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# Electrocution kills five at Ratha Yatra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

Five people were electrocuted to death and 41 others injured during Ratha Yatra (chariot procession) in Bogura town yesterday afternoon.

The incident happened when the dome of the Ratha came in contact with the overhead electric wire around 5:15pm.

The deceased were Ranjita, 60, of Shahjahanpur upazila, Naresh Mahanta, 40, of Adamdighi upazila, Atoshi Rani, 40, of Sadar upazila, Alok Kumar, 42, of Shibganj upazila, and Joly Rani Saha, 35, of Sariaikandi upazila, said police.

Ratha Yatra is one of the major festivals of the Hindu community.

Police and locals said the Ratha Yatra, participated by several thousand devotees, started from a temple in Seujgari area around 5:00pm.

When the procession reached Amtala intersection around 5:15pm, Ratha's dome came in contact with the electric wire. The dome was made of steel, it electrocuted those holding it.

The procession was heading to Satmatha intersection area, said Arup Ratan, who joined the procession, adding that the dome caught fire and smoke was billowing.

"Everyone started shouting and running in panic."

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



Devotees take out a procession pulling a chariot carrying the idol of Lord Jagannath in the capital's Dayaganj area. Ratha Yatra is one of the major festivals of the Hindus.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

# UP chairman shot dead in broad daylight

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Chairman of Panchgaon Union Parishad, HM Sumon Howlader, was shot dead in broad daylight by a supporter of a president candidate of a school's governing body in Munshiganj's Tongibari upazila yesterday.

Police and eyewitnesses said the m a n a g e m e n t committee polls for Panchgaon Waheed Ali High School was going on from 10:00am yesterday.

Sumon was backing Dewan Moniruzzaman for president. Noor Mohammad, a supporter of another president candidate Milan and also a "friend" of Sumon, got angry with Sumon and a brawl ensued.

At one stage, Noor shot Sumon in the chest around 1:00pm and left the school ground.

Sumon was rushed to the local upazila health complex. He was later sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital but he died on the way.

Munshiganj Superintendent of Police Mohammad Aslam Khan said that they learnt that the assailant was a friend of the victim.

Police arrested three people in this connection.



Sumon Howlader

# Voter turnout high in French election

## Far right hopes to win, but may fall short of absolute majority



French President Emmanuel Macron casts his ballot at a polling station in Le Touquet-Paris-Plage, France yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

REUTERS, Paris

French voters turned out in force for the second round of a parliamentary election yesterday that could see the far-right National Rally (RN) emerge as the strongest party, severely denting President Emmanuel Macron's authority.

Turnout stood at 26.3 percent by around noon, up from 18.99 percent during the second round of voting in 2022, the Interior Ministry said. It was the highest midday turnout level since 1981, pollster Harris Interactive and Ipsos said, illustrating strong public interest in

an election that has polarised political views.

The latest opinion polls have forecast the RN to win the most seats in the National Assembly, but predicted it may fall short of an absolute majority. A hung parliament would herald a prolonged period of instability and policy deadlock in the euro zone's second-biggest economy.

If the nationalist, eurosceptic RN did secure a majority, it would usher in France's first far-right government since World War Two and send shockwaves

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

# 4 BNP city units get new convening committees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday formed convening committees for its South and North Dhaka, Chattogram and Barishal city units.

All the previous committees, which were also convening committees, were dissolved recently as part of the party's revamping.

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi made the announcement in a press release.

It said that Rafiqul Alam Mojinu has been made the convener of the Dhaka South, while Tanvir Ahmed Robin was appointed as the member secretary.

Saiful Alam Nirob has been selected as the convener of the Dhaka North, with Aminul Haque as the member secretary.

Ershadullah has been appointed as the convener of the Chattogram city and Nazimuddin Rahman its member secretary.

For Barisal city, Moniruzzaman Khan Faruk has been made the convener while Ziauddin Sikder Zia is the member secretary and Afroza Khanom Nasreen the joint convener.

Previously, Mojinu and Tanvir served as member secretary and joint convener of the Dhaka South respectively.

Nirob was earlier the president of BNP's youth wing Jubo Dal, and Aminul was a member secretary of the previous committee of Dhaka South.

Ershadullah earlier served as the vice president of the Chattogram City committee while Nazimur was the president of the district's pro-student body Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal.

The newly appointed leaders of the four city units have been given three months to form the full committees of their respective units.



# GAZA CEASEFIRE PROPOSAL

# Hamas waiting for Israeli response

## 55 more Palestinians killed as Israeli offensive enters 10th month

REUTERS, Cairo

Hamas is waiting for a response from Israel on its ceasefire proposal, officials from the group said yesterday, five days after it accepted a key part of a US plan aimed at ending the offensive in Gaza now in its tenth month.

"We have left our response with the mediators and are waiting to hear the occupation's response," one of the two Hamas officials told Reuters, asking not to be named.

The three-phase plan for the Palestinian enclave was put forward at the end of May by US President Joe Biden and is being mediated by Qatar and Egypt. It aims to end the offensive and free around 120 Israeli hostages being held by Hamas.

Another Palestinian official, with knowledge of the ceasefire deliberations, said Israel was in talks with the Qataris. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that negotiations would continue this week but has not given any detailed timeline.

US Central Intelligence Agency Director William Burns will travel to Qatar this week for negotiations, a source familiar with the matter said.

Meanwhile, the health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said yesterday that at

- Tanks raid northern areas of Rafah
- Hezbollah unleashes heavy barrage in north Israel
- Gaza death toll now 38,153

least 38,153 people have been killed in the Israeli offensive now in its tenth month. The toll includes at least 55 deaths over the past 24 hours, a ministry statement said.

The UN agency for Palestinians, UNRWA, called the situation in Gaza increasingly tragic, saying in a post on X, "families continue to face forced displacement, massive destruction and constant fear. Essential supplies are lacking, the heat is unbearable, diseases are spreading".

Fighting also continued to rage across Gaza yesterday, and north Israel came under rocket attack from Iran-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Air raid sirens sent residents of 24 Israeli towns running for shelter. One

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

# Dorival takes responsibility after Brazil exit

AGENCIES

Brazil coach Dorival Junior said he takes "full responsibility" for his team's underwhelming Copa America quarterfinal exit after losing to 10-man Uruguay 4-2 in a penalty shootout on Saturday.



"This type of work requires a great amount of patience," said Dorival, who took charge in January, after the defeat at Allegiant Stadium.

"I do have to acknowledge that these weren't the expected results, and I take full responsibility for them, but I do think as well that this team has great room to grow and evolve and improve."

Despite having a one-man advantage after a red

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Brazil players cut forlorn figures following their penalty shootout defeat against Uruguay in a Copa America quarterfinal in Las Vegas on Saturday. The Selecao lost the game 4-2 in tiebreaker following a goalless draw in regulation time.

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM

# Ruins of 4,000-yr-old temple found in Peru



REUTERS, Lima

A team of archaeologists have discovered the ruins of what appears to be a 4,000-year-old ceremonial temple buried in a sand dune of northern Peru, alongside skeletal human remains which may have been offerings for religious rituals.

The ruins were discovered in the sandy desert district of Zana, in the South American country's Lambayeque region, a short stretch from the Pacific Ocean and some 780 km north of the capital Lima.

"We are still waiting for radio-carbon dating to confirm the date, but the evidence suggests this religious construction could be part of a religious tradition of temples built on Peru's northern coast during that period," said Luis Muro, an archaeologist from Peru's Pontifical Catholic University who led the research.

Muro's team found the skeletal remains of three adults between the walls and bases of what was once a multi-storey structure, one of which was accompanied by offerings and possibly wrapped in a kind of linen or clothing, he said.