Taiwan as part of its territory to be seized one day -- by force if necessary.

With Beijing increasing sabre-rattling towards the island, Taiwan's key ally the United States in September approved the Taiwan Policy Act -- which would see new legislation provide billions in military aid to Taipei.

WXR antenna".

what rectification measures had to be taken after landing.

The thorough security check that

all VVIP flights are subject to prior to flying did not pick up the impending motor failure.

every single intelligence agency, and the Special Security Force, can last up to three days. The radar system detects weather

up to 50 nautical miles ahead of the aircraft, based on which pilots can make directional decisions.

"An aircraft can operate without a weather radar system. The pilot can communicate with the ground and get weather updates. There was a time when planes did not have weather radars," said Air Commodore Md Moazzem Hossain, director of engineering and material management at Biman Bangladesh

equipped with weather radar systems because ground radar systems can only give weather updates within their range, not for the whole flight, said Biman insiders.

An aircraft being forced to fly without a functioning weather radar system is said to be flying on a "minimum equipment list".

On April 19, a Riyadh-bound Biman flight was forced to return to Dhaka airport as the aircraft's weather radar system was not working. The plane was in the air for two and a half hours on a "minimum equipment list".

However, a VVIP flight cannot operate on a "minimum equipment list", according to the "red book", a rulebook on the security protocol for the prime minister.

Air Commodore Hossain called it a "small problem" that did not "pose a safety hazard".

According to the VVIP flight handling manual by CAAB, the aircraft selected for flying the PM must be grounded for checks and inspections for at least 22 hours before departure, in the case of models like the Boeing 787. The manual states that the

engineers used for checking the However, over the last 50 years at head of the engineering department negligence.

security agencies 48 hours before the departure. The engineers' names, the specific

duties of each, and which part of the plane they will be looking into are "All equipment taken in/out of the

cordoned-off area must be checked at piece level. Any part needed to be replaced must be endorsed in the register mentioning the name of the part with proper specification/part number, the individual carrying the part along with his or her signature, says the manual.

A 10-member committee, led by the general manager of central control, oversees the planning and execution of the flight.

"The plane is inspected by our engineers and taken for two ground runs before taking to the air," said Air Commodore Hossain.

He denied the prospect of any negligence. "Even if this problem had happened while the prime minister was in the air, this would not have been negligence. This is an equipment, and anything can happen anytime."

Captain Siddiqur Rahman, Biman's director of flight operations, aircraft must be pre-selected by the also denied any possibility of

People will vote for AL in next polls

The event was held at the London Marriott Hotel on Sunday (local

Hasina said her party will win the next parliamentary polls as it always stands by the people.

She hoped that the people will not depend on the BNP-Jamaat. "They [BNP] laundered money

abroad and thus destroyed the country. How will the people depend

PM added.

Hasina said that Tarique Rahman, acting chairman of the BNP, has been sentenced for corruption and the government has been able to bring back about Tk 40 crore that was siphoned off by Khaleda Zia's

She said that there will be no

Hasina said the AL didn't come to power through vote-rigging like the BNP-Jamaat did.

"Awami League always fights for the rights of the people. It comes to power after being elected by the people. It never grabbed power."

The premier said people are aware enough of their right to vote. "We have made the people aware of it."

The PM also briefly mentioned about various development programmes implemented by her successive governments in the last 14

resume offshore gas exploration after a Bangladesh by 2041 "We have pause of ten years. proposals after a tender is floated. change and many IOCs will develop on them?" Petrobangla was supposed to float a formulated Delta Plan 2100. We have Another major deviation from the a keen interest to explore here. And The people have already known tender based on the 2019 PSC in 2020 2019 PSC is the gas price. Earlier, the when the ball is in our court, we may to take the country forward." that the BNP and Jamaat are "thieves, but the global coronavirus version price per thousand cubic feet was fixed negotiate with terms more favourable disrupted the plan. corrupts, killers, grenade attackers, at \$7.25 for deep sea and \$5.50 for to us." Imam said homeless and landless people in the years.

government-owned national gas company decided to review the PSC. capacity to find out the true cost," he In the new draft, it will be fixed at 10 said, citing the case of Australian oil and gas exploration company Santos. The exercise took more than two years Santos was operating the Sangu-11 to complete.

ended production from the shallow along with a proposal from the water field and left Bangladesh. American oil and gas giant ExxonMobil 'Santos/Shell which for offshore gas exploration. Exxon's the offshore Sangu gas field left the proposal came without any tender. country after getting 80 percent of "Tender is required to get a the total revenue generated thanks to better company with a lower cost.

fewer bureaucratic tangles under the experience and technology in deep-sea exploration," Imam said. He went on to seek a higher share of The new PSC based on the revenuerevenue for Petrobangla in the PSC. sharing contract must be used for all

> negotiations with Exxon. "We need to negotiate with the company based on the new PSC and our national interest and not on their required clauses," he added.

In the new PSC, foreign companies will get three months to submit

Petrobangla drafts new negotiation guidelines

Then in December 2020, the shallow sea.

percent of the average Brent crude oil price for the month, they said. If the Brent price of crude oil stands at \$100 on average, the gas price will be \$10 per cubic feet.

Imam appreciated the move as it will

also attract more IOCs. The last tender was issued in 2012. At that time, four companies joined the exploration work but left the country due to a comparatively lower price of

The four companies are a joint venture of US company ConocoPhillips, Santos, Australian Singapore's KrisEnergy and South Korea's Posco Daewoo Corporation. Bangladesh won a legal battle

against Myanmar and India in 2012

and 2014 to fix the maritime areas of

the respective countries. "We need to let the companies start the exploration process now. If one discovery is made, the scenario will

Biman 787 suffers glitch on return flight least, all commercial aircraft come and handed over to the government's

unreliable, both WXR systems test shows "WXR fail dry [drive]" with "WXR SYS [system]" advisory message and unusual sound from

The log also includes notes about

"Antenna drive unit replaced," it

The checks, which is conducted by Biman engineers in the presence of

looters and patrons of killers", the country.

younger son Arafat Rahman Coco. The premier, also the AL president, said the country will be a Smart