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Your Right to Know

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"The celebrations have not ended yet."

SHORIFUL ISLAM, BANGLADESH'S UNDER-19 WORLD CUP WINNER (PAGE 14)



"Around two-thirds of the world population could be affected by the coronavirus if it cannot be contained."

PROF GABRIEL LEUNG, A LEADING PUBLIC HEALTH EPIDEMIOLOGIST



"It is unbearable for the US to accept the victory of a great nation and that a superpower has been driven out of this land."

IRAN PRESIDENT HASSAN ROUHANI ON THE 41ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ISLAMIC REVOLUTION (PAGE 8)



ROAD ACCIDENT VICTIMS

Families cry for justice

Official figures show sharp rise in casualties

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Carrying a small bag, Ahsan Ullah Tutul yesterday attended a press conference organised to seek justice for his son and numerous others killed in road accidents.

At the end of the programme, he opened the bag and took out more than a dozen certificates -- all belonged to his son Adnan Tasin.

One was for Tasin's outstanding results in SSC exams while another for securing the second spot in mathematical Olympiad. He also got one for 100 percent school attendance.

"There are some 100 such certificates and medals at our home. My son earned all of them, but he's gone. What will I do with these now?" Tutul asked, his voice cracking.

Tasin, a student of the capital's St Joseph Higher Secondary School, died when he was only 17. A speeding bus hit him on Airport Road in the capital's Sheora area on February 11 last year while he was going to the other side of the street using a zebra crossing.

Despite being ill, Tutul, a former merchandiser in his mid-40s, did all he could do in the last one year to ensure justice for his son. He wrote to the prime minister and over a dozen ministers. He talked to police and Dhaka North City Corporation mayor on several occasions.

"I didn't even get sympathy, let alone justice," he said.

Like Tutul, family members of four other road crash victims shared similar experiences at the press conference, organised by Sarake Santan-Swajanhara Avhibhabak Forum, in association with Nirapad Sarak Andolan, at the city's Crime Reporters Association of Bangladesh.

They did not get justice for their loved ones killed. Neither did they get any compensation from the authorities concerned, they said.

Speaking at the programme, road safety campaigners

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Rohingyas rescued by Bangladesh Navy and Coast Guard at a jetty at Saint Martin's Island after a Malaysia-bound trawler capsized in the Bay of Bengal near the island early yesterday. The accident left at least 15 Rohingyas dead. Inset, a child being treated at the jetty.

PHOTO: STAR

Triumphant homecoming of U-19 today

SPORTS REPORTER

At around 4:55 pm today, the nation will for the first time have the opportunity to welcome home world champions. The Bangladesh Under-19 team will touch down with the ICC Under-19 World Cup trophy three days after beating their Indian counterparts in the final in Potchefstroom, South Africa on Sunday.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) have decided to keep the homecoming low-key, with a small reception planned at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, before Akbar Ali's team are taken to the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium's Academy ground for a press conference.

While the BCB have planned a low-key reception, the response from the general public is expected to be anything but if the outpouring of joy after the three-wicket win in the final was any indication. Bangladesh's previous seminal, perception changing win took place 23 years ago when the national team won the ICC Trophy and qualified for their first World Cup.

There were similar scenes when Rakibul Hasan hit the winning runs in the final on Sunday, around 10:00pm Bangladesh time. Cricket fans took to the streets in celebration, shouting slogans and there was also rong khela (drenching each other

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Coronavirus 'grave threat to world'

Says WHO chief; two Bangladeshis infected in Singapore so far

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE	1,019 DEATHS	42,708 Confirmed cases in China	Worst hit Chinese region Hubei
	43,158 confirmed cases	The virus spread to at least 25 countries	31,728 cases

AGENCIES

The World Health Organization yesterday warned that the novel coronavirus was a "very grave threat" for the planet as it hosted the first major conference on fighting the epidemic.

About 400 scientists were taking part in the two-day international meeting in Geneva which will review how the virus is transmitted and possible vaccines against it.

As the epidemic squeezed the world's second-biggest economy, Chinese firms struggled to get back to work after the extended Lunar New Year holiday, hundreds of them saying they would need loans running into billions of dollars to stay afloat.

Meanwhile, a second Bangladeshi worker in Singapore has been infected with coronavirus, reports The Straits Times.

The 39-year-old Bangladeshi worked at Seletar Aerospace Heights, where another Bangladeshi was found to have the virus last Saturday. JPMorgan again downgraded forecasts for Chinese growth this quarter, with analysts saying the outbreak had "completely changed the dynamics" of its economy.

"With 99 percent of cases in China, this remains very much an emergency for that country," WHO head Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said at the start of the meeting.

"What matters most is stopping the outbreak and saving lives. With your support, that's what we can do."

PHOTO ON PAGE 16

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Treacherous journey ends in tragedy

15 Rohingyas drown, 50 still missing in Bay as trawler carrying over 135 to Malaysia sinks near St Martin's

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

At least 15 Rohingyas were killed as a trawler sank in the Bay of Bengal near St Martin's Island in Teknaf upazila early yesterday. They were trying to go to Malaysia illegally.

The victims -- 11 women and four children -- were residents of different Rohingya camps in Teknaf and Ukhiya upazilas.

Apart from the victims, 72 people, including four boatmen, were rescued, while 50 others are feared missing.

The trawler capsized around 5:45am near Zinjira point, some 8km northwest of the St Martin's Island, after running

aground, said coast guard officials.

Some fishermen, who were catching fish in the Bay, saw the incident and informed the coast guard of the matter, said Naimul-Haque, commander of coast guard's St Martin's Island station.

Coast guard members went to the spot around 7:30am and started a rescue operation in association with the navy, he added.

Talking to journalists, a navy official said there were 138 people, including 136 Rohingyas, in the trawler. They were going to Malaysia illegally after human traffickers lured them into taking the risky journey.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

DU teachers uninterested in uniform entrance test

ASHIK ABDULLAH APU

Most Dhaka University teachers and Ducus leaders oppose the University Grants Commission's move to hold uniform admission test for all public universities.

They said a uniform test would compromise the "quality of students" getting into the university and the almost hundred-year-old institution would lose its uniqueness.

DU authorities were yet to decide on the matter, said DU Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof Muhammad Samad, adding that they would accept the decision of the academic council, one of the highest bodies that deal with such matters.

During a meeting with public university vice-chancellors, the UGC on January 23 decided that uniform admission tests would be held for the 2020-2021 academic year.

In a late January meeting of the DU's academic

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



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Radisson Blu Chattogram Bay View Wednesday, 12 th February 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM	The Westin Hotel Dhaka Thursday, 13 th & Friday, 14 th February 10:30 AM - 5:30 PM
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Event Highlights:

- Meet over 37 Australian institutions face-to-face
- Apply for 2020 intakes with fee waivers*
- Discuss programs, eligibility and scholarships
- 9 years post-study work rights available*
- On spot IELTS registration available

Participating Institutions

- Australian National University
- La Trobe University
- Monash University
- Monash University Malaysia
- The University of Adelaide
- Trinity College
- The University of Melbourne
- The University of Sydney
- The University of Western Australia
- University of New South Wales
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Curtin University
- Deakin University
- Edith Cowan College
- Edith Cowan University
- IBIT
- Federation University
- Flinders University
- Griffith University
- International College of Management, Sydney
- Kaplan Business School
- Macquarie University
- Melbourne Institute of Technology
- University of Adelaide College
- Murdoch Institute of Technology
- Navitas Ltd
- RMIT University
- Southern Cross University
- Study Perth
- Swinburne University of Technology
- Swinburne University of Technology Malaysia
- The University of New England
- The University of Wollongong
- University of Canberra
- University of Technology Sydney
- UTS research
- Western Sydney University

*and apply to many more

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Gulshan Office : Hamid Tower, 4th Floor, Gulshan Circle 2, Dial: 01968782782
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Chattogram Office : Rahima Center, 3rd Floor, 1839 CDA Avenue (Beside Sanmar). Dial: 01970082082