



At least 50 killed as trains collide in India

More than 350 hospitalised

REUTERS, Bhubaneswar/Kolkata

At least 50 people were killed and 350 injured when two passenger trains collided in the eastern Indian state of Odisha yesterday, Indian media reported.

The Coromandel Express, which runs from Kolkata to Chennai, collided with another passenger train, the Howrah Superfast Express, railway officials said.

The Howrah Superfast Express derailed and became entangled with the Coromandel Express, South Eastern Railway authorities said in a statement. Media reports had earlier said that the crash was between the Coromandel Express and a goods train.

There was no official confirmation yet on the number of dead in the disaster, which took place in Balasore district. Media reports said at least 50 people had died.

So far more than 350 injured passengers had been admitted to various hospitals, Odisha's Chief Secretary Pradeep Jena told reporters.

Images from the scene showed rescuers climbing up the mangled wreck of one of the trains to find survivors.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said authorities' priority was "removing the living to the hospitals, that's our first concern, to look after the living".

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The Jamuna has devoured houses, roads and farmland at Brahmangram village in Sirajganj's Shahjadpur upazila. Many villagers have become destitute due to erosion of the river bank over the last few years. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU

Country logs first Covid deaths in 2 months

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh reported two more Covid-19 deaths in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, read a press release of the Directorate General of Health Services.

The last death from Covid-19 was reported on March 28.

Of the dead, one was male and another female. They were aged between 61 and 70 and from Dhaka, according to the press release.

With the latest count, the total number of casualties in the country due to Covid-19 increased to 29,448.

Meanwhile, the DGHS also reported 89 Covid-19 cases after testing 1,509 samples in the same 24 hours.

The positivity rate was 5.87 percent.

In the past few days, case positivity rate started rising and hovered around 6 percent.

No measures to drive up remittance

Budget offers remitters no new incentive

JAMIL MAHMUD

The government has not come up with any new measure in the proposed national budget to encourage remitters despite a sluggish growth in remittance inflow in the outgoing fiscal year.

Instead, the government has kept unchanged the 2.5 percent cash incentive for remittance.

In his budget speech, Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal on Thursday said the cash incentive would encourage expatriates to remit their earnings through formal channels.

He said remitter-friendly processes are being promoted. "Thanks to these initiatives, our remittance is increasing."

The country received \$19.41 billion in remittance during July-May of outgoing fiscal year, a 1.13 percent rise from the amount remitted at the same period in the previous fiscal, according to Bangladesh Bank data.

After the introduction of two percent cash incentive in July 2019, the country saw a 10.87 percent growth in remittance.

In 2020-2021, the country saw a staggering 36.10

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Prospects for job creation gloomy

Govt initiatives may falter for falling foreign direct investment, higher bank borrowing

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The government's promise to create jobs for a massive number of people in the current fiscal year has not translated into reality as most of the initiatives aimed at generating employment have not been implemented.

This is not good news for an economy where at least 22 lakh people enter the job market every year.

The alarm bell will sound even louder at a time when many people reportedly lost jobs in the last couple of years because of large-scale disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war.

The lingering energy and power shortage, the sharp drop in foreign currency reserve and the difficulty in opening letters of credit for imports have already made it difficult for existing entrepreneurs to keep their industrial units operational and retain workforce. So, expanding the existing capacity and setting up new factories are out of question for many.

Under such circumstances, some of the initiatives taken by the government for the creation of new jobs would have given some relief to the economy. But the schemes have not moved at an expected pace.

For instance, the government has got down to establishing 100 economic zones where one crore people are expected to be employed as part of efforts to ensure a balanced distribution of employment

The alarm bell will sound even louder at a time when many people reportedly lost jobs.

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Heatwave sweeping 3 districts

UNB, Dhaka

A severe heatwave is sweeping over Rangpur, Dinajpur, and Rajshahi and it is likely to continue.

Meanwhile, a mild to moderate heatwave is sweeping over Sylhet, Patuakhali, Bhola, Barishal, Chandpur, Noakhali and Feni districts.

Dhaka, Mymensingh, Khulna, and some parts of Rangpur and Rajshahi divisions were also hit by the mild to moderate heatwave.

Rain or thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Chattogram and Sylhet divisions. The weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy skies elsewhere in the country, according to Bangladesh Meteorological Department's morning bulletin.

European Space Agency hosts first Mars live stream

CNN ONLINE

Here is Mars in real time. The European Space Agency (ESA) is streaming on YouTube the first live images directly from Mars.

Over the course of an hour, new images of Mars are expected about every 50 seconds, according to statement from the agency. Updates will also be available at ESA's Twitter account and the hashtag #MarsLIVE, the agency said.

The images, shared on YouTube, ESA's Twitter account and with #MarsLIVE, will show the planet as it has never been seen before, ESA said.

The event is celebrating the 20th anniversary of the launch of the agency's Mars Express orbiter — a mission to take three-dimensional images of the planet's surface to see it in more complete detail.

"Normally, we see images from Mars and know that they were taken days before," said James Godfrey, spacecraft operations manager at ESA's mission control center in Darmstadt, Germany, in a statement. "I'm excited to see Mars as it is now — as close to a martian 'now' as we can possibly get!"



This rickety building of Golachipa Upazila Health Complex in Patuakhali is a risk to healthcare workers and patients. Inaugurated on July 1, 1992, the two-storey building has not been renovated in years. On average, 90 patients remain admitted to the health complex. The Patuakhali civil surgeon has written to the higher authorities for funds to renovate the building. The photo was taken on Tuesday. PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

অটুটি থাকুক সকল বন্ধন যত্নে থাকুক সকল সঞ্চয়

আমাদের এই সুদীর্ঘ পথ চলায় গ্রাহক, শুভানুধ্যায়ী ও ঠেকহোতারদের নিয়ে আজ আমরা একটি সুবিশাল পরিবার। আপনাদের আস্থা, বিশ্বাস এবং বন্ধনই আমাদের প্রেরণা যোগায় সাফল্যের সাথে সামনে এগিয়ে চলার। সাফল্যের এই পথ চলায় আমাদের সাথে থাকার জন্য সবাইকে জানাই আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন।

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