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SHAH CEMENT

NEW ROAD TRANSPORT ACT Changes likely as transport lobbies relentless

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

A committee formed with three ministers to look into how the Road Transport Act-2018 could be implemented, is going to propose changes to the act.

Part of the law came into effect partially in November last year.

The committee, led by Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, finalised the proposals at its last meeting at the home ministry yesterday.

Most of the changes proposed would recommend reducing the fines for traffic violations, said multiple participants of the meeting.

The associations of transport owners and workers have long been lobbying for changes to the act.

"We have held several meetings with the stakeholders. They [stakeholders] have some recommendations. We also gave our opinions, so that the act can be implemented properly," Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan, also a member of the committee, said.

"We have decided to propose bringing some changes to the act and adopt some issues in the rules [of the act]," he told The Daily Star last night.

"We will submit our proposal to the main committee [National Road Safety Council], which will make the final decision," Sujan, also former secretary of Supreme Court Bar Association, said.

The Jatiya Sangsad passed the act in September 2018 following an unprecedented student movement for road safety. Students took to the streets across the country after

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Floodwater eating away power loom machinery and materials at a factory in Tangail's Kalihati upazila. Weavers in the district have already been incurring huge losses as factories remain closed upon government directives to stem the spread of coronavirus. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

NORTHERN REGION Water level of some rivers rising again

STAR REPORT

Some rivers in the northern region of the country have started swelling again, posing the risk of recurring flood.

Flood for short period may hit the region by the end of this month due to heavy rainfall and onrush water from upstream, warns officials of Water Development Board (WDB).

People of these areas said they were already exhausted by multiple phases of flood since June. If flood recur, it would cause immense sufferings to them.

Meanwhile, the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC), in its bulletin yesterday, said there was a chance of heavy rainfall in south-western and south-central coastal region in 24 hours.

Rivers in these region may rise rapidly during this time, said the bulletin that was released at 9:00am yesterday.

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ASPIRING MIGRANTS 99pc to stay back if given better jobs

Says IOM report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As many as 99 percent of potential migrants will opt to stay at home if there are better job opportunities in Bangladesh, says a report of International Organisation for Migration.

According to the report, the top drivers of migration from Bangladesh include absence of job opportunities (particularly in the formal sector), insufficient income, financial problems, and a lack of social services and limited social protection systems.

IOM Bangladesh yesterday launched the report titled "Bangladesh: Survey on Drivers of Migration and Migrants' Profile" at an online event.

A total of 11,415 potential migrants, who intended to leave by June this year, from 64 districts were interviewed during the survey conducted in November-December last year.

The report mentioned that 38 percent respondents would stay at home if there were improvements to the rule of law, a better security situation (36 percent),

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

UN Admission Committee's meeting on Bangladesh tomorrow

August 20, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

MUJIB LEAVES FOR GENEVA TOMORROW

Bangladesh Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will leave for Geneva tomorrow morning as planned for 10 days of convalescence following his gallbladder surgery in London on July 31. He will be accompanied by his wife Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib, personal physician Dr Nurul Islam and his advisers.

BANGLADESH AWAITS UN ADMISSION COMMITTEE'S MEETING OUTCOME

The United Nations Security Council members have been reportedly split over whether to hold voting on Bangladesh's membership application or put off voting to avoid a Chinese veto. The Council Committee on Admission of new members will meet privately tomorrow to decide what the Council should do with Bangladesh's application.

Bangladesh government is waiting for the outcome of the United Nation Security Council's Admission Committee meeting to decide its future course of action to get membership of the world body. The general feeling is that even at this stage the procedure would be arranged in such a way that a veto by China would prove useless, involving possibly a postponement of a formal vote on the application.

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TV INTERVIEW

Rayhan not charged by Malaysia police

SHARIFUL HASAN

Malaysian police did not bring any charge against the young Bangladeshi Rayhan Kabir who was arrested in Malaysia and he will be sent back to Bangladesh soon.

Rayhan's lawyers in Malaysia Sumita Santini Kisna and Selvaraja Chinniah communicated the developments to The Daily Star yesterday.

Malaysian court granted a 13-day remand for Rayhan, which ended Tuesday. Sumita Santini Kisna said, "There are no charges filed against our client. He will be deported as soon as his Covid-19 test is done and flight ticket is ready. Before that he would be kept at Putrajaya Immigration Centre and from here will be sent straight to the airport".

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30 new species discovered in Galapagos depths



AFP, Quito

An international team of marine scientists have discovered 30 new species of invertebrates in deep water surrounding the Galapagos, the Ecuadorian archipelago's national park authorities announced Monday.

The deep-sea experts discovered fragile coral and sponge communities including 10 bamboo corals, four octocorals, one brittle star and 11 sponges -- as well as four new species of crustacean known as squat-lobsters -- the Galapagos National Park (GNP) said in a statement.

"These discoveries include the first giant solitary soft coral known for the Tropical Eastern Pacific, a new genus of glass sponge that can grow in

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Zafrullah sued for 'hurting' religious sentiment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury was sued in Chattogram yesterday for hurting religious sentiments of Hindu people and defaming the community with derogatory comments.



A Chattogram court took cognisance of the defamation charge and ordered Chattogram Metropolitan Police's Detective Branch to investigate the case.

Biplob Partha, journalist of a local news portal, filed the case against the Gonoshasthaya Kendra founder and trustee with the court of Chattogram Metropolitan Magistrate Abu Salam Md Noman.

"We filed the case under two sections -- one for hurting religious sentiments and another for

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HUMAN TRAFFICKING Kuwait-based ringleader arrested in Narsingdi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has arrested an alleged ringleader of a Kuwait-based human trafficking gang in Narsingdi's Madhabdi upazila.

The arrestee, Ameer Hossain alias Siraj Uddin, 49, fled to Bangladesh from Kuwait in May last year after he had faced trial for his involvement in human trafficking. Jisanul Haque, senior assistant superintendent of the CID, told The Daily Star.

CID came to know about Ameer from a report

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Vehicles seized by Sher-e-Bangla Nagar police are left to rot at an empty space near the police station. A Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Office was supposed to be built there. Most of the vehicles had been seized as the drivers did not have the necessary papers. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

India sees record Covid-19 deaths

1,099 died in 24-hrs as cases surge to 2.8m; Aussie PM bats for mandatory vaccination

AGENCIES

India reported its highest single-day death toll from the Covid-19 pandemic yesterday, reporting 1,099 fatalities as coronavirus pandemic continued to wreak havoc across the globe.

The world's second-most populous country had 64,531 new infections on Tuesday, which took the virus tally to 2.8 million, federal health ministry data showed yesterday.

India is third behind Brazil and the United States in terms of total number of cases and the outbreak has been spreading steadily from urban areas to smaller towns, where health infrastructure is rickety.

In Australia, Prime Minister Scott Morrison yesterday called for coronavirus immunisations to be mandatory, wading into ethical and safety debates raging around the world as the race to develop a vaccine gathers pace.

Almost 30 potential vaccines are currently being tested on humans across the globe in hope of ending a pandemic that has now killed more than 781,000 people and infected more than 22 million, according to an AFP tally.

Morrison said he wants all 25 million Australians to get the jab after the country secured access to a vaccine currently under development by AstraZeneca and Oxford University.

Nations are scrambling to develop an immunisation or gain access to one of a handful of contenders in the final stages of clinical trials.

Among the competitors, Brazilian health regulators on Tuesday gave the green light to the final stage of trials on a vaccine by Johnson & Johnson.

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PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 20

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:25 12:45 4:45 6:38 8:30
JAMAAT 5:00 1:15 5:00 6:41 8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION