



# 3 cops killed as train hits police car

Bar at level crossing not lowered; gateman quit coming to work for not getting wage



FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN and MOHAMMED SUMAN, Ctg

Three police constables were killed and two others injured as a train hit a police car at an unmanned level crossing in Chattogram's Sitakunda upazila yesterday.

Locals and witnesses said the vehicle went onto the level crossing at Fakirpara as the bar at the gate was not lowered. The gateman remained absent from work for the last two days, they added.

The deceased are Mohammed Hossain of Cox's Bazar, SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



A big chunk of earth from a hill fell on a thatched hut at IW Railway Colony near Chattogram city's Sholoshahar Railway Station yesterday morning. Heavy downpours triggered the landslide that killed a man and his seven-month-old daughter. PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

# Father, daughter die in Ctg landslide

STAR REPORT

When Sharifa Begum composed herself, there was not much she could say.

"What would I live for now?" she said.

Surrounded by relatives at her home in the port city's Sholashar Railway colony, the 28-year woman looked all pale. When asked why she and her family chose to live on the slope of a hill, she mumbled a few words before saying, "Poverty forced us to live here ..."

Evidently, she had more to say by way of explanation but she fainted before she could finish.

Earlier in the day, around 6:00am, her husband and seven-month-old daughter were killed in a landslide triggered by incessant rain early morning yesterday.

The deceased were Mohammad Sohel, 35, and his seven-month-old SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

# CASE AGAINST PROF YUNUS

## 34 eminent personalities voice worry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirty-four eminent citizens have expressed concern over the case filed against Nobel Laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus and three others on charge of labour law violation.

In a statement issued yesterday, they said ulterior motives are driving the case against him in the Labour Court.

Referring to Dr Yunus's lawyers, the statement says despite the civil nature of the allegations, the government has filed a criminal case. The role of the government in disposing of this case at a rapid pace is noticeable, it reads.

In the past, Dr Yunus faced harassment from various government institutions under the pretext of audits, investigations, and interrogations, the statement says.

"He continues to experience hostility in SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

# FLOODS IN BANDARBAN, COX'S BAZAR

## Heavy rain, urban sprawl to blame

MOKAMMEL SHUVO

The floods that hit Bandarban, Cox's Bazar and parts of southern Chattogram early this month left a trail of destruction in their wake.

Experts, locals and government officials have said excessive rainfall combined with several man-made factors caused the flood and took it to extreme levels.

Professor Alak Paul of geography and environmental studies department at Chittagong University said heavy rain and unplanned urbanisation are two major causes of the recent floods in the Chattogram division.

There was heavy rainfall at the beginning of August that coincided with a time of high tide, which hindered the rivers from carrying the floodwater into the Bay of Bengal.

Emdadul Haque, assistant meteorologist of Bandarban, said from August 1 to August 7 their office recorded 936 mm rainfall in Bandarban, which was around one and a half times as much as the expected rainfall in the region.

Following the rainfall, the flood inundated vast areas of the region from August 7 and continued till August 11.

"Influenced by the full moon on August

3, the level of water in the Bay of Bengal rose excessively for the following few days during the high tide, slowing down the receding of the floodwater in the region. Water could not flow out during the high tide, flooding thousands of households," said Dr Tanjir Saif Ahmed, executive engineer of Cox's Bazar Water Development Board.

Floodwater in the region recedes through three main rivers -- Sangu, Matamuhuri and Dalu -- all of which flow into the Bay of Bengal, he said.

Excessive rainfall combined with several man-made factors caused the flood and took it to extreme levels.

He added that the river Matamuhuri flowing through Chakaria upazila in Cox's Bazar has lost its navigability as its excavation was done a long time ago.

The channel capacity of

Matamuhuri river is 1,000 to 1,500 cubic metres per second, whereas the flow of recent flood water was around 2,200 cubic metres per second, which led to inundation, he said.

Water resource and climate change specialist Dr Ainun Nishat said these types of calamities will happen more frequently in the coming days. Navigability of the rivers can be raised by dredging or excavation to increase their water draining capacity as a short-term solution.

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# HC can't order surrender to lower court

Neither can it order cops not to arrest, says SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday said the High Court Division cannot direct any accused in a criminal case to surrender before the lower court or ask law enforcers not to arrest the accused.

Instead, the HC can grant anticipatory bail to the accused or reject their bail petition, a four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Justice Obaidul Hassan said during a hearing on a leave-to-appeal petition.

The three other judges of the bench were Justice M Enayetur Rahim, Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam and Justice Md Abu Zafor Siddique.

Anticipatory bail is a pre-arrest bail, and the High Court usually grants such bail for a certain period if the accused has fear of being harassed or arrested, senior Supreme Court lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star.

In this case, however, the accused must surrender to the lower court within that period, and in the meantime law enforcers cannot arrest them, he added.

The leave to appeal was filed by the state challenging an HC order that on August 8 directed Executive Editor of The Daily Star

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# Mysterious dark spot detected on Neptune

CNN ONLINE

Astronomers have spotted a large and mysterious dark spot within Neptune's atmosphere, and it has an unexpectedly bright companion.

The observation was made using the European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope in Chile.

Space-based observatories such as the Hubble Space Telescope have observed vortex-like storms -- which appear as dark spots -- swirling in the blue planet's atmosphere before, but it's the first time an Earth-based telescope has seen one on Neptune.

These new observations are shedding more light on the phenomenon, according to new research published Thursday in the journal Nature Astronomy.

"Since the first discovery of a dark spot, I've always wondered what these short-lived and elusive dark features are," said lead study author Patrick Irwin, professor of planetary physics at the University of Oxford, in a statement.

Giant gaseous planets in our solar system, including Neptune, are known for the dark spots that appear in their atmospheres, such as Jupiter's Great Red Spot, a centuries-old storm.

Neptune, an ice giant, has had multiple storms observed by Hubble over the years. The storms all seem to follow a pattern of appearing and disappearing over the course of two years, making them difficult to study.

# MISSING CYPHER CASE

## Imran admits to misplacing confidential cable

NDTV ONLINE

Jailed former Pakistani prime minister Imran Khan admitted to misplacing a confidential diplomatic cable as he was interrogated by Pakistan's top investigative agency at the Attock Jail in a case filed under the Official Secrets Act for wrongful use of the classified document, according to media reports yesterday.

Khan, 70, is currently serving a three-year jail term after he was sentenced by a court in a corruption case earlier this month.

The cable in question was the same document Khan had for long mentioned as evidence of a US-backed conspiracy to remove him as the prime minister last year.

Khan had waved a document at a rally days before his ouster as prime minister in April 2022, saying it was proof of foreign conspiracy.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman's interrogation in the matter comes days after he was booked under the Official Secrets Act for making the content of a confidential diplomatic cable from the country's embassy in the US public.

The counter-terrorism wing (CTW) of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Saturday visited the former SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



# Obama pens a letter of support for Prof Yunus

UNB, Dhaka

Ex-US President Barack Obama has written a letter of support for Prof Muhammad Yunus, expressing his hope that the Nobel Peace Prize-winning economist can continue to do his "important work".

Prof Yunus, the founder of Grameen Bank, shared an image of the letter signed by Obama on his verified Facebook page yesterday.

"I have long been inspired by your efforts to empower people through offering them the means to lift their families and communities out of poverty. As I said when having the opportunity to meet you in the White House in 2009, your work has inspired millions to imagine their own potential," said the letter.

"During this period, I hope it gives you strength to know that many whose SEE PAGE 6 COL 6



People walk across the street and climb over median barriers disrupting traffic at the capital's Farmgate where there are multiple footbridges in close proximity. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN