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Hopes of 'better future' expose bitter truths



ASHFAQ UL ALAM

"I only get Tk 3000 as allowance per month apart from accommodation and food in the national camp. They are giving me an additional Tk 2000 as house rent since I got married... There is no future playing for the national team," Bangladesh's star archer Ruman Sana said to The Daily Star in March last year, explaining why he no longer wants to play for the national team.

Ruman expressed his frustrations about the lack of facilities and the dearth of financial opportunities in archery and said that he saw no future for himself.

It is unclear whether the Bangladesh Archery Federation

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Come up with specific time frame for polls

CPB tells govt, urges all to stay alert about plots to make Liberation War controversial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the Communist Party of Bangladesh yesterday demanded that the interim government announce a specific time frame for an election by January 15 and clarify what it wants to do in the name of reforms.

They also urged everyone to remain vigilant against those attempting to make the Liberation War controversial or nullify the 1972 constitution.

"You, the interim government, should set a time [for election]. Please clarify what you want to do in the name of reforms," CPB General Secretary Ruhin Hossain Prince told a rally at Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital.

"... Talk with us; we will give advice. Dialogue [with political parties] was supposed to start on September 1, but it has not happened yet. It is necessary to build as much consensus as possible and begin your [government] work. The urgent task now is to announce a specific date for an election by January 15. There is no alternative to this."

Several thousand people attended the rally, carrying red flags, banners, and festoons.

"If anyone thinks they have made a change and want to be in power for long, will they really be able to stay? There is an interim government in place. We say that we cannot understand what it thinks. However, it seems that the government is trying to cling to power, resorting to various tricks."

"We want to make it clear: the people could not cast their votes; they were aggrieved because a reign of terror had been established. They were aggrieved because of soaring prices of essentials. This is why Hasina was ousted.

PHOTO ON PAGE 4

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AL should not be allowed to contest polls Says Jamaat ameer

STAR REPORT

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman yesterday said the Awami League should not be allowed to participate in the upcoming elections as it does not believe in such democratic practices.

Addressing a conference organised by the Natore district Jamaat at Nawab Siraj-ud-Daula Government College ground in the afternoon, Shafiqur said elections are for those who respect and love the country and its people.

"Polls are not meant for the people who do not believe these. They wreaked havoc on the country while in power illegally through three [staged] elections. How can those, who do not believe in elections, expect to take part in polls?"

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A wrecker removing a mangled bus to clear the Dhaka-Mawa Expressway in the Nimgoli area of Munshiganj's Sirajdikhan upazila. Two people were killed and several others wounded when the bus heading to Mawa crashed into a stationary lorry in the early hours of yesterday.

PHOTO: TANJIL HASAN

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Israel downs drone, missile from Yemen

Several Israelis injured from fallen shrapnel

AGENCIES

Israel's military reported that it shot down a missile and a drone launched from Houthi-controlled Yemen yesterday, the latest in a series of attacks from the country targeting Israel in recent weeks.

"A missile that was launched from Yemen and crossed into Israeli territory was intercepted," the military said in a statement posted to its Telegram channel.

"A report was received regarding shrapnel from the interception that fell in the area of Modi'in in central Israel. The details are under review."

Israel's emergency service provider, Magen David Adom, reported that it had treated several people who were injured or experienced panic attacks on their way to shelters after air raid sirens sounded in the centre and south of the country.

Hours later the military announced that it had also shot down a drone launched from Yemen. The drone was intercepted before it entered Israel, the military added.

The Houthis have stepped up their attacks since November's ceasefire between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon.

In Gaza Strip, medical sources told Al Jazeera that at least 27 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli attacks on the enclave since dawn yesterday. Israel has killed at least 45,658 Palestinians since the offensive in Gaza began on

October, 2023.

Meanwhile, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has approved a delegation to resume ceasefire negotiations in Doha, Qatar, his office said later on Thursday in a statement.

Indirect negotiations mediated by Qatar, Egypt and the United States have taken place in Doha in recent weeks, rekindling hope for a ceasefire

➤ 27 Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes

➤ Israeli delegation to resume Gaza truce talks in Doha

➤ Death toll in enclave rises to 45,658

and hostage release agreement that has so far proven elusive, reports AFP.

But late last month the two sides accused each other of throwing up roadblocks, again delaying a deal.

A team from Hamas had also reached Cairo to prepare for negotiations in Doha "in the coming days," an official from the group told AFP on condition of anonymity as he was not authorised to speak publicly on the issue.

TIBET DAM PLAN India conveys concerns to China

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's foreign ministry yesterday said that New Delhi has conveyed its concerns to Beijing about China's plan to build a hydropower dam in Tibet on the Yarlung Zangbo river which flows into India.

Chinese officials say that hydropower projects in Tibet will not have a major impact on the environment or on downstream water supplies but India and Bangladesh have nevertheless raised concerns about the dam.

The Yarlung Zangbo becomes the Brahmaputra river as it leaves Tibet and flows south into India's Arunachal Pradesh and Assam states and finally into Bangladesh.

The Chinese side has been urged to ensure that the interests of downstream states of the Brahmaputra are not harmed by activities in upstream areas, Indian foreign ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal told a weekly media briefing.

"We will continue to monitor and take necessary measures to protect our interests," he said.

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ROAD CRASHES 4 lives lost on Dhaka-Mawa Expressway

STAR REPORT

A week after a deadly accident on the Dhaka-Mawa Expressway, four more people were killed in two road crashes on the expressway in Munshiganj early yesterday.

One of the incidents took place around 12:00am when a bus of Abdulla Paribahan heading to Mawa hit a parked lorry in the Nimgoli area of Sirajdikhan upazila, leaving two people dead, said Abdur Rahman, sub-inspector of Hasara Highway Police Station.

Eight more were wounded in the incident.

The deceased were Md Raihan, 36, and Jibon Sheikh, 24, passengers of the bus, said police.

Doctors declared them dead when they were taken to the local health complex, said the SI, adding that police seized the lorry, but its driver managed to flee.

In another incident around 5:00am, a Dhaka-bound bus of Purbasha Paribahan hit an

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UK's biggest dinosaur footprint site uncovered

AFP, London

British researchers have unearthed some 200 dinosaur footprints dating back 166 million years in a find believed to be biggest in the UK.

Teams from Oxford and Birmingham Universities made the "exhilarating" discovery at a quarry in Oxfordshire in central England after a worker came across "unusual bumps" as he was stripping clay back with a mechanical digger, according to a new BBC documentary.



The site features five extensive trackways, with the longest continuous track stretching more than 150 metres (490 feet) in length.

Four of the five trackways uncovered are believed to have been made by a long-necked herbivorous dinosaur, most likely a cetiosaurus.

The fifth set of tracks likely belongs to a nine-metre long carnivorous megalosaurus known for its distinctive three-toed feet with claws, according to the University of Birmingham.

"It's rare to find them so numerous in one place and it's rare to find such extensive trackways as well," Emma Nicolls of Oxford University's Museum of Natural History told AFP.

Russia fires drone barrage at Ukraine 2 killed, 4 others injured in Kyiv

REUTERS, Kyiv

Russia launched a barrage of drones in an overnight attack on Ukraine, killing two civilians and injuring four others in the Kyiv region, the military and regional officials said yesterday.

Ukrainian air defences shot down 60 out of 93 Russian drones, the air force said. It also said that 26 drones were "lost", in reference to Ukraine's use of electronic warfare to redirect Russian drones.

"One person was killed and four wounded in enemy air attack on Kyiv region," Mykola Kalashnyk, the head of the region, which surrounds the capital, said on social media.

He said a truck driver had been killed after he was hit by falling debris from a Russian drone that had been shot down.

The air force said that the Russian drones targeted nine Ukrainian regions across the country. Residential houses and commercial buildings were damaged in the Donetsk region in the east and the Chernihiv region in the north, the military said.

Meanwhile, a Russian court has ordered internet company Yandex to hide access to maps and photos of one of Russia's largest oil refineries due to repeated attacks by Ukrainian drones, state news agency TASS reported yesterday.

Yandex, often referred to as "Russia's Google", operates the country's largest search engine and other online services like maps, translate and email, as well as ride-hailing and food delivery.



Pakistani batter Usman Khan raises his bat and helmet after reaching his century for Chittagong Kings against Durbar Rajshahi in their BPL T20 fixture at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Usman's 62-ball 123 – the first century of the season – propelled Kings to a 105-run victory.

PHOTO: STAR