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SHAH CEMENT

DHAKA-TONGI RAIL LINE EXPANSION

Construction to take more time, money

Officials blame it on pandemic, redesigning of a major bridge

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The cost and duration of the construction work of the third and fourth dual gauge railway tracks on Dhaka-Tongi route and doubling the dual gauge track on Tongi-Joydevpur route is going to increase further.

Officials cited redesigning of a major bridge under the project, Covid-19 pandemic, and the difference between the contract value and Development Project Profile (DPP) prices as the reasons for the changes.

They said the project authority was redesigning the Tongi Bridge as objections came from Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) about the existing design -- particularly about the clearance under the bridge.

Following the redesigning, the clearance under the bridge would increase by about two metres.

Bangladesh Railway is implementing the project under the first Indian Lines of Credit to improve the capacity of its most vital section. Except for Narayanganj, Dhaka is connected with the entire country's railway network through this section.

Under the project, construction of a 49-kilometre third and fourth dual gauge railway track on Dhaka-Tongi route and a 13-kilometre dual gauge railway track on Tongi-Joydevpur route is underway.

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Waves crash into the sidewalk as vehicles pass the flooded Airport Road near the Banani flyover yesterday. Many streets were left inundated after heavy rainfall in the afternoon. The city's drainage system is often clogged or inadequate at places to drain the water.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



Actor KS Firoz no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted actor KS Firoz, who was admired for his work in theatre, radio, television and cinema, passed away from Covid-19 infections yesterday morning at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH).

He was 74.

The news was confirmed by senior actor Ahsanul Haque Minul, who previously served as the organising secretary of the Actors' Equity Bangladesh.

K S Firoz entered the television industry in 1968 with the tele-fiction Tobuo Deep Jole. In his decades-long career, he has worked in over 500 tele-fictions and drama serials.

He founded the theatre troupe -- Amambagh troupe.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

10 dead as two trawlers collide in Gomai river

All were women, children; they were on way to Netrakona from Sunamganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

At least 10 people, all women and children, drowned in the Gomai river as a trawler capsized after being hit by a sand-laden vessel in Netrakona's Kalmakanda upazila yesterday.

Eight to 10 others are still missing, said Kalmakanda Upazila Nirbahi Officer Sohail Rana.

The sand-laden vessel hit the trawler carrying 30 to 35 passengers in Rajnagar area around 9:30am, said Md Hadesuzzaman, chairman of Borokhapan union parishad.

The trawler was heading for Thakurakona ghat in Netrakona Sadar upazila from Madhyananagar of Sunamganj's Dharampasha upazila, he said.

UNO Sohail said 10 bodies were recovered and six people were fished out of water and given first aid.

Firefighters and locals searched for the missing until around 6:00pm.

The dead are: Lucky Akter, 30, her daughter Tumpa Akter, 4, and two-and-a-

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

No submission to veto-blackmail

September 10, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

MAMMOTH PALTAN MEETING'S VERDICT

Syed Nazrul Islam, the acting prime minister, today makes a blistering attack on China for blocking Bangladesh's entry into the United Nations. He wonders how China, a constant victim of US veto for 22 long years, could use her veto power against Bangladesh.

Addressing a mammoth protest meeting at Paltan today, Syed Nazrul says Bangladesh would not barter away friendship with India and the Soviet Union for UN membership. He makes it quite clear that Bangladesh would not bow down to China and would never submit to veto-blackmail.

He regrets that appeals made on behalf of Bangladesh to the Chinese leadership to recognise the reality of Bangladesh has fallen on deaf ears. The meeting is organised by Awami League to protest the Chinese veto against Bangladesh's entry into the UN.

OVER 4,000 SMUGGLERS ROUNDED UP Home Minister Abdul Mannan says that over 4,000 smugglers and hoarders have so far been rounded up throughout the country by law enforcement agencies. Addressing a public meeting at Dhaka today the minister reiterates the government's determination to mobilise all resources to stop smuggling and says about 400 check-posts would be set up along the 1,600 mile border. Out of the proposed 400 posts, about 200 are already in operation, he adds.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Donald Trump nominated for Nobel Peace Prize

REUTERS, OSLO

A Norwegian lawmaker has nominated Donald Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize for 2021 for helping broker a deal between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, the second time he has put forward the US president for the honour.

Thousands of people are eligible to nominate candidates for the Nobel Peace Prize, including members of parliaments and governments, university professors and past laureates.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee, which decides on the award, declined to comment.

"It is for his contribution for peace between Israel and the UAE. It is a unique deal," Christian Tybring-

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2 MYANMAR SOLDIERS' CONFESSION

It could be a turning point for Rohingyas

Experts say this may help the persecuted get justice

PORIMOL PALMA

The confessions of two former Myanmar soldiers about their involvement in massacres, rape, and other crimes against Rohingyas and their transfer to the International Criminal Court (ICC) could be a turning point for justice for the Rohingyas, analysts said.

So far, the victims and witnesses to the mass atrocities against the Rohingyas shared their experiences to the UN and other investigators since some 750,000 Rohingyas fled a brutal military campaign in Myanmar's Rakhine State. This is the first time the perpetrators have confessed to the massacres and rapes, they said.

"These confessions could be a turning point for justice for the Rohingyas. This is a major development. Now, all the parties -- victims, witnesses and perpetrators -- are saying similar things," said Prof Imtiaz Ahmed, director of the Centre for Genocide Studies at the International Relations Department of Dhaka University.

In February this year, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), where the Gambia filed a case accusing Myanmar of genocide against Rohingyas, ordered in February this year

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BUSINESS

Banks beef up security amid cyber threats

Banks have beefed up security, vigilance and monitoring to prevent hackers from stealing money after the central bank and the government alerted them against a North Korean hacker group. Almost all banks have recently started keeping the ATM and POS services suspended from 12am to 7am amid threats that the hacker group named "Beagle Boys" was trying to steal money from banks around the world through ATM booths and fake transactions. "We are centrally monitoring the activities of the ATMs. We have alerted our security guards manning the ATMs," said Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director of Mutual Trust Bank. Emranul Haq, managing director of Dhaka Bank, said they are keeping only seven ATMs operational from midnight to the morning out of a total of 62.

STORY ON B1

Six killed in Barishal road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

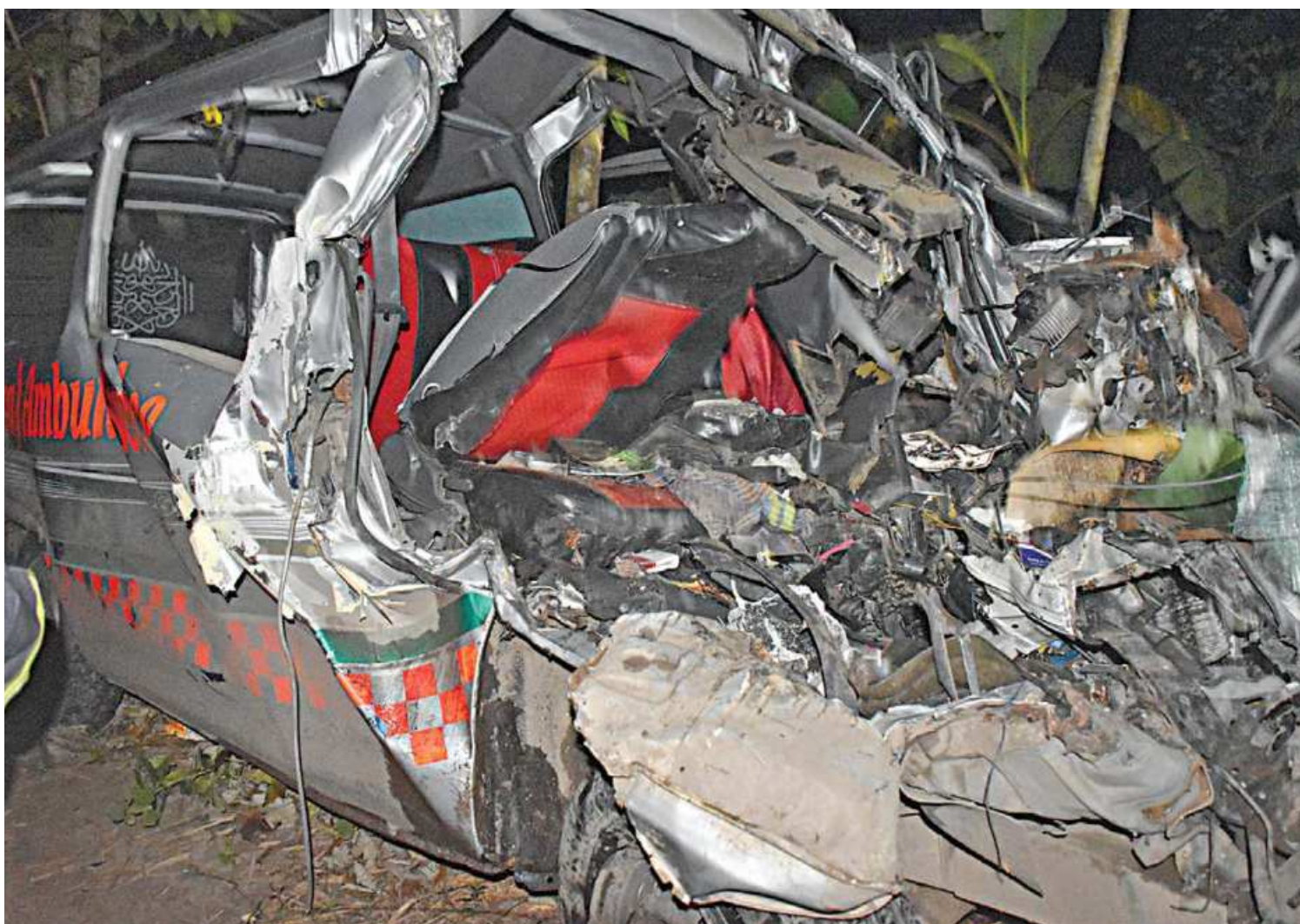
Six members of a family were killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Barishal Highway in Ujirpur upazila of Barishal yesterday.

They were taking the body of an infant to their hometown by an ambulance. On their way, the ambulance collided head-on with a covered van.

The dead are Arifur Rahman, his sister Shiuli Begum, his mother Kohinoor Begum, his brother Tarek Rahman, his brother-in-law Nazrul Islam, of Jhalokathi Baukathi area; and ambulance driver Alamgir Hossain, of Cumilla.

Arif's cousin Rashidul

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The mangled wreckage of an ambulance after it collided with a lorry in Ujirpur upazila on Dhaka-Barishal highway yesterday evening. Six people perished in the accident.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Tension escalates in Ladakh

India, China mobilise troops around Pangong Tso lake

AGENCIES

Indian and Chinese troops were engaged in a tense face off yesterday, barely a few hundred metres apart, in a remote Himalayan region where shots were fired for the first time in decades, Indian officials said.

The nuclear-armed neighbours have accused each other of firing in the air during a fresh flare-up in the Ladakh region on Monday, violating long-standing protocols to avoid using firearms along their undemarcated borders.

"The situation is tense," an official in New Delhi said, adding that Indian and Chinese troops were squaring off in close proximity in at least four locations south of the Pangong Tso lake that both lay claim to.

"Both are on their own sides of the LAC," the official said, referring to the Line of Actual Control, the de facto border.

At a forward position near the Rezang La mountain pass, Indian and Chinese troops were only around 200 metres apart, another official in New Delhi said. Both officials declined to be named.

The development comes a day before the foreign ministers of both countries are expected to meet in Moscow on the sidelines of the meeting of the eight-nation Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is in Moscow on a four-day visit to Russia to attend a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

On the sidelines of the SCO meet, he is expected to hold a bilateral meeting with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi today amidst the escalating border row.

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PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 10

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-35 12-45 4-30 6-14 7-45
JAMAT 5-10 1-15 4-45 6-17 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION