



AL activists ‘swoop on’ BNP’s sit-in

25 party members hurt, claim Pabna BNP leaders

STAR REPORT

At least 25 BNP men were injured in an attack allegedly by ruling Awami League activists in Pabna town yesterday.

The BNP was scheduled to hold sit-ins in front of all district power offices yesterday, protesting “load shedding and corruption in the power sector”.

Pabna BNP organised the programme in Boro Bridge area near the local office of Bangladesh Power Development Board.

“At the end of our programme, a group of Awami League men suddenly attacked us,” said Masud Khandakar, member secretary of Pabna BNP.

“They beat us with sticks and hurled brick chunks at us. Some 25 to 30 leaders and activists of our party, including Pabna district unit BNP convener Habibur Rahman Habib, were injured,” he claimed.

Of them, condition of Md Yeamin, convener of Pabna Swachchhasebak Dal, is critical. He was taken to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, Masud added.

Later, BNP leaders held a press

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6



Rickshaw passengers try to stay dry during a drizzle yesterday afternoon that brought relief to the city dwellers who were suffering in the sweltering heat. There was light rain in different parts of the country too. The photo was taken near TSC at Dhaka University. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Wasa MD asks people to use less water

Says power cuts disrupting water supply

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Frequent load shedding is causing disruption in supplying water in five out of 10 zones of Dhaka Wasa, its Managing Director Taqsem A Khan said yesterday.

Of the total supply water, about 35 percent comes from surface water and rest are groundwater. Wasa does not face problems in supplying the surface water as there is special arrangements for power in treatment plants, said Taqsem.

Because of power cuts Wasa is in difficulty pumping up groundwater, he added.

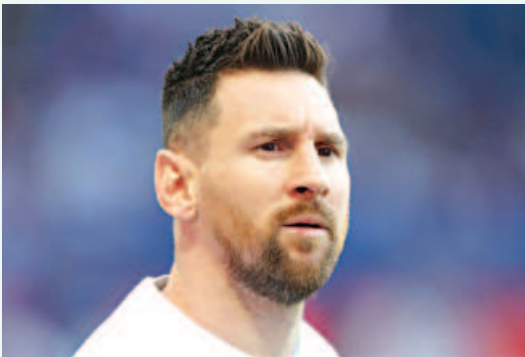
Even though there are generators, Wasa cannot pump sufficient water to meet the city dwellers’ demand, he said at a press conference at the Wasa headquarters in Karwan Bazar.

According to the Wasa, people of Baitul Aman Housing, Adabor, both parts of Ring Road, Aziz Mohalla, Tikkapara, Janata Housing, Dhaka Udyan, Shekheret under zone-3 and Gulshan-2 under zone-5 are facing water crisis.

The dwellers of Fakirapool, Arambagh, Purana Paltan, Shantinagar, Peerergali,

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

Messi ends Barca homecoming saga



SHABAB CHOWDHURY

Lionel Messi on Wednesday put an end to speculation about a romanticised Barcelona return after he announced his intention to join Major League Soccer side Inter Miami as a free agent.

The 35-year-old was also linked with a blockbuster move to Saudi Pro League side Al Hilal, who had reportedly set up a historic deal for the 2022 World Cup winner that would make him the highest-paid athlete in the world with annual wages reportedly close to 500 million dollars.

While he will receive a far lower salary in Miami, the deal will likely include the option to purchase a percentage of an MLS team upon the end of his time as a player, the same kind of stipulation that led to David Beckham buying a portion of Inter

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

UKRAINE DAM DISASTER Uprooted landmines may pose grave danger

Says Red Cross; about 600 sq km of Kherson under water

REUTERS, Moscow

Landmines uprooted and dispersed by floodwaters surging downstream from the breached Kakhovka dam across swathes of southern Ukraine could pose a grave danger to civilians for decades to come, the Red Cross said.

The vast Soviet-era Kakhovka dam, under Russian control, was breached in the early hours of Tuesday, unleashing floodwaters across a swathe of the warzone and endangering the lives and welfare of tens of thousands of people.

Ukraine blamed Russia for blowing it up. Russia said Ukraine sabotaged the dam at the behest of the West to constrict water supplies to Crimea and to distract from a faltering offensive. Some Russian-backed officials said the dam may have collapsed.

About 600 square kilometres, or 230 square miles, of the Kherson region in southern Ukraine was under water following the destruction of the dam, the regional governor said.

The waters have also washed over countless land mines sown during the 15-month war and nobody now knows where they are: they could still be in the minefields or could be stuck in

the river mud or in fields, gardens and roads across a vast area.

“In the past we knew where the hazards were. Now we don’t know. All we know is that they are somewhere downstream,” said Erik Tollefsen, head of the Weapon Contamination Unit at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

“It is with a certain horror that we look at the news coming out,” said Tollefsen in an audio clip, adding that World War Two mines found underwater in Denmark in 2015 were still active.

Besides anti personnel mines, both sides have used vast amounts of artillery shells and anti-tank mines. The exact number of mines in Ukraine is unclear, said Tollefsen. “We just know the numbers are massive,” said Tollefsen.

Russian-installed authorities who control part of Kherson region said five people have died in the floods and also warned residents to be vigilant over the mines being washed downstream by the floodwaters.

Moscow and Kyiv also accused each other of shelling the area as rescue workers in rubber dinghies tried to save hundreds of people and animals from the still rising flood waters.

No bar for Salahuddin to return home

Home ministry okays his travel pass

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh’s home ministry has approved a travel pass for BNP leader Salahuddin Ahmed, now in India, paving the way for his return home.

“Our home ministry’s approval on the matter has already been communicated with our assistant high commission in Guwahati for further actions. The rest will go as per normal procedures,” said Rafiqul Islam, acting director general of the foreign ministry’s public diplomacy wing, at the weekly briefing yesterday.

Asked when Salahuddin will be back, Rafiqul said it will depend on him. He is free to come anytime.

Salahuddin, 57, who was the state minister for communications in the 2001-06 BNP-Jamaat government, had gone missing from Dhaka on

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

First mission to ‘touch’ sun catches the solar wind

CNN ONLINE

A solar mission that has been spiralling closer to the sun to unravel its secrets has flown near enough to our star’s surface to make a key discovery.



Data from the Parker Solar Probe has uncovered the source of solar wind, a stream of energized particles that flow from the corona, or the sun’s hot outer atmosphere, toward Earth.

One of the key motivations behind the mission, named for the late astrophysicist Eugene Parker and launched in 2018, was to determine what the wind looks like as it

forms near the sun and how it escapes the star’s gravity.

As the probe came within about 13 million miles (20.9 million kilometres) of the sun, its instruments detected fine structures of the solar wind where it generates near the photosphere, or the solar surface, and captured ephemeral details that disappear once the wind is blasted from the corona.

The spacecraft was specially designed to eventually fly within 4 million miles (6.4 million kilometres) above the solar surface, and in late 2021, it became the first mission to “touch” the sun.

MIRPUR ZOO Hyena attacks boy as he sticks hand thru fence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A child suffered severe injuries when a spotted hyena attacked him at the Bangladesh National Zoo in Mirpur yesterday.

Sheuly Begum, mother of the two-year-old Saif, said, while visiting the zoo, her son accidentally slid one of his hands through the fenced cage of hyenas around 10:30am.

Within moments, a hyena bit the boy’s right hand, severing it from below the elbow.

“My son was on my lap. At one point, I put him down from my lap while walking around the cage. Suddenly, I heard my boy screaming and saw a hyena running away with a portion of his hand,” Sheuly told The Daily Star.

The boy was taken to the National Institute of Traumatology & Orthopaedic Rehabilitation in the capital’s Sher-E-Bangla Nagar for treatment.

A doctor of NITOR who treated Saif said they referred the boy to the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



A weaver perched on its intricately woven nest hanging from a betel nut tree in Sylhet city’s Majortila-Islampur area. Several weavers have built nests on the tree much to the delight of the people in the neighbourhood. Once the magnificent nests of weavers hanging from palm, coconut and betel nut trees were common in rural Bangladesh. Now the birds are not so common.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

MOSQUE BLAST 11 killed during funeral of Afghan governor

More than 30 hurt

REUTERS, Kabul

An explosion inside a mosque in northern Afghanistan yesterday killed at least 11 people during the funeral of the Taliban’s provincial deputy governor, who died in an attack earlier this week, officials said.

The Taliban-run Ministry of Interior said that more than 30 people were also injured in the blast in Badakhshan, a province in the far north that shares borders with China and Tajikistan.

A former police commander of northern Baghlan province, Safiullah Samim, was among the dead, according to a statement offering condolences from another police chief, Najibullah Badakhshi.

Ashraf Nael, a resident of Faizabad, said he was in a nearby court building when he heard a blast at around 11:00 am, muffled by the mosque walls, before many ambulances rushed towards the scene.

Islamic State militants claimed responsibility for a car bomb on Tuesday that killed Badakhshan’s deputy governor.

The Taliban administration has been carrying out raids against members of Islamic State, which has claimed several major attacks in urban centres.

The Islamic State group has targeted Taliban administration officials, and claimed the killing of the governor of northern Balkh province in an attack in March.