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UNFIT VEHICLES ON ROADS

Form DC-led taskforce in all districts

HC asks government

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to form taskforce in all districts, led by deputy commissioners, to stop unregistered and unfit vehicles plying the road.

Secretaries to the ministries of public administration, home affairs, and road transport and bridges have been asked to take necessary steps to form the taskforce in line with the Road Transport Act-2018.

The HC directed appropriate legal actions include seizing, stopping, and impounding of unfit and unregistered vehicles.

The court also ordered the authorities concerned to submit reports after complying with the directives within the next three months.

The bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice KM Hafizul Alam also set June 1 for passing further order on this issue, Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin Manik told The Daily Star.

He said each taskforce would be comprised of deputy commissioner, concerned executive magistrate, representatives from the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), and police.

On March 27 last year, the same bench issued a rule after a report was published in this newspaper on March 23 under the headline "No fitness docs, yet running".

In the rule, it asked the authorities concerned to

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These threewheelers, with their polluting two-stroke engines, ply the streets in the city's Lalbagh area. They have been banned in the city and have no fitness certificates whatsoever. They have no turn signals and no number plates, just a few numbers painted on by their owners. Yet these vehicles were seen carrying passengers, inset, yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Ex-minister Rahmat Ali passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Former state minister, freedom fighter, and Awami League lawmaker of Gazipur-3 Rahmat Ali passed away yesterday morning.

He was 74.

Rahmat Ali, who was undergoing treatment at Square Hospitals in Dhaka, breathed his last around 7:35am, said Harun-or-Rashid Farid, former assistant secretary of Jubo League.

Rahmat, who was also an AL advisory council member, had been suffering from kidney ailments, diabetes, cardiac problems, and old-age complications for a long time, Harun added.

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'We're something between telco and newspaper'

Says Facebook's Zuckerberg

REUTERS, Munich

Online content should be regulated with a system somewhere between the existing rules used for the telecoms and media industries, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg told global leaders and security chiefs on Saturday.

Speaking at the Munich Security Conference in Germany, Zuckerberg said Facebook had improved its work countering online election interference, and expanded on his previous calls for regulation of social media firms.

"I do think that there should be regulation on harmful content ... there's a question about which framework you use for this," Zuckerberg said during a question and answer session.

"Right now there are two frameworks that I think people have for existing industries - there's like newspapers and existing media, and then there's the telco-type model, which is 'the data just flows through you', but you're not going to hold a telco responsible if someone says something harmful on a phone line."

"I actually think where we should be is somewhere in between," he said.

Facebook and social media giants

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

'Workers will share profit of industries'



Bangabandhu having a conversation with the members of the AL working committee on February 17, 1972.

FEBRUARY 17, 1972
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

FIRST MEETING OF AL WORKING COMMITTEE

The working committee of Awami League, in its first meeting after the Liberation War held in Dhaka today, discusses the political and economic situation in the country and matters relating to the party. The meeting was presided over by the party chief and Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The meeting adopts a resolution condoling the martyrs who laid down their lives in the struggle for independence and prays for the peace of the departed souls.

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'We can't keep our eyes closed to this'

Says SC concerned over turmoil in banking sector

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday expressed concern over the situation in the country's banking sector, and wanted to know the state of International Leasing and Financial Services Limited (ILFSL), a non-banking financial institution.

The apex court asked former Bangladesh Bank deputy governor Khondker Ibrahim Khaled, who has been appointed as an independent chairman of ILFSL by the High Court, to explain the condition of the organisation in writing.

It also asked an official of the central bank, not below the rank of executive director, to appear before it at 9:00am on February 25.

It said the condition of

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Faster than Usain Bolt!



AFP, New Delhi

A farmer from India has allegedly beaten Usain Bolt's 100 metre sprint record - with the help of two huge buffaloes.

Srinivasa Gowda, from Karnataka, has since been called up for national trials after he set an incredible time of 9.55 seconds.

On a track of muddy slush, Srinivas ran 142.50 metres in 13.62 seconds on January 31, setting a record in the traditional buffalo race known as Kambala held every year in southern Karnataka state.

The 28-year-old farmer has since become a sensation after people praised him on social media and compared him to retired Jamaican sprint superstar Bolt, who is the world's fastest man for his record run of 100 meters in 9.58 seconds.

Comparing Gowda's performance with the

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Man killed, 9 hurt in boiler explosion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A man was killed and nine others were injured as a boiler exploded at a rice mill in Sadar upazila of Thakurgaon yesterday.

The dead is Solaman Ali, 38, son of Abbas Ali of Rajagaon village in the upazila.

Mosharul Islam, chairman of the local union parishad, said the boiler of the rice mill exploded around 10:00am. Solaman died on the spot.

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PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 17

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:25	12:45	4:30	5:57	7:15
JAMAAT 6:00	1:15	4:45	6:01	7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

KSA sent back 5,594 in 45 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saudi Arabia has deported 5,594 Bangladeshi migrant workers, including 300 women, in the last one and a half months, according to Brac Migration Programme.

This month alone, the country deported 1,959, including the 145 who arrived at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport around 12:15am on Saturday.

Immediately after their arrival, Brac and Prabashi Kalyan Desk of the expatriates' welfare ministry gave them water and snacks.

Many of the workers returned empty-handed and within months of their migration, officials said.

On Wednesday and Thursday nights, at least 285 migrant workers, including 20 women, arrived in Dhaka from Saudi Arabia.

At least 25,789 Bangladeshis were deported by the Gulf country last year.

Shariful Hasan, head of

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A fire in Narayanganj's Isdair Bazar burns down at least 50 shanties and warehouses for storing garment factory waste early yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

UNDOCUMENTED BANGLADESHIS IN KSA

5,600 seek repatriation

JAMIL MAHMUD

Around 5,600 undocumented Bangladeshi migrant workers in Saudi Arabia have applied for their repatriation under a special exit programme.

In December last year, the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) launched the programme offering illegal migrants a safe return to their home countries.

After the programme was launched, some 3,599 Bangladeshis applied via Bangladesh Embassy in Riyadh while around 2,000 more applied via Bangladesh Consulate General in Jeddah, said Bangladeshi officials in KSA.

All the applications were submitted to labour offices concerned in the KSA for further processing, officials said.

Following a directive by the KSA, Bangladesh mission there started receiving applications from eligible migrants on December 22.

Migrants who work in different companies without residence permit and have been declared absconding are eligible for the opportunity, read a notice of the Bangladesh mission in Jeddah.

Besides, those who had earlier received an exit permit from their sponsors but did not leave the Gulf country on time will also have the opportunity to return home under the programme, it added.

The special exit programme can be availed by any foreign workers in the KSA.

Under this programme, migrants will have to return home on their own within 15 days of obtaining the exit visa, read another notice issued by the Bangladesh mission.

As per the initiative, officials at Bangladesh embassy

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