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14 killed on roads in 5 dists

Another died after being hit by train while walking on rail lines

STAR REPORT

At least 14 people, including a mother and a child, were killed and 25 others injured in separate accidents across five districts yesterday.

In Chattogram's Mirsarai upazila, three people were killed and two others injured in a head-on collision between a pick-up van and a CNG-run auto-rickshaw around 3:00pm in front of Azmanagar School in the Chinkirhat area on the Baraiyharat-Khagrachhari road, said police.

The deceased were identified as Saiful Islam Shahin, 17, Sumi Akhter, 25, and her son Manarul, 3 - all residents of Bamansundar area in the upazila. Those injured are the auto-rickshaw driver Zia Uddin Bablu, 30, and his daughter Tanisha, 7.

Confirming the incident, Mostakin Hossain, sub-inspector of Joraganj Police Station, said police seized the vehicles after the accident, but the pick up van driver managed to flee.

In Panchagarh's Debiganj upazila, Shahin Islam, a 14-year-old ice-cream vendor from Sarkarparga village, was killed when a Nosimon - a shallow-engine three-wheeler - hit a battery-run cycle van.

Md Sohel Rana, officer-in-charge of Debiganj Police Station, told The Daily Star that Shahin was on duty and heading towards Debiganj town along the Debiganj-Nilsagar road. Around 5:00pm, a cow-laden Nosimon coming from the opposite direction rammed into his van in front of Alamnagar Government Primary School,

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Severe congestion near Jamuna bridge in Sirajganj with the tailback stretching for almost 20 kilometres yesterday, causing thousands of people returning to the capital after the holidays to suffer for hours. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: STAR

Law enforcers ready for election

Says home adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcement agencies are fully prepared to provide security in the upcoming elections, said Home Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday.

"Law enforcers will be ready whenever the election date is announced," he told reporters in response to a question about election security when he visited the Rab-1 headquarters in the capital's Uttara.

When asked about the recent incident in Patuakhali, where Gono Odhikar Parishad President Nurul Haque Nur was attacked allegedly by BNP activists, the adviser said isolated political violence did not indicate a collapse of the rule of law.

"Small incidents will



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Men in 'Rab uniforms' snatch Tk 1.08 crore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of men wearing uniforms resembling those of the Rapid Action Battalion snatched Tk 1.08 crore from employees of a Nagad distributor in Dhaka's Uttara yesterday morning.

The incident took place around 8:58am on Road 12 of Sector 13, said Ahmed Ali, additional deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Uttara Division.

Quoting the victims, police said the employees were transporting the cash on two motorcycles from the residence of Nagad distributor Abdul Khaleq Nayan to their office, located just a five-minute walk away, when a black microbus intercepted one of the bikes and took a bag containing the money.

"They said the motorcycle was carrying Tk 1.08 crore when it was stopped. We are investigating the matter," ADC Ahmed told The Daily Star.

CCTV footage shows two men on a motorcycle being blocked by the microbus. Moments later, the pillion rider is seen fleeing with the bag before several men wearing jackets marked "Rab" chase him down. The suspects were seen carrying small firearms.

Police said the employees were then taken in the microbus to Sector 17, where they were dropped off after the money was taken.

DMP's Uttara Division Deputy Commissioner Mohidul Islam told The Daily Star that the four employees went to Nayan's house to collect the money. Of them, three - Kawzar, Liaquat, and Abdur Rahman - were forced into the microbus with the cash. The fourth, Omar Hossain, managed to flee with another bag containing over Tk 1 lakh.

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Israel kills 23 more in Gaza

REUTERS, Cairo

Israeli fire and airstrikes killed at least 23 Palestinians across the Gaza Strip, most of them near an aid distribution site operated by the US-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, local health authorities said.

Medics at Al-Awda and Al-Aqsa Hospitals in central Gaza areas, where most of the casualties were moved to, said at least 15 people were killed as they tried to approach the GHF aid distribution site near the Netzarim corridor.

The rest were killed in separate attacks across the enclave, they added. There has been no immediate comment by the Israeli military or the GHF on Saturday's incidents.

The GHF began distributing food packages in Gaza at the end of May, overseeing a new model of aid distribution which the United Nations says is neither impartial nor neutral.

The Gaza health ministry yesterday said in a statement that at least 274 people have so far been killed, and more than 2,000 wounded, near aid distribution sites since the GHF began operations in Gaza.

Later yesterday, the Israeli military ordered residents of Khan Younis and the nearby towns of Abassan and Bani Suhaila in the southern Gaza Strip

to leave their homes and head west towards the so-called humanitarian zone area, saying it would forcefully work against "terror organisations" in the area.

Since October 7, 2023, Israel's offensive has killed nearly 55,000 Palestinians, most of them civilians, according to health authorities in Gaza, and flattened much of the

Most deaths reported near an aid distribution site; Egypt blocks activists' bid to march to Gaza border

densely populated strip, which is home to more than two million people. Most of the population is displaced, and malnutrition is widespread.

Meanwhile, Egyptian authorities have blocked activists' efforts to hold a march to the Gaza border to draw attention to Israel's blockade of the war-torn Palestinian territory, organisers said yesterday.

Several dozen activists hoping to join the planned Global March to Gaza

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54 pushed in thru 4 border districts

STAR REPORT

At least 54 people were pushed into Bangladesh from India through different border points in Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Lalmonirhat, and Moulvibazar yesterday.

In Panchagarh, 16 people were detained after they crossed into Bangladesh illegally in the early hours.

Members of Mistripara and Padiagach border outposts (BOPs) made the detention in separate phases between 12:30am and 6:00am.

Of the detainees, 12 have been identified as Bangladeshi citizens. The four others claimed to be Indian citizens.

They had earlier been detained in different parts of Mumbai before being handed over to the BSF, who then pushed them through border pillars 421, 430/2-S, and 432/1-S, said Lt Col Monirul Islam, commanding officer of BGB-18 Battalion, quoting returnees.

"We held a flag meeting

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Google turns queries into conversations

AFP, San Francisco

Google on Friday began letting people turn online searches into conversations, with generative artificial intelligence providing spoken summaries of query results.



With Audio Overviews, Gemini AI models quickly sum up query results in conversational style, according to Google.

"An audio overview can help you get a lay of the land, offering a convenient, hands free way to absorb information whether you're multitasking or simply prefer an audio experience," Google said in a blog post.

"We display helpful web pages right within the audio player on the search results page so you can easily dive in and learn more."

Google is beefing up online search with generative artificial intelligence, embracing AI despite fears for its ad-based business model.

CEO Sundar Pichai recently unveiled a new AI mode in Google search.

The search engine's nascent AI mode goes further than AI Overviews which display answers to queries from the tech giant's generative AI powers above the traditional blue links to websites and ads.

South Africa seal a 'special' victory

AFP, London

Aiden Markram's magnificent century was the cornerstone of South Africa's five-wicket victory over Australia in the World Test Championship final at Lord's on Saturday as the Proteas ended decades of cricket heartbreak by at last winning a major global title.

South Africa, set 282 to win, finished on 282-5 before lunch on the fourth day, with opening batsman Markram falling for 136 after taking South Africa to within six runs of the title.

"It's special in a lot of ways," said Proteas captain Temba Bavuma in front of what was effectively a 'home' crowd given the large number of South Africa fans who had packed into Lord's.

"Also, it's a chance for South Africa to be united," said Bavuma, who has now joined Springboks Rugby World Cup-winning captain Siya Kolisi in

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South Africa skipper Temba Bavuma lifts the ICC World Test Championship mace as he celebrates with teammates after defeating holders Australia by five wickets on day four of the final at Lord's Cricket Ground in London yesterday. The result ends a long trophy drought for the Proteas who last won a senior men's ICC title in 1998, when Bangladesh hosted the inaugural ICC Champions Trophy.

PHOTO: AFP

Gunman kills Minnesota state lawmaker, husband 2 more injured; manhunt launched

REUTERS, Minneapolis-Washington

A gunman posing as a police officer killed a senior Democratic state assemblywoman and her husband yesterday in an apparent "politically motivated assassination," and wounded a second lawmaker and his spouse, said Minnesota Governor Tim Walz and law enforcement officials.

A major search backed by the FBI was underway for the suspect, who fled on foot after firing at police and abandoning a vehicle in which officers found a "manifesto" listing other legislators and officials, law enforcement officials said.

A police official said there were "people of interest that we are looking for."

The pre-dawn Minnesota killings came amid a surge in US political attacks in recent years, underscoring the dark side of the nation's deepening political divisions. Planned anti-Trump demonstrations in Minnesota organised nationwide by the "No Kings" coalition have been cancelled following the shootings, the group said.

President Donald Trump said he was briefed on the "terrible shooting that took place in Minnesota, which appears to be a targeted attack against State Lawmakers."

"Such horrific violence will not be tolerated in the United States of America. God Bless the great people of Minnesota, a truly great place!" he said in a statement.



Melissa Hortman

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