



"We need a constant stream of aid pouring in, bringing the water, food, medicine, and fuel that is so desperately needed"

British prime minister Rishi Sunak on aid for Gaza.

The Daily Star

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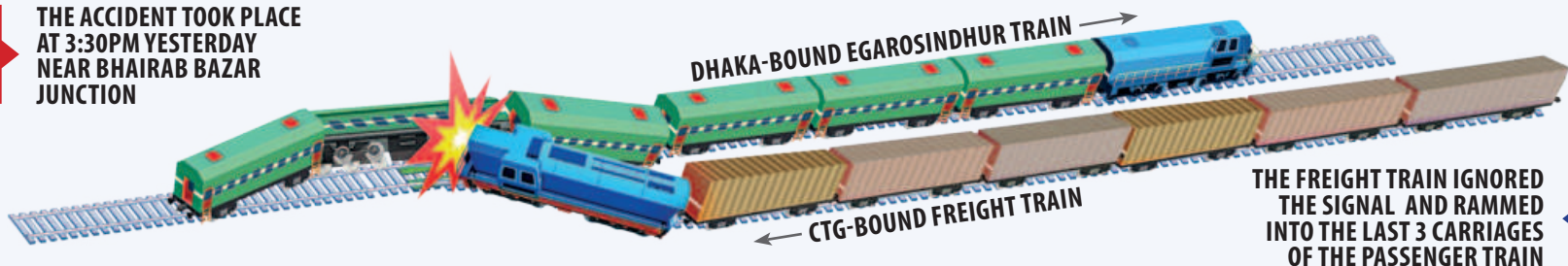
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16 PAGES PLUS LIFE STYLE : Tk 15.00



THE ACCIDENT TOOK PLACE AT 3:30PM YESTERDAY NEAR BHAIRAB BAZAR JUNCTION



THE FREIGHT TRAIN IGNORED THE SIGNAL AND RAMMED INTO THE LAST 3 CARRIAGES OF THE PASSENGER TRAIN



17 killed as trains collide in Bhairab

75 hospitalised; Dhaka's rail link with Ctg, Sylhet, Mymensingh snapped for several hours; freight train driver, assistant suspended

MASUK HRIDYOY AND JAHIDUL ISLAM, from KISHOREGANJ

At least 17 people were killed after a freight train ignored a signal light and rammed into a carriage of Egarosindhur Godhuli near Bhairab Bazar Junction Railway Station yesterday afternoon.

Due to the impact, three carriages of Egarosindhur, packed with passengers, derailed and two overturned.

Witnesses and officials of Bangladesh Railway said Egarosindhur left Bhairab junction for Dhaka around 3:30pm, and as it was changing lines, the freight train, coming from the opposite direction, smashed into the third from the last carriage.

Some of the victims died at the scene while many others got trapped inside the

mangled carriages.

The last two carriages flipped on their sides. Some of the passengers standing near the doors were flung outside on impact.

Locals, police, fire fighters, and Rab personnel, who rushed to the scene, pulled out bodies and the injured from the wreckage. At least 75 people were taken to hospitals.

Opu, a teen, was in the third last carriage with his parents.

"When the collision happened, everyone inside started screaming. We managed to get out," he said.

He said his uncle, aunt, and two cousins were in the second-last carriage.

"We rushed there to find them. The scene inside was chaotic with people

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Firemen and locals join hands to rescue the injured and recover the bodies from a carriage of the Egarosindhur Godhuli train near Bhairab junction after the freight train, on which the onlookers are standing, rammed the passenger train yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

CASES AGAINST BNP LEADERS, ACTIVISTS

Families pushed to brink

SHARIFUL ISLAM, DWOHA CHOWDHURY and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Ten-year-old Adnan Ahmed Aman's young mind was looking for a way out since his father's arrest from their home last year so that his father, a Sylhet Jubo Dal leader, could avoid further arrest and spend time with him.

Recently, he got an idea while playing Minecraft on his phone. In this game, players explore a blocky three-dimensional world and build various structures.

So, Adnan designed a house that has a hideout underneath his father's living room where his father will hide during any future raid and avoid arrest.

"I was scared when Rab raided our home and left with my Abbu. Since then, I was thinking how I can save my Abbu," Adnan told The Daily Star, showing the design of the hideout on his phone.

Adnan's father Md Moksud Ahmed, general secretary of Sylhet district Jubo Dal, said his son is traumatised since plainclothes Rab men barged into his Mollargaon home in Sylhet city in the predawn hours of September 14 last year, and left with him.

"Whenever someone rings the doorbell, my son rushes to the door only to tell them that I am not home," said Moksud, who was released on bail four months after the arrest in a case filed after Jamaat-Shibir men brought out a



PHOTO: STAR

Adnan Ahmed, 10, built a hideout in 'Minecraft' for his father so police cannot find him.

procession in Sylhet city.

An assistant professor at the National Institute of Mental Health said traumatised children may develop anxiety-related disorders. These children may also have difficulties socialising and studying.

But the grownups like Moksud and thousands of BNP leaders and workers across the country have their own pressing problems.

Some have lost their jobs due to the court cases, and struggle to pay the bills. Others are in heavy debt running their families and paying the legal expenses in dozens of cases. Yet others are

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LDC GRADUATION

Bangladesh to get duty benefits beyond 2026

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Bangladesh is set to enjoy duty-free market access beyond its graduation from the least developed country bracket in November 2026 after the World Trade Organisation yesterday decided to extend support measures for graduating countries.

The decision, which was taken with the view to providing a smooth and sustainable transition period for LDCs, came at a General Council aimed at making preparations for the 13th WTO Ministerial Conference scheduled for February 2024 in Abu Dhabi.

Previously, Bangladesh was supposed to lose duty-free and quote-free market access upon LDC graduation to all regions save for the EU in 2026.

Now, Bangladesh will continue to enjoy the duty-free benefit for a certain period as the WTO has not given a specific timeframe yet.

"LDC graduation is an important sign of development progress. Today, WTO

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Ansars set to get powers to arrest, frisk

'Ansar Battalion Bill 2023' placed in JS ahead of polls; experts say it may lead to chaos

RASHIDUL HASAN and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Despite opposition from the police, Ansar battalion members are set to get powers to arrest offenders, frisk detainees, and seize goods.

A bill titled "Ansar Battalion Bill-2023" was placed in parliament yesterday keeping provisions for these.

The government came up with the move with general election less than three months away.

The proposed law stipulates that death penalty will be the maximum punishment for committing mutiny and provoking rebellion in Ansar.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan placed the bill before the House, which was sent to the parliamentary standing committee on the home ministry for further scrutiny.

The parliamentary watchdog has been asked to submit its report to the Jatiya Sangsad within three working days, meaning the bill is likely to be passed in

the ongoing 25th JS session, sources at the Parliament Secretariat said.

The current session, which will continue until November 2, is also the last session of the 11th parliament.

Yesterday, Jatiya Party MP Fakhrul Imam strongly opposed the bill when the home minister sought permission to place it in parliament.

He demanded withdrawal of the bill and a fresh one be placed in the House.

In response, the home minister said that the parliamentary polls are ahead. In order to deploy an adequate number of law enforcers, Ansar members must also be deployed alongside the police members.

Fakhrul's objection was rejected after voice vote.

The section-8 of the bill stipulates that an Ansar battalion member shall, if an offence is committed in front of him, with the approval of the superior officer concerned, arrest the offender and immediately hand him over to the

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Afghanistan's Rahmat Shah and Hashmatullah Shahidi celebrate their stunning eight-wicket win over Pakistan in their World Cup fixture at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Afghanistan send Pakistan crashing to shock defeat

AFP, Chennai

Afghanistan put on a superb batting and bowling display to hand Pakistan a stunning eight-wicket defeat in the Cricket World Cup on Monday.

Chasing a 283-run target, Afghanistan were lifted by Ibrahim Zadran (87), Rahmat Shah (77 not out) and Rahmanullah Gurbaz (65) as they scored 286-2 in 49 overs.

Pakistan had made 282-7 in their 50 overs with 74 from skipper Babar Azam and 58 from opener Abdullah Shafique but the total did not prove tough enough for a clinical Afghanistan.

Skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi, with a 45-ball 48 not out, hit the winning boundary as Afghanistan improved upon their highest ODI chase of 274 against the UAE in Dubai in 2014.

The win is Afghanistan's first-ever over Pakistan in eight ODIs and came eight days after their shock victory over defending champions England in Delhi.

The defeat leaves Pakistan's World Cup campaign in disarray with three defeats in five games and a formidable South Africa to face at the same venue on Friday.

In contrast, Afghanistan's campaign is slightly revived with two wins in five matches and struggling Sri Lanka as their next opponents in Pune on Sunday.

Pakistan were sloppy in the field as they conceded easy boundaries with openers Zadran and Gurbaz taking their side to 100 in the 16th over.

The pair put on 130 by the 22nd over and it was only a miscued shot from Gurbaz off Shaheen Shah Afridi that brought Pakistan their first wicket.

Gurbaz hit nine boundaries and a six in his 53-ball knock while Zadran scored 10 boundaries off 113 deliveries before handing a catch behind off Hasan Ali with 93 still needed.

Rahmat and Shahidi ensured

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All or nothing for the Tigers

AL-AMIN

Bangladesh will go into their make-or-break match against South Africa in Mumbai today fully aware of the fact that a defeat would effectively derail



them from the World Cup semifinals race at the halfway stage of the tournament.

After three straight defeats in four games, a fantastic victory against the Proteas in the last World Cup four years ago in England would be the only positive thing that the injury-hit Tigers would carry with them at the

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