



Dist admin halts soil excavation near Padma rail link bridge

Company, minister say it's part of construction work; locals say dirt being sold

SAURAV HOSSAIN SIAM, Narayanganj

The Narayanganj administration yesterday halted the excavation of soil near the pillars of a Padma rail link bridge in Aliganj, Fatullah, following locals' concerns that the work could harm the structure.

The district administration said it was not informed about the work, which is required for any project activity.

Mohammad Raihan Kabir, deputy commissioner of Narayanganj, told The Daily Star that the administration intervened as soon as the matter came to its attention.

"Any project activity must be communicated to the local administration. That was not done in this case. We have asked for proper documentation, and the work



Large pits have emerged after soil was extracted from beneath the Padma rail link bridge in the Aliganj area of Narayanganj's Fatullah. The district administration yesterday halted the excavation following locals' concerns that the work could damage the structure. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

CRIME IN MOHAMMADPUR

OC, SI hacked by suspected robbers

4 'robbers' also injured after the gang attacks police during raid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two police officers and four suspected gangsters were injured during a drive in response to a daring daylight robbery incident in Dhaka's Mohammadpur yesterday.

The four suspected members of the gang of robbers were arrested during the drive behind a garment factory in the Turag Housing area around 4:00pm, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) said in a press release.

The injured officers are Adabor Police Station Officer-in-Charge Jahidul Islam and Sub-Inspector Tarun Kumar. The arrestees have been identified as Md Sajib Hossain Rubel, Md Amir, Md Joy, and Md Kashem, all 28 years old.

A knife, a machete, two pipes, and items used for taking drugs were recovered during the drive, according to the press release.

Efforts to arrest the remaining suspects were underway, said Abdullah Al Mamun, assistant commissioner of DMP's Mohammadpur Zone

The robbery incident took place around 10:40am in the Mofizbagh neighbourhood of Adabor, when a group of four to five assailants attacked Shafiqul Islam, 50, a

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Scientists find 64,000sq miles of resilient coral reef

REUTERS, Singapore

Scientists have identified nearly 166,000 sq km (64,000 sq miles) of coral reefs that are capable of surviving and recovering from climate change, three times more than previously estimated, research showed yesterday.



The world's coral reefs, which sustain a quarter of all marine life, have come under severe stress as a result of violent tropical storms, pollution and mass "bleaching" events caused by soaring ocean temperatures, with some scientists warning that they are facing irreversible decline.

But an analysis of 45,000 coral surveys together with decades of climate and ocean data has identified climate-resilient reefs across 71 countries and 100 territories, including in parts of the Caribbean and the Pacific and Atlantic oceans that have not previously been recognised.

"Coral reefs are often framed as ecosystems beyond saving," said Emily Darling, director of coral conservation at the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and one of the report's authors. "This research shows otherwise: we know where the hope is and what we need now is political will."

4 sued over death of a physician

Negligence and abuse alleged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four people were sued yesterday for abuse and negligence leading to the death of a physician in Dhaka's Dhanmondi on June 4 and for later destroying evidence.

The deceased, Nafisa Tabassum Dhipra, was a former student of Bangladesh Medical College. At the time of her death, she was preparing for the FCPS examination.

The accused are Dhipra's husband Dr Rahmat Rashid Siyam; her father-in-law Prof Dr Mohammad Abdur Rashid; her mother-in-law Dr Siddika Sultana; and Siyam's brother-in-law Simu Naser, editor of the satirical website Earli.

Mosiour Rahman Shah Shanto, 46, a lawyer at Dhaka court, filed the case under different sections of the Penal Code, with the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Jewel Rana.

Several other unidentified

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Dhipra

'Loud and clear' Iran won't have nukes

Trump reaffirms citing interim deal; Tehran says US naval blockade 'lifted'

AGENCIES

Doubts swirled around the US-Iran interim deal to end the war in the Middle East, although US President Donald Trump said yesterday the accord makes clear that Tehran would never be allowed to develop a nuclear weapon.

"The only thing that really matters to me is Iran will never have a nuclear weapon, and it says it loud and clear," he told reporters on the

Speaking at the G7 meetings, Trump also said that he liked the idea of sending the Iran deal to Congress for review, a request by some Republican lawmakers.

Negotiators would address difficult issues like the future of Iran's nuclear programme during the next phase of talks, which Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said would start in Switzerland on Friday after the formal signing of the framework deal.

Oil drops below \$80 on optimism over Hormuz reopening

Deal to be signed at Burgenstock resort Friday

Ending war, including in Lebanon, key to deal: Iran

Trump suggests Syria, not Israel, should take care of Hezbollah

sidelines of the G7 summit in France, warning that "all hell will rain down" on Iran if it sought to acquire one.

He added that the text would be made public soon. The interim deal would extend a tenuous ceasefire announced in April by another 60 days and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, which Iran has effectively blocked since the US and Israel attacked Iran in February.

An Iranian deputy foreign minister yesterday said the two-month US naval blockade on Iranian ports had been "lifted ahead of the planned formal signing of the deal". Three Iranian tankers and two vessels carrying essential goods are currently sailing toward Iranian southern ports from the Indian Ocean, Iranian state TV said.

"Likely on Friday... a new round of negotiations between Iran and the United States to reach a final agreement will begin," Araghchi said. "In the final agreement, decisions will be made on the nuclear issues and the lifting of sanctions."

Araghchi also said that ending the war on all fronts including Lebanon was "the most important" issue in the peace deal announced with the US. Qatar, a key negotiator in the deal, said it believed the agreement could deliver security to the Middle East, reports Reuters.

"We are cautiously optimistic that the signing of the memorandum of understanding will lead to the next phase of regional security through the talks that will take place on the

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Two killed, 40 hurt in Habiganj clash over road dispute

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Two men were killed and at least 40 others injured on Monday after people of two villages in Habiganj's Bahubal upazila clashed twice over a dispute regarding access to a road beside a graveyard.

The deceased were Selu Mia, 53, and Helal Mia, 37, of Adityapur village, said Saiful Islam, officer-in-charge of Bahubal Model Police Station.

Quoting locals, police said there had been a longstanding conflict between the villagers of Adityapur and Arichpur over the issue.

Before Monday's incident, several clashes had taken places due to the rivalry in the past.

Around 12:30pm on Monday, the clash first broke out when 200 to 250 people from Adityapur and Arichpur villages attacked each other, equipped with locally made weapons, sticks, and bricks.

On information, police personnel went to the spot and brought the situation under control, said OC Saiful.

Later in the evening, representatives of both sides sat together at Dubai Bazar in an attempt to resolve the dispute, but violence broke out again before any settlement could be reached.

The clash left around 40 injured. Of them, Selu was declared dead after being taken to Bahubal Upazila Health Complex.

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Ukraine drone sets Moscow oil refinery on fire

AFP, Moscow

A drone hit a major oil refinery just outside Moscow yesterday, triggering a fire and causing damage, Russian authorities said, as Ukraine claimed the attack was retribution for Russia's own strikes.

The strike comes a day after Ukraine said Moscow fired more than 600 drones and 70 missiles across the country, killing at least 11 people and damaging the site of a Unesco-listed Orthodox monastery in Kyiv.

"Over the past 24 hours, enemy drone attacks on Moscow have continued. One of the drones damaged a Moscow oil refinery facility. There were no casualties," Moscow Mayor Sergey Sobyenin said on Russia's state-run Max platform.

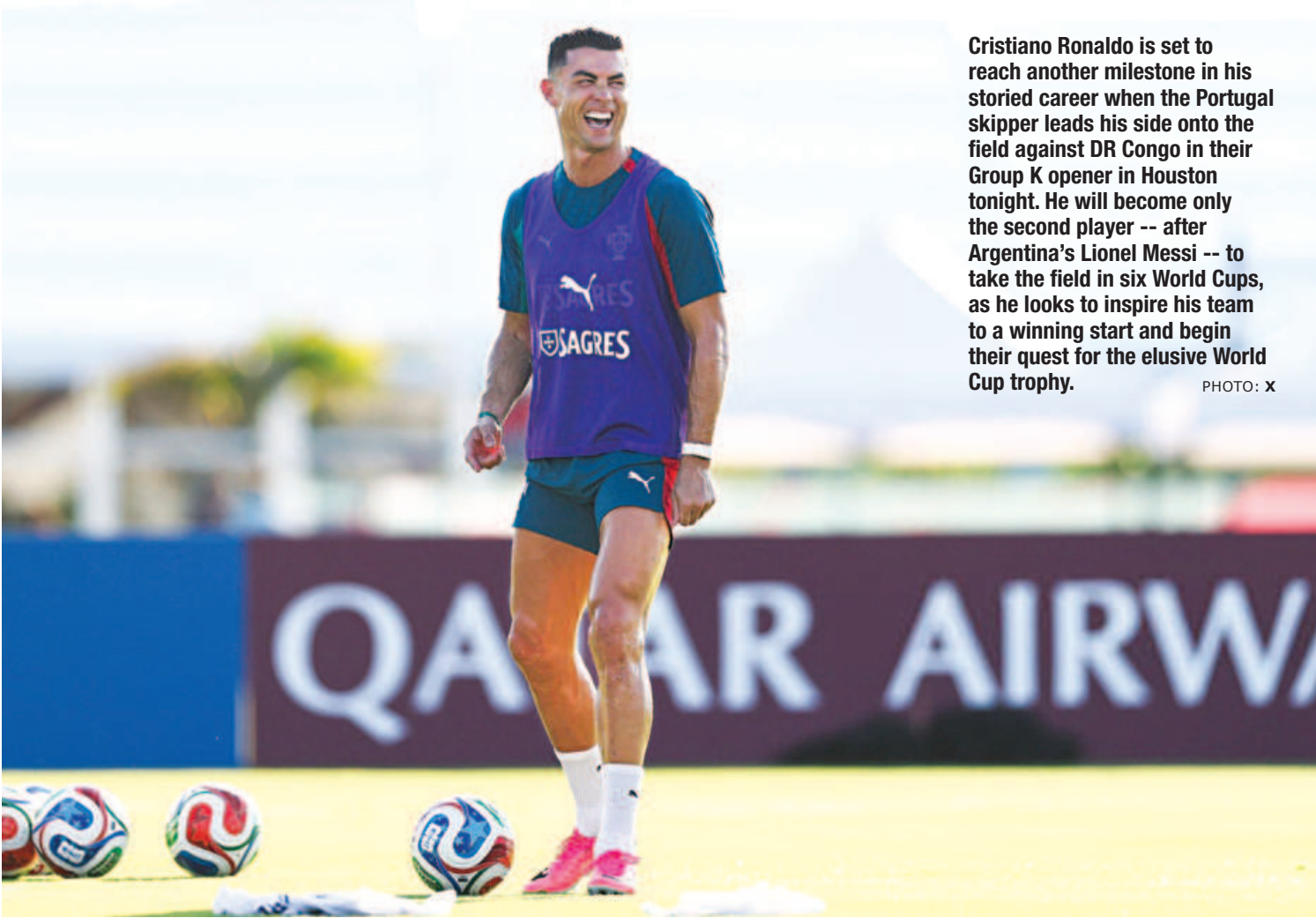
According to Sobyenin, 60 drones launched at Moscow have been intercepted yesterday, in what the TASS state news agency called one of the largest barrages targeting the Russian capital this year.

The southeastern Kapotnya area of the capital where the refinery -- owned by the Gazprom energy giant -- is located was closed to traffic, local authorities said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Kyiv was behind the strike. "This time, the Moscow region felt the reach of Ukraine's long-range capabilities. An oil refinery was hit at a distance of 500 kilometres (310 miles)," he said on social media.

He posted footage that showed a drone flying above apartment blocks and hitting an industrial area before exploding next to a red-and-white chimney, with plumes of smoke billowing over the site.

PHOTO ON PAGE 2



Cristiano Ronaldo is set to reach another milestone in his storied career when the Portugal skipper leads his side onto the field against DR Congo in their Group K opener in Houston tonight. He will become only the second player -- after Argentina's Lionel Messi -- to take the field in six World Cups, as he looks to inspire his team to a winning start and begin their quest for the elusive World Cup trophy.

PHOTO: X

Tunisia coach joins unwanted list of WC sackings

REUTERS, Atlanta

Sabri Lamouchi's dismissal as Tunisia coach after a single game at the World Cup places him on an ignominious list that includes one of the most successful coaches in tournament history.

Former France international Lamouchi was sacked on Monday after Tunisia were hammered 5-1 by Sweden in their opening game.

He had only been appointed in January, replacing Sami Trabelsi, who was unceremoniously fired after the North African country's elimination at the last-16 stage of the Africa Cup finals in Morocco.

Tunisia also fired Henryk Kasperczak two matches into the 1998 World Cup

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