



Helicopter carrying Iran president crashes

Search teams close to crash site in fog-covered mountainous region

AGENCIES

Iran launched a large-scale search and rescue effort to scour a fog-shrouded mountain area after President Ebrahim Raisi's helicopter went down yesterday in what state media described as an "accident".



Ebrahim Raisi

Fears grew for the 63-year-old ultraconservative after contact was lost with the helicopter carrying him as well as Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and others in East Azerbaijan province, AFP reports.

Military crew members were heading to the exact location of the crash site of the helicopter, a military commander in the region said early today, according to state news agency IRNA.

A signal was received from the helicopter and the mobile phone of one of the crew members at the crash site, according to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps commander for East Azerbaijan province of Iran, where the crash occurred.

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An elderly woman is stopped at Mirpur-10 intersection during yesterday's daylong protests by drivers of battery-powered rickshaws against the ban on such three-wheelers on Dhaka streets. Demonstrations turned violent as police, ruling party activists and the drivers clashed.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN, PALASH KHAN

BATTERY-RUN RICKSHAW BAN Protest, clashes rock Mirpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Traffic ground to a halt on different streets in Mirpur yesterday as drivers of battery-run rickshaws demonstrated, clashed with police, and vandalised vehicles.

At least 20 people were reported injured as the ruling Awami League activists attacked protesters, police opened fire and used teargas, and the drivers threw brick chunks at the law enforcers.

As chaos was unleashed on roads, thousands of commuters were subjected to long tailbacks, especially in the morning and evening rush hours.

On Baunia Bandh road, Sultan Ahmed, a 60 year old NGO official, was seen walking with two bags in the evening.

"I am returning home in Pallabi. After two hours of being stuck, I got down from the bus. I walked past groups of people chasing each other on the street," said the man, who was perspiring.

The demonstrators also damaged at least 25 vehicles, assaulted several rickshaw pullers, and set fire to a police box on Kalshi Road around 4:30pm. As

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CHECKING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Govt app sees only six rescue pleas in about six years

NILIMA JAHAN

The government's "Joy" app, developed with a budget of Tk 45 lakh to tackle violence against women and children during emergencies, received only six rescue requests in five years and nine months.

Since its inception in July 2018, it got two rescue requests that year, three in 2019, and none in 2020 and 2021. It received one in 2022, and then again none in 2023 and so far in 2024.

However, emergency situations involving violence against women and children have not only continued but have, in fact, risen alarmingly.

According to Ain O Salish Kendra, at least 6,641 women were reportedly raped and 321 murdered after rape from 2020 to January 2024.

In 2020 alone, there were 1,627

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reported rape incidents, yet none were reported through the app.

The app's main mission was to provide immediate rescue services during various emergencies, including physical and sexual violence, sexual harassment, or child marriage.

However, it has been getting requests for many other purposes except its primary one.

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PHASE 2 UZ POLLS

AL working to contain feuds, increase turnout

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE, and AASHIQ ABDULLAH APU

Shifting focus from its earlier position to keep relatives of its lawmakers from the upazila election, the ruling Awami League now seeks to minimise internal feuds centering on the polls and increase the voter turnout.

Party sources say their grassroots have been directed to avoid infighting and mudslinging during the polls period.

"We have instructed the grassroots to shun infighting over the upazila polls. We decided not to give party nomination and allow anyone to use the party symbol for a reason. Our aim is to make the election participatory. We want a festive election held in a competitive mood. But we don't want to see any conflict in the name of competition," AL Organising Secretary Mirza Azam told The Daily Star.

He said they expect a higher turnout in the second phase of the polls, to be held in 158 upazilas tomorrow.

The party directive to the grassroots not to engage in infighting comes as incumbent ministers and

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AL MP Azim 'traceless in India for three days'

Says family

STAR REPORT

Awami League lawmaker Anwarul Azim Anar of Jhenaidah-4 constituency has been "missing in India" for three days.

The three-time MP and president of Kaliganj upazila unit AL went to India on May 12 to receive medical treatment.

Mumtaz Ferdous Doreen, daughter of the 56 year old, told The Daily Star yesterday.

"We last had contact with my father three days ago. We are very worried," she said.

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More than 57pc aspirants businesspeople

Finds TIB about candidates of 2nd phase UZ polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 57 percent candidates running in the second phase of the upazila polls are businesspeople, according to the affidavits they submitted to the Election Commission.

Of all the candidates vying for the chairman posts, 70.51 percent said they were involved in business, while 68.73 percent of the vice chairman candidates listed business as their profession.

The numbers were presented by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday at their office in the capital's Dhanmondi, following an analysis of candidates' affidavits.

The upazila polls are being held in phases. The first phase was held on May 8, while the second is scheduled for tomorrow.

Around 70 percent of chairman candidates in the

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