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Prisoner inside CNG 3-wheelers

Safety measure turns risky for passengers

MORSHED ALI KHAN

Abu Mohammad, 55, a businessman from Gaforgaon, arrived in Dhaka early Friday to meet his friends in Mirpur. Abu, having concluded his work in the evening, rented a CNG three-wheeler from Mirpur Mazar Road to Mohakhali bus terminal. As he boarded the CNG, its driver locked the passenger compartment and drove on. He did not know where he was heading as the driver took an unusual route and stopped in a quiet lane at Mirpur Section-11 where three people robbed him at knifepoint of his cell-phone and Tk 4,000 and pushed him out of the running vehicle near the BRTA office.

"As soon as the driver locked the gate and took an unknown lane, I felt totally helpless and terrified. I could not even open the gate as it was latched from the driver's compartment. I was at the mercy of this criminal," said a shaken Abu as he, surrounded by curious passersby, tried to recover from the fall.

Every passenger now in a CNG three-wheeler faces a similar threat in the city. With alarming rise in mugging involving CNGs, the home ministry recently ordered CNG owners to fit doors on both sides of the passengers' compartment. The idea was to ensure safety of passengers from criminals entering vehicles

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A flock of migratory birds has found a safe haven at Bodormokam in Teknaf adding to beauty of the coastal area this winter.

PHOTO: COURTESY

No crossfire Sahara terms it self-defence

DU CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Sahara Khatun yesterday denied the allegation of killings in crossfire and termed it a self-defence method for the law enforcers.

"If you look up the definition of crossfire there is no crossfire in the country. It has never happened. What is happening is that the members of my law enforcement agencies are being compelled to shoot miscreants to defend themselves when the miscreants open fire on them," Sahara said while talking to reporters at a function in the city.

"Do you want the law

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DCC not killing mosquitoes

Runs out of adulticide

HELEMUL ALAM

Mosquito menace has greatly increased over the last one month in the absence of effective anti-mosquito drive by the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), causing sufferings to residents of the capital.

People in different areas of the city said the DCC made little efforts to combat mosquito menace in their localities for about a month. The areas include Mirpur, Pallabi, Kazipara, Shewrapara, Mohammadpur, Uttara, Moghbazar, Rampura, Basabo, Madartek and Gandaria.

DCC officials however claimed they are

regularly conducting mosquito eradication drive using larvicide, but shortage of adulticide for the last one week has affected the drive.

The DCC now has a stock of around 9,500 litres of adulticide for use only in 'specific areas' and for other emergency uses, said one official.

Larvicide destroys larva and egg of mosquito, and adulticide kills adult mosquito.

The DCC sought 4.34 lakh litres of adulticide for the current fiscal year but the authorities concerned supplied only 50,000 litres in October, officials mentioned. They attributed this to bureaucratic tangles.

Contacted, DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain

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2008 JS ELECTION Court summons 10 over poll expenses

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A Patuakhali court has summoned 10 candidates of the parliamentary election 2008 for not submitting their poll expenditure reports to the returning office in time.

The court asked the candidates to appear before it on January 4, 2010. The chief judicial magistrate of Patuakhali issued the order on Thursday.

Earlier, the court issued summons on all the accused to appear before it on November 30 this year, but

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Provide jobs for challenged people

PM says govt mulls tax relief for such initiatives

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday warned that stern action would be taken if anyone is found guilty of depriving physically and mentally challenged children of admission to mainstream schools.

She also said the government will consider tax exemption for those private corporate institutions and entrepreneurs that will employ persons with disabilities in their respective institutions.

The prime minister made the remarks while addressing a function arranged on the occasion of the 18th International Day of Persons with Disabilities at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

This year's theme of the day is 'Incorporation in the Millennium Development Goals and Empowerment of Disabled

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We could have got much more Says Ameerah on Copenhagen talks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Failure of the world leaders to achieve a legally binding deal on carbon emission reduction

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

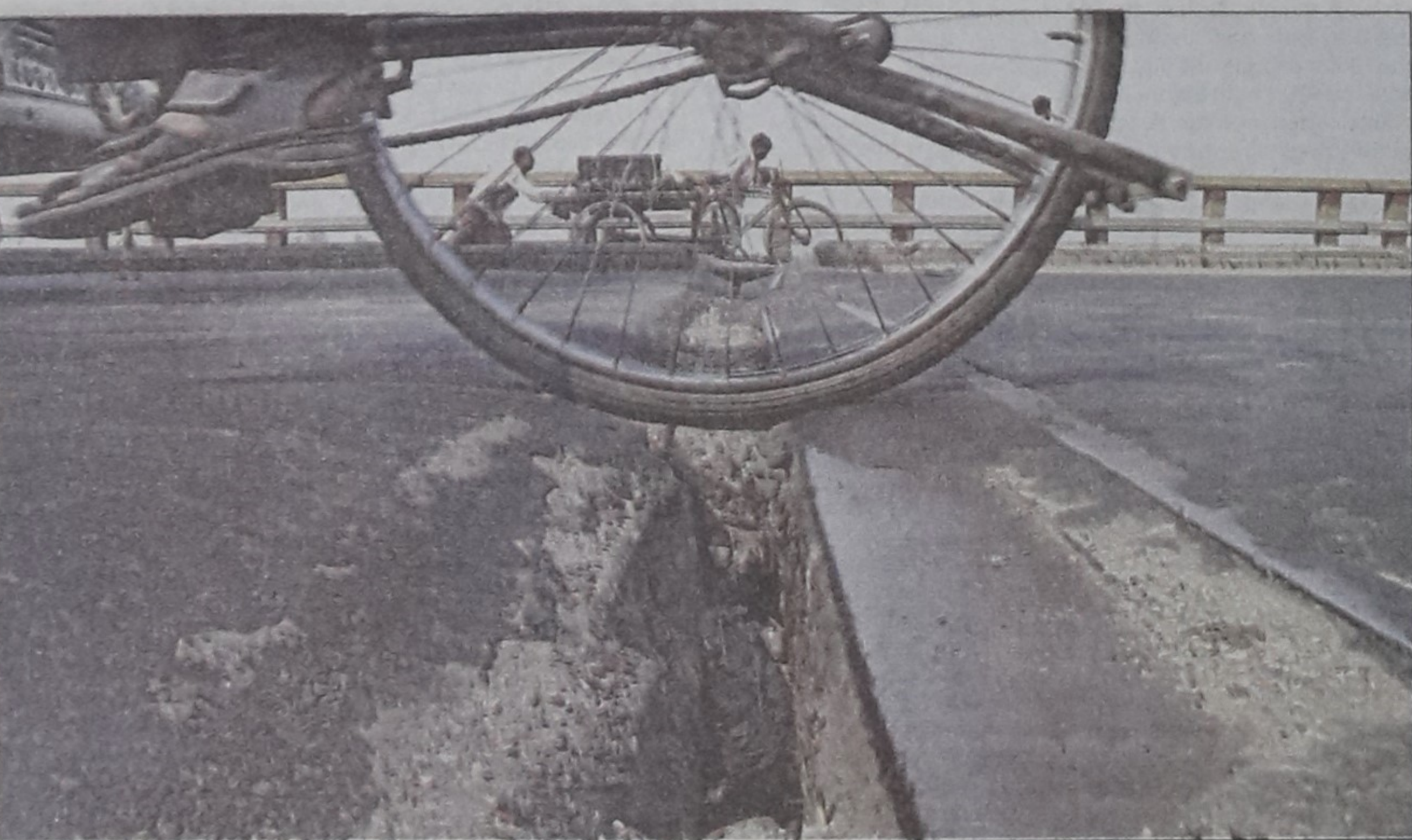


PHOTO: SHAFIQU ALAM

This recent photo shows a breach in the joint of Kanchpur Bridge in the city's bustling suburb posing a high risk of accident.

Police arrest a bullet-hit robber

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested a bullet-hit bus robber after an exchange of fire with the gang at Amin Bazar on Dhaka Aricha highway yesterday.

Police also seized a mini-bus used by the robbers and five big knives from the bus.

The robber, Mizanur

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Passengers help foil plane attack

Qaeda-linked Nigerian tries to blow up US airliner

AP, Romulus

An attempted terrorist attack on a Christmas Day flight began with a pop and a puff of smoke sending passengers scrambling to subdue a Nigerian man who claimed to be acting on orders from al-Qaeda to blow up the airliner, officials and travellers said.

The commotion began as Northwest Airlines Flight 253, carrying 278 passengers and 11 crew members from Amsterdam, prepared to land in Detroit just before noon Friday. Travellers said they smelled smoke, saw a glow, and heard what sounded like firecrackers. At least one person climbed over others and

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Cold wave continues

UNB, Dhaka

Although the well-off section of society eagerly waits for winter for recreation, the sweeping cold wave has hit the poor people hard, particularly the northerners.

"There'll be no respite from cold, as the country might experience mild to moderate cold waves for the next few days as well," said a meteorologist.

The cold wave now sweeping

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OnlinePoll

Do you agree with BNP that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina failed to project the country's interest at the Copenhagen Summit?

Yes (38.7%)
No (59.4%)
No Comments (1.9%)

Total votes: 1199

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with Home Minister Sahara Khatun that there is nothing like "crossfire" in the country?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing		
December 27		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	6-30	7-05
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	4-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-27	6-30
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Move on to bring back 100 in Indian jails

HASAN JAHD TUSHER

The government has taken initiative to bring back around 100 Bangladeshi nationals detained in different prisons in India on various charges.

The move came after India had informed the government of having 136 Bangladeshi nationals imprisoned there for years. India also gave Bangladesh a list of the detained people.

The government investigated identities of

the detained people on the list and confirmed 97 of them as Bangladesh-born.

After the confirmation the Ministry of Home Affairs has requested the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to deal with the matter and bring the people home immediately.

Sources said the government could bring back its nationals in exchange of Indian nationals detained in different jails in Bangladesh. More than 50 Indian nationals, some of them

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কুলখানি ও দোয়া মাহফিল



মরহুম ইঞ্জিনিয়ার নুরুল হক সিকদার, প্রতিষ্ঠাতা ও চেয়ারম্যান, পলমল গ্রুপ অব ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ, এর কুলখানি ও দোয়া মাহফিল আগামী ২৮ ডিসেম্বর ২০০৯, রোজ সোমবার আসর নামাজের পূর্বে ৮:৩০ ঘটিকায় মরহুমের বাসভবন রোড নং ৭/এ, বাসা নং ৭৩, ধানমন্ডিতে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

সকল আত্মীয়-স্বজন ও শুভাকাংখীদেরকে মরহুমের বিদেহী আত্মার শান্তি ও মাগফিরাত কামনায় উক্ত দোয়া মাহফিলে শরিক হওয়ার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হল।

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