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Police shoot one dead at polling centre

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

An elderly man was shot dead as police opened fire during a clash at a polling centre in Birol upazila of Dinajpur last night.

Mohammad Ali, 65, was shot at Singul Hamid-Hamida High School where the results for the union parishad polls were announced.

Supporters of UP chairman candidates Saiful Islam and Jobaidur Rahman were chasing each other after votes were counted, witnesses said.

As police intervened, the supporters threw brick chunks at officers who then used firearms.

Ali was taken to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

Deputy Commissioner of Dinajpur Shakil Ahmed said, "A three-member committee led by Additional District Magistrate Jane Alam has been formed to investigate

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A locally made three-wheeler known as tombom carries bricks and sand on Khulna-Mongla highway at speed. Such vehicles are banned on highways as they are often involved in road crashes. The photo was taken at Chulkathi of Bagerhat recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

2 Bangladeshi men shot dead in New York

Cops yet to give details about the shooting

STAR REPORT

Two Bangladeshis were shot dead in New York's Buffalo on Saturday.

The dead were identified as Babul Mia from Cumilla, and Abu Saleh Md Yousuf from Sylhet, Bishwajit Shaha, general secretary of Muktohdara Foundation, a New York-based non-profit literary-cultural platform of Bangla speakers, said quoting a member of the Bangladesh community in New York.

The two were shot around 12:30pm (local time) yesterday at Babul's home on Jenner Street.

According to local news reports, police and a SWAT team arrived at the scene shortly after the incident. The area was then cordoned off for around six hours.

Police said both victims were male, but did not disclose their identities. They also did not say whether a suspect was arrested.

Just a year ago, Yousuf, 42, from Tinchoti village in Sylhet's Kanaighat upazila, had moved to the US with his wife and two daughters, aged seven and three, in search of a better life.

His family members, who live in Sylhet city's Majortila, are still reeling from the shock of the news.

Yousuf's father Nurul Haque was a member of the upazila's Jhingabari union parishad.

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PM returns home today after six-day Thailand visit

UNB, Bangkok

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will return home today from Bangkok, wrapping up her six-day official visit to Thailand.

She arrived in Bangkok on April 24 on a bilateral and multilateral visit at the invitation of her Thai counterpart Srettha Thavisin.

The Bangladesh premier held bilateral talks with Thavisin on April 26 at the Government House.

The two PMs witnessed the signing of five bilateral documents on visa exemption, cooperation on energy, tourism, and customs matters, and the

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Diplomacy ramps up for Gaza truce

Abbas says only US can halt attack on Rafah; 66 more Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes

AGENCIES

Diplomatic efforts increased yesterday to reach a long sought-after truce and hostage-release deal in Gaza, as Israel carried out further air strikes and shelling on the Palestinian territory.

A new video of two hostages being held by Hamas prompted fresh outrage in Israel, where protesters have piled pressure on the government to reach a deal.

Global opposition to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza has also been growing, with world leaders and aid groups warning that a looming Israeli invasion of the southernmost city of Rafah would lead to massive civilian casualties.

Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas yesterday appealed to the United States to stop Israel from invading Rafah, which he said would be "the biggest disaster in the history of the Palestinian people".

The US - Israel's main ally and weapons supplier - was the only nation capable of preventing Israel

- Hamas delegation to visit Cairo today for talks
- 'Israel agrees to listen to US concerns before Rafah move'
- Death toll in enclave rises to 34,454

from "committing this crime", Abbas told a global economic summit in Saudi Arabia.

Hamas said on Saturday it was studying a new Israeli counterproposal for truce and hostage release, a day after media reports said an Egyptian delegation was in Israel in a bid to jump-start stalled negotiations.

A Hamas delegation will visit Cairo today for talks aimed at securing the ceasefire, a Hamas official told Reuters yesterday.

Egypt, Qatar and the United States have been trying to mediate a new truce ever since a one-week

halt to the fighting in November saw 80 Israeli hostages exchanged for 240 Palestinians held in Israeli prisons.

Hamas has previously insisted on a permanent ceasefire - a condition that Israel has rejected.

However, the Axios news website, citing two Israeli officials, reported that Israel's latest proposal includes a willingness to discuss the "restoration of sustainable calm" in Gaza after hostages are released.

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said yesterday that at least 34,454 people have been killed in the Palestinian territory during nearly seven months of offensive. The tally includes at least 66 deaths in the past 24 hours, a ministry statement said.

Meanwhile, White House national security spokesperson John Kirby yesterday said that Israel had agreed to listen to US concerns and thoughts before it launches an invasion of the border city of Rafah.

In central Gaza, Mohammed

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Asia swelters in extreme heatwave

Schools closed in Philippines; Thailand issues heat warnings

AFP, Manila

South and Southeast Asia braced for more extreme heat yesterday as authorities across the region issued health warnings and residents fled to parks and air-conditioned malls for relief.

A wave of exceptionally hot weather has blasted the region over the past week, sending the mercury as high as 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit) and forcing thousands of schools to tell students to stay home.

The Philippines yesterday announced the suspension of in-person classes at all public schools for two days after a record-shattering day of heat in the capital Manila.

In Thailand, where at least 30 people have died of heatstroke so far this year, the meteorological department warned of "severe conditions" after temperatures in a northern province exceeded 44.1C (111.4F) on Saturday.

And in Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam, India and Bangladesh forecasters warned that temperatures could exceed 40C in the coming days as people endured searing heat and stifling humidity.

"I dare not go out in the daytime. I am worried we would get heatstroke," said a 39-year-old cashier in Myanmar's Yangon who gave her name as San Yin.

She said she has been going to a park with her husband and four-year-old son at night to escape the heat of their fourth-floor apartment. "This is the only spot we can stay

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2 KNF men shot dead in Ruma raid: ISPR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two members of the Kuki-Chin National Front (KNF) were killed after being shot during a raid by army personnel in the remote Baklai Para area of Bandarban's Ruma upazila yesterday.

The team also recovered three arms, ammunition, and a walkie-talkie used by the armed group, said a press release of Inter Services Public Relation Directorate (ISPR).

Earlier on April 22, another KNF member was killed in a raid by an army patrol team in the remote Munlai Para area of Bandarban's Ruma.

A joint drive is underway to arrest those who were involved in the robberies of Sonali and Krishi banks in Ruma and Thanchi on April 2 and 3.

Members of BGB, Rab, police, and Ansar are taking part in the operation, coordinated by the army.

WHO ARE KNF? In early 2022, the name of

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3 die as bike crashes into parked lorry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Three young men were killed when the motorcycle carrying them crashed into a parked lorry in Sylhet's Zakiganj upazila late Saturday night.

The deceased were identified as Delwar Hossain, 36, Redwan Hossain, 26, and Manjur Hossain, 24. They were all from the upazila's Barothakuri village.

It was raining when the accident occurred in the village at 11:45pm, Javed Masud, officer-in-charge of Zakiganj Police Station said, quoting witnesses.

When the victims were returning home on a motorcycle, the vehicle crashed into a lorry parked on the road near a local brickfield, he added.

"Two of them died on the spot while the third victim died on the way to the hospital. The bodies have been sent to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital for autopsy," the OC said.

The police will take the necessary legal steps if the victims' families lodge any complaints, the police official said.

Following this incident, seven people have lost their lives in motorcycle crashes in the upazila in the 15 days leading up to Saturday, reports UNB.

Crashes often recur on Zakiganj Sylhet road as trucks, tractors, three-wheelers, buses and other small vehicles are parked on the road at night, said locals.



Children of Gaza at a camp for displaced Palestinians in Rafah, southern Gaza Strip, chant slogans at a demonstration on Saturday expressing gratitude for the support for Gaza on US college campuses.

PHOTO: CNN

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MELTING BITUMEN RHD asks field offices to give info on roads

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Roads and Highways Department has asked all its field offices to provide information about the roads where bitumen melted due to the ongoing heatwave.

A letter, signed by Shamima Yasmin, executive engineer (quality control division) of RHD, was sent to all executive engineers yesterday, amid reports of bitumen melting on roads at different points.

Shamima told The Daily Star that they are hopeful of getting the information within a day or two.

The field offices were asked to give various information, including names of the affected roads, length, description of the latest repair work, date of completion, and surface temperature, said the letter.

A record 26 days of this month were heatwave days with the country seeing high temperatures of 42 degrees Celsius or more.

In recent days, the surface of roads and highways in several places in Jashore, Chuadanga, Shariatpur, and Savar melted, causing difficulties to motorists.

Transport experts said road surfaces in several districts melted as the bitumen