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SHAH CEMENT

Road crashes claim 4 lives in the capital

Three more killed in Ctg as two buses collide

STAR REPORT

Four people, including two siblings, have been killed in separate road accidents in the capital since Thursday night.

Of them, two were killed in Jatrabari area and others in Uttara, said police, adding that both the accidents involved speeding buses.

According to Noor-e-Alam Siddiqui, officer-in-charge of Uttara (east) Police Station, a speeding bus of Ovi Paribahan rammed a motorcycle around 1:00pm in Uttara.

Jewel Sheikh, 40, and his sibling Liton Sheikh, 35, were on the motorcycle. Both of them sustained critical injuries, the police official said.

The duo was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared them dead, he further said.

The driver of the bus was detained and the bus was seized in Banani area.

Meanwhile, a man and his nephew were killed as a speeding bus of Anabil Paribahan run over them in Saddam Market area of Jatrabari on Thursday night.

The dead are Anwar Hossain, 40, and his nephew Salahuddin, 20, both hailing from Cumilla.

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Although a footbridge is only about 100 metres away, pedestrians cross the Dhaka-Chattogram highway through a narrow gap in a median strip in the capital's Jatrabari area yesterday, putting their lives at risk. Two people were killed in a road crash at this spot on Thursday night when they were crossing the highway. Right, many jaywalkers don't even hesitate to take their children with them. A biker makes a U-turn through the gap in the median strip.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



SUPERBUGS THREAT WHO warns over lack of new antibiotics

AFP, Geneva

The World Health Organization warned yesterday that a dire lack of new antibiotics was threatening efforts to curb the spread of drug-resistant bacteria, which kill tens of thousands of people each year.

The UN health agency published two new reports revealing that there are few new effective antibiotics in the pipeline, meaning that the world is running out of options for fighting so-called superbugs.

"Never has the threat of antimicrobial resistance been more immediate and the need for solutions more urgent," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement.

"Numerous initiatives are underway to reduce resistance, but we also need countries and the pharmaceutical industry to step up and contribute with sustainable funding and innovative new medicines," he said.

Antibiotic resistance happens when bugs become immune to existing drugs, rendering minor injuries and common infections potentially deadly.

An estimated 33,000 people die in Europe every year from such drug-resistant

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

ROHINGYA CRISIS IN RAKHINE Asean should push for long-term fix

Says Malaysian foreign minister as FM-level meet of the forum ends in Vietnam

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Malaysian Foreign Minister Saifuddin Abdullah has urged the Asean to address the "civil war" in Myanmar's Rakhine state to find a long-term solution to the Rohingya crisis.

"The discourse should be expanded beyond the immediate return [of Rohingyas] to a comprehensive discussion on the complexities of the conflict in Rakhine state," he said in a statement posted on his Facebook page yesterday, the second day of a two-day Asean foreign ministers' meeting in Vietnam.

Abdullah said while the return of Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh remains unlikely and dangerous, the Myanmar government should first provide citizenship to the Rohingyas within its borders. He estimated the number of the Rohingyas in Myanmar to be about 500,000.

He also said that Malaysia wants the perpetrators of Rohingya genocide brought to justice and urged for the quick repatriation of the Rohingyas who fled to Bangladesh following consultation with them.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), of which Myanmar is a member, is largely seen as an economic entity and not involved in humanitarian issues -- a stance that has been criticised for being silent on human rights.

Malaysia, one of Asia's Muslim-majority countries, however, has taken a strong stand for the Rohingyas in regional and international forums.

Abdullah said China's economic and political interests in the Rakhine state and its strong bilateral relations with Myanmar present an opportunity to influence the latter to pursue a more creative and comprehensive approach.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

BANGLADESHI MIGRANTS Another 109 return from Saudi Arabia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 109 Bangladeshi migrant workers have been deported from Saudi Arabia.

A flight of Saudi Airlines, carrying the migrant workers, landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka around 11:30pm on Thursday.

With the fresh deportation, a total of 1,610 Bangladeshi migrants were sent back from KSA in the last 16 days, said Shariful Hasan, chief of Brac Migration Programme.

Earlier in 2019, a total of 25,789 Bangladeshi migrants were deported from the Middle Eastern country and most of the workers returned empty-handed, he informed.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been a lucrative destination for Bangladeshi migrant workers since it resumed hiring them in 2015.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Scientists invent 'living concrete'



MAIL ONLINE

Environmentally friendly "living concrete" has been developed by scientists mixing sand, gel and bacteria to create a building material as strong as cement.

The new material contains a form of primitive algae that first evolved on Earth 3.5 billion years ago and soaks up energy from the Sun.

With the algae, the new material can self-heal and has a smaller carbon footprint than concrete, say University of Colorado Boulder scientists.

The project team, led by Wil Strubar, says it opens the door to "living buildings" in future that can seal their own cracks and "suck up dangerous toxins from the air".

Cement hasn't changed much in over a century. The US team say their material will revolutionise the construction industry - by literally bringing it

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

BCL leader, 6 others held over stalking of schoolgirl

UNB, Rajshahi

Police on Thursday night arrested seven people, including a Chhatra League leader, over stalking of a schoolgirl in Raighati area of the district's Mohanpur upazila.

The arrestees are Shahinul Alam Mithu, 24, president of Raighati union Chhatra League, Hossain, 20, Rana Hossain, 25, Mahfuzur Rahman, 19, Shafiqul, 24, Arafat Islam Nahid, 20, and Harun-ur-Rashid, 45.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 18

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:30 12:45 4:15 5:40 7:00
JAMAAT 6:05 1:15 4:30 5:44 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Thousands join second phase of Ijtema

STAR REPORT

Prayers and sermons marked the first day of the second phase of Biswa Ijtema, one of the largest congregations of the Muslims after the Hajj, as it began on the bank of the Turag in Tongi yesterday morning.

Several lakh devotees from home and abroad have participated in the Ijtema.

Vehicular movement on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway and the adjacent link roads came to a halt for a few hours during the Juma prayers, creating a long queue of vehicles.

This year's first phase of the Ijtema concluded with the Akheri Munajat (final prayers) on January 12, while the second and final phase will end tomorrow.

Meanwhile, two devotees died in separate accidents on their way to the Ijtema ground on Thursday night.

The deceased are Suruj

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Garment workers form a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday, protesting the gang rape of a fellow worker in Ashulia on the outskirts of the city on Tuesday. Staging the demonstrations under the banner of Bangladesh Garments Sramik Sanghati, they demanded exemplary punishment for the culprits. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: STAR

Khamenei plays down protests

Says Iran's foes exploiting Ukraine plane tragedy

AFP, Tehran

Iran's supreme leader said yesterday that demonstrations at home over its accidental downing of a Ukrainian airliner were unrepresentative of the Iranian people and accused the country's enemies of exploiting it for propaganda purposes.

Leading the main weekly Muslim prayers in Tehran for the first time since 2012, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said the January 8 downing was a "bitter" tragedy but should not be allowed to overshadow the "sacrifice" of one of Iran's most storied commanders, assassinated in a US drone strike in Baghdad.

His sermon came after a traumatic month for Iran in which the country had appeared on the brink of war with

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

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