

# The Baily



Your Right to Know

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## New 'poison' in old bottles

With innovations, narco trade and smuggling unstoppable in Akhaura border area

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and MASUK HRIDOY, back from Akhaura

October 9, 2019. Anwarpur village, Akhaura. The two correspondents went to the house of Abu Rayhan, near Hirapur High School, posing as Phensedyl users.

Rayhan agreed to sell them Phensedyl but on one condition: "You have to drink it in front of me and hand me the empty bottle."

He took the caps off the bottles using a special tool without breaking the seals. When he got distracted looking around to see if anyone was watching, these correspondents managed to pour the liquid on the ground.

"You are lucky as you got pure Phensedyl. Most of the time, these bottles are filled with

| RECOVERED IN B'BARIA           |                  |       |  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-------|--|
|                                | Jan to Sept 2019 | 2018  |  |
| Eskuf                          | 3,073            | 5,637 |  |
| Phensedyl                      | 2,136            | 7,813 |  |
| *Units are measured in hottles |                  |       |  |

SOURCE: DISTRICT POLICE a mixture of Indian cough medicine Eskuf, sugar syrup and energy drink," he said.

Rayhan earlier worked as an associate of drug dealers Kaptan Mia and Kajol. Police arrested Kaptan on October 5 while Kajol surrendered on October 14, according to law enforcement sources.

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#### Move ahead with proper values, ideals

PM asks BCL leaders STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday stressed on fostering Chhatra League with proper values and ideals in order for the country to get its future leaders.

While addressing the 72nd founding anniversary and reunion of the pro-Awami League student wing in Dhaka's Suhrawardy Udyan, the PM also declared the new leadership of BCL.

Al Nahean Khan Joy and Lekhak Bhattacharjee was made the president and general secretary of the organisation.

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# **SEVEN RINGS**

#### Royals reach play-offs

SPORTS REPORTER

Rajshahi Royals became the second team to confirm their place in the playoffs of the Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League (BBPL) with a six-wicket win against bottom-placed Sylhet Thunder under lights at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium in Sylhet yesterday.

The disappointment for Sylhet Thunder continued SEE PAGE 10 COL 5 Fury, tears, aları

Thousands mourn slain Iran commander; Trump says US trying to stop, not start, a war

Tens of thousands of Iraqis, many chanting "Death to America", yesterday mourned a top Iranian commander and others killed in a US drone attack that sparked fears of a regional proxy war between Washington and Tehran.

The killing of Iran's Major General Qassem Soleimani on Friday was the most dramatic escalation yet in spiralling tensions between Iran and the United States, which pledged to send thousands more troops to the region.

Iraqi political leaders and clerics attended the mass ceremony to honour 62-year-old Soleimani and the other nine victim of the pre-dawn attack on Baghdad international airport.

US President Donald Trump said he

had decided to "terminate" Iran's military mastermind to prevent an "imminent" attack on US diplomats and troops.

"We took action last night to stop a war," he insisted. "We did not take action to start

But a furious Iran has vowed revenge for the killing of Soleimani, the chief architect of ts military operations across the Middle East.

"The response for a military action is a military action," Iranian ambassador to the United Nations Majid Takht Ravanchi told CNN, calling the strike an "act of war".

"By whom, by when, where? That is for the future to witness."

In the hours after the strike, the US reached out to Iran, with which it has had no direct diplomatic ties for decades.

Revolutionary

Guards said SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

#### **ALARMING!**

**ROAD CRASHES IN 2019** 



**>> 51.53**pc rise in crashes

**>> 17.75**pc rise in deaths

**50.04**pc of those killed were pedestrians, **22**pc drivers and helpers

Dhaka saw the highest number of accidents, Mymensingh the highest number of deaths

Buses, trucks and covered vans responsible for 39pc accidents, motorcycle for 19pc

**FACTORS** 

Illiterate and unskilled drivers **Faulty vehicles** and roads

Weak traffic management

**Carelessness of** commuters

Lack of political

**Poor enforcement** of law

| <b>Year</b> | Number of accidents | Death | Injured |
|-------------|---------------------|-------|---------|
| 2019        | 4,702               | 5,227 | 6,953   |
| 2018        | 3,103               | 4,439 | 7,425   |
| 2017        | 3,349               | 5,645 | 7,908   |





#### Recommendations

- Continuous media campaign to increase public
- > Implement govt decision to incorporate road safety issues in textbooks



- Train drivers to make them skilled
- > Build dedicated roads for slow-moving vehicles
- > Keep footpath useable
- > Correct faults in road design
- Enforce law strictly

SOURCE: FROM ANNUAL REPORT OF NIRAPAD SARAK CHAI

#### Monitoring lapses and indifference to blame

Says Nirapad Sarak Chai about increase in road crashes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of road crashes and deaths rose alarmingly last year, according to road safety campaign Nirapad Sarak Chai.

The crashes and deaths increased last year by 51.53 percent and 17.75 percent over 2018, it said yesterday.

Achieving the sustainable development goal to halve traffic deaths by 2020 would be a "tough task" in the current situation, it said.

However, the number of people injured in crashes fell by 6.36 percent.

Nirapad Sarak Chai, which has been campaigning for over two and a half decades, came up with the data after analysing reports published in different national dailies, online news portals, TV channels, and information from its branches across the country.

Lack of proper monitoring and the authorities' indifference within months after the widespread protests for safe roads are the main reasons behind the sharp rise in crashes, Ilias Kanchan, chairman of the organisation, told this newspaper after presenting the findings at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

The data corroborates what two separate reports

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Supporters of the Hashed al-Shaabi paramilitary force attend the funeral procession of Iraqi paramilitary chief Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, Iranian military commander Qassem Soleimani, and eight others in Baghdad's district of al-Jadriya, near the high-security Green Zone, yesterday.

PHOTO:

### DU yells, 'Period not a dirty word'

Recently installed pad vending machines on campus ensure easy access to menstrual hygiene

ASHIK ABDULLAH APU

In a country where menstruation still faces myriad social, cultural and religious stigmas, which are big barriers to ensuring menstrual hygiene, a unique and much-needed initiative shines a light of hope for the women -- sanitary napkin vending machines.

Dhaka University students have taken the first step forward by installing these machines on their campus.

Ten vending machines installed at 10 different spots of the university have made menstrual hygiene more accessible and

cheaper for around 12,000 female students.

Each pad costs Tk 10, which is lower than that at markets or pharmacies. Members of Dhaka University Central Students' Union



(Ducsu), in association with ACI Group, took the initiative in a bid to break the social taboos revolving around period-related hygiene.

There are also bins and two towels by each machine. A female assistant is always present to help the students in solving any problem in this regard, including purchasing a pad.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Tilottoma Shikder, a member of the Ducsu, said, "We took the initiative not just to fulfil our electoral pledges, but also to bust the period-related myths that have been existing in our society. Even today, a huge number

of women don't use sanitary napkins or are too shy to even talk about it. A girl still cannot ask for a pad directly but has to ask the seller in writing.

"We have to come out of the socially moulded

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#### Remembering Fondly

Samson H. Chowdhury 25 September, 1925 - 5 January, 2012



Anita Chowdhury and family

