





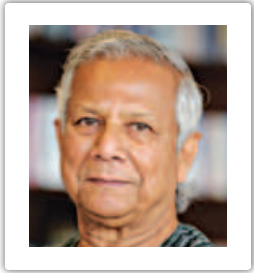
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Put an end to harassment of Prof Yunus immediately
4 US senators urge Bangladesh govt



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four US senators, including the Senate majority whip, issued a statement demanding an immediate end to what they said was harassment of Prof Muhammad Yunus, adding that the “seemingly personal vendetta” against him will negatively impact the US-Bangladesh partnership.

They also urged the Bangladesh government to respect democratic values and institutions.

The statement dated

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Parked pickups take up a large part of the Dhaka-Chattogram road next to the wholesale fish market in the capital's Jatrabari, leaving little room for vehicles to pass through. The traffic situation is aggravated by some makeshift shops under big umbrellas. The photo was taken around noon yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Six lives lost as bus hits truck



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

At least six people, including two children, were killed and some 28 others injured in a head-on collision between a bus and a fruit-laden truck in Dinajpur Sadar upazila yesterday morning.

The incident took place on the Dinajpur-Phulbari regional highway in Chawkrampur village adjacent to Panchbari Bazar around 6:00am.

Most of the victims were on the bus, said police.

The deceased were identified as truck driver Hasu Mia, 28, of Thakurgaon's Pirganj; bus supervisor Rajesh Bahadur, 30, of Dinajpur's Bochaganj; bus driver's assistant Md Ali, of Pirganj; Jyna 5, daughter of Mominur Rahman of Dinajpur's Chirirbandar, Bibha Akhtar, 10, daughter of Jahid Hossain of Bochaganj, and passenger of a paddy-laden van Swadesh Chandra Roy, 30, of Chirirbandar.

Dinajpur Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC)

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Bangladeshi shot dead by BSF

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A 28-year-old Bangladeshi man was gunned down by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) along the Baliadangi border in Thakurgaon early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Raju Islam, son of Habib Ali of Garijali village under Boro Palashbari union of the upazila.

“BSF members opened fire on a group of Bangladeshi cattle smugglers near the Nagarbhitia border pillar 376/5-S. Raju got shot and died on the spot,” said Baliadangi Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Firoz Kabir.

After the incident, BSF members took custody of Raju's body, he added.

In this regard, a flat meeting was held with the BSF in the afternoon, according to sources at the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB)-50 Battalion.

BSF claimed that their members opened fire in self-defence as they came under attack, they said.

MIGRANT SHIPWRECK
89 migrants dead at sea off Mauritania

AFP, Nouakchott

89 migrants bound for Europe perished when their boat capsized earlier this week off the coast of Mauritania, the state news agency and a local official said Thursday, while dozens more remain missing.

“The Mauritanian coast guard recovered the bodies of 89 people aboard a large traditional fishing boat that capsized on Monday July 1 on the coast of the Atlantic Ocean” about four kilometres from the country's southwest city of Ndiago, the state news agency said.

The coastguard rescued nine people, including a five-year-old girl, it said.

The agency quoted survivors saying that the boat had set sail from the border of Senegal and Gambia with 170 passengers on board, bringing the number of missing to 72.

A senior local government official gave AFP similar information, on condition of anonymity.

The Atlantic route is particularly dangerous due to strong currents, with migrants travelling in overloaded, often unseaworthy, boats without enough drinking water.

But it has grown in popularity due to increased vigilance in the Mediterranean.

The number of migrants landing at Spain's Canary Islands in 2023 more than doubled in one year to a record 39,910, according to the Spanish government.

Mauritanian coastguard rescued nine people, including a five-year-old girl.

Efforts to secure Gaza truce gain momentum

Hamas makes fresh proposal on ceasefire deal as Israel says it is resuming stalled negotiations

AGENCIES

Efforts to secure a ceasefire and hostage release in Gaza gathered momentum yesterday after Hamas made a revised proposal on the terms of a deal and Israel said it would resume stalled negotiations.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told US President Joe Biden on Thursday he would send a delegation to restart negotiations, and an Israeli official said his country's team would be led by the head of the Mossad intelligence agency.

Biden welcomed the move and a source in Israel's negotiating team, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there was now a real chance of achieving agreement.

The Israeli remarks were in sharp contrast to past instances in the nine-month-old war in Gaza when Israel said conditions attached by Hamas were not acceptable.

A Palestinian official close to the internationally mediated peace efforts said

the latest proposal by the militant Islamist group could lead to a framework agreement if embraced by Israel.

He said Hamas was no longer demanding as a pre-condition an Israeli commitment to a permanent ceasefire before the signing of an agreement and would allow negotiations to achieve that throughout a first six-week phase.

“Should the sides need more time to seal an agreement on a permanent ceasefire, the two sides should agree there would be no return to the fighting until they do that,” the official told Reuters.

Hamas later said it rejected the presence of foreign forces in Gaza, signalling its opposition to any plan to send an international contingent to the Gaza Strip to help keep the peace in the Palestinian enclave.

The Popular Resistance Committees (PRC), a group allied with Hamas, said separately that it would consider any international or other forces in Gaza as occupiers.

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- » Israel sends Mossad chief to Qatar for Gaza hostage negotiations: sources
- » Seven killed in Israeli West Bank raid
- » More than 38,000 Palestinians killed in Gaza since last Oct 7

Martinez saves Messi's blushes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a tense quarterfinal encounter of Copa America 2024 yesterday (Bangladesh time), defending champions Argentina narrowly overcame a feisty Ecuador in a penalty shootout after a 1-1 draw in regulation time at a packed NRG Stadium in Texas, thanks to their reliable goalkeeper, Emiliano Martinez.

The match provided a thrilling finish and a surprising twist involving the winning captain Lionel Messi, who remained subdued throughout the 90 minutes while his teammates sporadically sparked in offensive transitions.

Argentina's title defense was threatened when Ecuador's Kevin Rodriguez scored a late equaliser, cancelling out Albiceleste's 35-minute lead through defender Lisandro Martinez's goal against the run of play, pushing the game into a decisive penalty shootout, as extra time is reserved only for the final.

The spotlight then fell heavily on Messi, who stepped up to take the first shot of the shootout. Known for his composure and precision, Messi

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Carpenter ants perform amputations to save lives

CNN ONLINE

Humans aren't the only ones capable of performing amputations to save lives.

Florida carpenter ants have been observed biting off the injured limbs of nestmates, depending on the location of the wounds, to help their counterparts survive, according to a new study published Tuesday in the journal Current Biology.

About 90 percent to 95 percent of the ants receiving amputations make it through the process and continue with their duties within the nest just fine despite losing a leg, researchers found.

Reddish-brown Florida carpenter ants, which reach about 1.5 centimeters in length, can be found nesting in rotting wood throughout the southeastern United States. They have to defend their nests against rival ant colonies, which can result in injuries.

Lead study author Erik Frank, a behavioral ecologist at the University of Würzburg in Germany's state of Bavaria, said he doesn't think the ants consciously know what to do. Instead, it may be more instinctual, similar to how humans bring their fingers to their lips after a paper cut.



Spain midfielder Mikel Merino celebrates with teammates after heading home a 119th-minute winner in a 2-1 win over Germany in a Euro 2024 quarterfinal at the Stuttgart Arena in Stuttgart on Friday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Merino's 119th-minute winner sends Spain into Euro semis



AFP, Stuttgart

A Mikel Merino goal in the final minute of extra time took Spain to a 2-1 win over Germany and into the Euro 2024 semis.

After a fiery yet goalless first half, Spain's Dani Olmo latched onto an inch-perfect pass from Spanish wunderkind Lamine Yamal to give La Roja the lead on 51 minutes.

Niclas Füllkrug struck the post with 14 minutes remaining but with the hosts staring at an early exit, Florian Wirtz slammed in a Joshua Kimmich knock-down in the 89th minute to take the game to extra time.

With a minute remaining in extra time and the game looking set

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