



3 children die under train in Mohakhali

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three children, aged 12-13, were killed after getting run over by a train in Mohakhali's Amtoli area last morning.

The identities of the victims could not be known immediately, Dhaka Railway Station Officer-in-Charge Ferdous Alam Biswas told The Daily Star in the evening.

They were going to the Sainik Club area from Mohakhali when the Jamalpur-bound Dewanganj Express train from Kamalapur Railway Station hit them around 6:30am.

On information, railway police went to the spot and recovered their bodies.

One of them was wearing a checked shirt and a pair of black shorts; another was wearing a T-shirt and black trousers; and the third child was wearing a blue shirt and denims.

The bodies have been sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsies.



Dhaka South City Corporation is clearing this old channel of the Buriganga from illegal occupants, including fruit traders, in Kamrangirchar yesterday. However, a DPDC sub-station (grid north-1), painted red and white, is obstructing the flow of the channel.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

World Bank approves \$300m loan for education recovery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

World Bank has approved a \$300 million loan to help Bangladesh offset the adverse effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on education.

The bank's Board of Executive Directors yesterday approved the loan to introduce complementary online learning blended with in-class education, improve learning outcomes and teaching quality, and reduce the dropout rate in secondary education.

The initiative titled "Learning Acceleration in Secondary Education (LAISE) Operation" will support the government's Secondary Education Programme, the WB said in a press release.

This programme will help accelerate learning focusing on core subjects including mathematics, English and Bangla for grades 6 and 8.

It will also help cutting dropout rates by providing stipends to 8 million students and forming active sexual harassment and prevention committees in 5,000 institutions.

Abdoulaye Seck, World Bank country director for Bangladesh and Bhutan, in the press release said the bank will continue to help Bangladesh recover from learning losses by improving learning outcomes and teaching quality so that students graduate with the skills they need to live a rich and fulfilling life and strive in society.

Under the initiative, about 7,200 schools will have

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CYBERCRIMES

Employment scam, swindling through apps on the rise

Finds report on 217 victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cybercrimes like job scams and swindling through mobile apps have increased by over 281 percent in the country in 2022, according to the National Committee on Cybersecurity Awareness.

People fall victim to the crimes as they lack awareness about the dangers and do not know how to better protect themselves, said members of the committee.

Women and children faced the most problems online, said Kazi Mustafiz, president of Cyber Crime Awareness Foundation, at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday.

Moreover, about 14.64 percent of the 217 victims of cybercrimes were cheated while buying products online, 59 percent were female, 75 percent were aged between 18 and 30, and 14.82 percent were children, according to the survey.

Since 2018, the percentage of child victims rose by 140 percent, it said.

Cyberbullying, involving pornography, indecent messages and abusive posts on social media, accounted for 52.21 percent of the reported online crimes in 2022.

To create awareness, the committee will organise a month-long cyber awareness programme in October.

The programme will cover the importance of multi-factor authenticating, setting strong passwords, recognising and reporting phishing, and updating software.

Khaleda must seek govt approval to go abroad

Says law minister

STAR REPORT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia must submit an application to the home ministry for permission to go abroad for better treatment.

"The application must be submitted to the home ministry, which can ask the law ministry for its opinion. A decision will be taken after their formal submission," reports UNB.

Khaleda continues to receive quality healthcare at Evercare Hospital despite her prison sentence thanks to the benevolence of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, he told reporters at Brahmanbaria's Akhaura upazila.

In response to the law minister's statement, Khaleda's personal secretary ABM Abdus Sattar said they would reapply for her treatment abroad if the government has a "positive attitude" towards this.

Speaking to reporters yesterday afternoon, he said, "I submitted applications to the

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Ukraine claims to break through Russian lines

'Senior' Russian officers among killed in naval HQ attack

AFP, Kyiv

Ukraine has reported breaking through Russian defence lines in the south as its army yesterday said that senior Russian navy commanders were among dozens killed or wounded in a missile attack on Moscow's Black Sea Fleet headquarters in Crimea.

In the latest claims of progress in the Zaporizhzhia area, the Ukrainian general leading the counteroffensive there told US media that the advance was still underway.

"On the left flank [near the village of Verbove] we have a breakthrough and we continue to advance further," general Oleksandr Tarnavskiy told CNN in an interview published Friday.

Ukraine launched its counteroffensive to claw back territory from Russian forces in June.

Progress has been slow, with much of the territory heavily mined, but Kyiv has in recent weeks reported making strategic advances in the Zaporizhzhia region.

"Not as fast as it was expected, not like in the movies about the Second World War," Tarnavskiy said in the CNN interview, adding it was important "not to lose this initiative".

Last month Kyiv declared a strategic victory when it recaptured the southern village of Robotyne.

Tarnavskiy said a major breakthrough would be if Kyiv recaptured the city of Tokmak -- 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the front line -- which

fell to Russian forces at the start of their invasion. Retaking Tokmak would allow Ukrainian forces to push further toward occupied Melitopol and annexed Crimea.

"I think it (a breakthrough) would happen after Tokmak," he said, but warned: "At the moment (Russian forces) are relying on the depth of their defensive line there."

Tarnavskiy disagreed with some predictions that Ukraine's push could be further slowed in the coming winter months.

"The weather can be a serious obstacle during advance, but considering how we move forward, mostly without vehicles, I don't think (it) will heavily influence the counteroffensive," he said.

He gave some insight into the type of fighting taking place in the south, 19 months into Moscow's invasion, saying "Right now, neither the enemy nor us uses large formations, companies, battalions or brigades. We use assault squads, groups of 10 to 15 men".

"They conduct titanic work of concentrating enemy fire on them and using all the means they have to use to survive."

The interview was published a day after Kyiv struck Russia's Black Sea Fleet headquarters in the Crimean port of Sevastopol, claiming to have killed "senior" commanders.

The army said the strike happened during "a meeting of the Russian navy's leadership".

Kyiv's intelligence chief Kyrylo Budanov said the attack killed "at least nine people", including generals, in comments to Voice of America.

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Family killed, dismembered estranged father's body Say police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Md Hasan, 61, had abandoned his family and disappeared from their lives 27 years ago. When he returned to them earlier this month, he might have thought things would be normal again. However, little did he know that death awaited him at the hands of the very same family he came to see after all this time.

Hasan was murdered over a property feud on Tuesday night and later dismembered by his wife and sons to hide the evidence, said the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) yesterday after recovering parts of his body from a canal in the port city's Akmal Ali Ghat area under EPZ Police Station.

On Thursday night, police first found Hasan's dismembered body parts inside a bag on the side of the road adjacent to Patenga 12 Ghat. He was positively identified after police verified his fingerprints.

Hasan's wife, Shenewara Begum, and elder son, Mustafizur Rahman, have been arrested, while his younger son, Shafiqur Rahman Jahangir, and his wife Anarkali are on the run.

The grisly murder took place at Jahangir's house at the city's EPZ-Akmal Ali Ghat's pocket gate.

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UK returns Ethiopian prince's lock of hair after 140 years

AFP, London

A lock of hair from an Ethiopian prince who died in 1879 and artefacts looted by the British during a 19th century battle have been returned to the east African country.

Items returned to the Ethiopian embassy in a ceremony late on Thursday in London include

three silver cups and a shield.

The artefacts were pillaged during the battle of Magdala in 1868 when 13,000 British soldiers besieged Emperor Tewodros II's fortress.

The lock of hair is from the emperor's son, Prince Alemayehu. It was reportedly returned by a descendant of Captain Tristram Speedy, a member of the British expedition who became the prince's guardian.

After the battle, seven-year-old Prince Alemayehu was taken to England. He spent the next decade in Britain but died in 1879 at the age of 18.



Vehicles drive along a potholed road in Khulna Zero Point intersection area yesterday. This entrance to the divisional city, which is used by buses and trucks, has been in this shape for about four years due to lack of repairs.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Minority affairs commission to be formed soon Oikya Parishad calls off hunger strike following assurances

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will form the national commission for minority affairs before its tenure expires, said Kabir Bin Anwar, co-chairman of the ruling Awami League's election steering committee.

The background tasks that are necessary for forming the commission are in the final stage, he said yesterday at the capital's Central Shaheed Minar, where he went to urge the speech minority community leaders to end their hunger strike.

"So, it will not take a long time to complete all the tasks. I firmly believe that formation of the commission is possible within this government tenure," he said.

The act for forming the commission would be passed in the next parliament session in October.

"I think the commission should be formed on a priority basis," he said, adding that other laws like

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