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CRASH FATALITIES IN BANGLADESH

Good trends ‘undermined’

WB finds country's road safety deteriorating amid economic growth, poverty reduction

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Between 1990 and 2017, the increase in the road crash fatality rate per capita was three times higher in Bangladesh than that across South Asia, according to a World Bank report.

For the highest-risk group—males between the ages of 15 and 49 years—the rate of increase in Bangladesh was 15 times higher than that across the region, it said.

The report, titled “Delivering Road Safety in Bangladesh”, was released on Friday in conjunction with the Third Global Ministerial Conference On Road Safety in Stockholm.

The report points to the high death rate on Bangladesh's roads caused by chronic lack of investment in systemic, targeted, and sustained road safety programmes and identifies relevant investment priorities to reverse the trend.

“Bangladesh has experienced sustained economic growth and made progress on reducing poverty and boosting prosperity. However, these positive trends are being undermined by high fatality and injury rates on the roads of this populous South Asian nation,” the report stated.

“The detrimental development impacts of poor road safety performance must be addressed. Road safety performance in Bangladesh is not just poor, it is

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Vehicles wait in long queues to pay toll and cross the First Buriganga Bridge -- an everyday scene in the area. The photo was taken at Keraniganj on the outskirts of the capital yesterday. Inset, a microbus driver paying a toll collector on the bridge.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

‘Abducted’ ex-Rab man returns after 18 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Rab commanding officer Lt Col (sacked) Hasinur Rahman returned home in the capital's Mirpur DOHS around midnight on Friday, nearly 18 months after being picked up by some plainclothes men.

Speaking to The Daily Star over phone yesterday, Hasinur's wife Shamima Akhter said, “We took him to our flat after the security guard of our building informed us about his return home.”

She said Hasinur could not say anything about his whereabouts during the months he was missing. “We are not asking him any question which might leave him mentally upset.”

Expressing relief over her husband's return, Shamima said he was on medication for high blood pressure. “We will take him to a doctor today [yesterday].”

According to family members, Hasinur was allegedly picked up by

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New armed police to start working in Cox's Bazar

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

A new police battalion is going to start its operation in coastal district Cox's Bazar from February 28.

The Armed Police Battalion (APBn)-16 is the second such special battalion to maintain law and order of the district and ensure security of Rohingyas.

“We will begin our operational activities in Cox's Bazar from February 28,” Hemayetul Islam, commanding officer (CO) of newly formed APBn-16, told The Daily Star on Thursday.

“We are now finalising appointment of our staff members and official procedures from Dhaka,” he added.

On November 12 last year, the home ministry approved formation of the battalion with 588 manpower. A superintendent of police will be its CO.

Its prime task will be to maintain law and order of the coastal district, according to a ministry order.


Upon the order, official activities of the battalion have begun from January 1, said the APBn-16 commanding officer.

Asked about the delay in recruiting

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

“Asians will decide their own fate”



Bangabandhu is seen with his father during his first visit to his village home after his release from Pakistan jail.

FEBRUARY 23, 1972


SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

MUJIB'S APPEAL TO UN CHIEF

Bangabandhu appeals to the UN secretary-general to use his office urgently to alleviate the plight of the Bangalee population living in different parts of Pakistan. He also requests the UN secretary-general to send his special representative to Pakistan for this purpose.

Bangabandhu says in his message that grim reports about the conditions of the Bangalees living in Pakistan are reaching him every day, which say that they are living in Pakistan in a state of fear and insecurity. In many places they are deprived of water and electricity. In some places, they have been put into unknown

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Addicts won't get govt jobs

Home boss says there would be dope tests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday said drug addicts will not get government jobs.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina strictly directed that no one can enter government services without going through a dope test, she said.

He was addressing the 30th anniversary of the anti-drug activities of Dhaka Ahsania Mission as the chief guest at Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology in the capital, says a press release.

The home minister said that like the way the PM has adopted a “zero tolerance” policy against militancy, she has also adopted a “zero tolerance” policy against drugs.

The country's vision for 2041 will not be achieved if the youth is not being

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Adopt a stray dog, plant a tree

Bhutan plans to celebrate king's birthday in a novel way

NDTV ONLINE



As Bhutan yesterday celebrated the birthday of their king, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the country's prime minister also had a novel idea for a birthday gift.

Bhutan's Prime Minister Dr Lotay Tshering reportedly asked people to adopt a stray dog and plant a tree to celebrate their king's 40th birthday.

According to a tweet by Bhutanese journalist and mental health advocate Namgay Zam, the prime minister asked citizens to “adopt a stray dog each as a gift for His Majesty on His Birthday today”. The measure, she added, would help the country deal with its booming stray dog population in a humane manner. She also said the PM urged

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Two killed in Sylhet ‘gunfights’

Family of one says ‘planned murder’

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A man, who was killed in an alleged “gunfight” with police in Sylhet's Bishwanath upazila early yesterday, was picked-up by plainclothes policemen from in front of Sylhet Central Jail on February 18, claims his wife.

Fotik Miah, 40, was from Purbapara village in the upazila.

His wife Halima Khatun said that Fotik was released on bail in a robbery case on February 18 and she was

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PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 23

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:20	12:45	4:30	6:03	7:30
JAMAAT 5:55	1:15	4:45	6:07	8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

AL leader shot dead in Bandarban

Witness dies of heart failure at home

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A group of unidentified criminals shot dead a local Awami League leader and left five others critically injured in Bandarban Sadar upazila yesterday evening.

The dead, Ba Chaw Nu Marma, 50, was president of ward unit AL in Jamchhari area of the upazila, said police.

The injured are Mong Kyaw Ching Marma, La Mong Ching Marma, Redase Marma, Ushwe Thoai Marma, and Kya Prue Marma. They were sent to Bandarban Sadar Hospital, said police.

Shahidul Islam, officer-in-charge of Bandarban Sadar Police Station, said a group of unidentified criminals opened fire at a tea stall in Jamchhari Bazar area around 7:00pm, leaving Ba Chaw dead on the spot and several other injured.

Another man, who was present at the spot when

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The colour of Naton Chaktai canal's water bears evidence of indiscriminate dumping of used engine oil from boats. The waterbody in Chattogram is connected to the Karnaphuli river. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Surge in cases outside China

WHO warns window of opportunity to stop spread of virus shrinking

AFP, Beijing

Fears mounted yesterday over the growing spread of infections outside China from the new coronavirus outbreak, as the World Health Organization warned of a shrinking window to stem the spread of the deadly disease.

The warning came as Europe saw its first deaths from the COVID-19 strain, which has now reached more than 25 countries and caused more than a dozen fatalities outside China.

Yesterday, Italian news agency ANSA reported that a woman in the northern region of Lombardy had died after contracting the virus, a day after a 78-year-old man from the nearby Veneto region became the first local person in Europe to succumb to the illness.

The new wave of cases in Italy has also triggered a lockdown of ten towns -- a move with echoes of China's sealing off of entire cities in central Hubei province, the epicentre of the virus where millions remain under quarantine.

A second person also died in South Korea, where the numbers of cases spiked, authorities said yesterday, while the death toll in Iran reached five and a number of new cases were reported across the Middle East.

As cases surged outside China, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus warned that the “window of opportunity” to contain the international spread of the outbreak was “narrowing”.

He cautioned that if countries did not quickly mobilise to fight the reach of the virus, “this outbreak could go in

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