

Did you know? 6th October Bridge is an elevated highway in Cairo, Egypt, running through the city connecting part of it to the highway of 20.5 km total length.

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2 construction workers die in 18-storey fall

MUKHLESUR RAHMAN

Two construction workers, who happened to be siblings, died after falling from an 18-storey building in the capital's Motijheel yesterday.

The deceased are Abbas Bepari, 32, and his younger brother Swapan Bepari, 30, of Muladi upazila in Barisal. They fell with a window-cleaning platform while using it to paint the WWTower.

This latest accident is a stark reminder of the gross negligence in safety measures for construction workers. Statistics show, more than 70 construction workers died in workplace-related accidents over the last six months in Bangladesh.

The window-cleaning platform hurtled down and crashed on to a steel case of a generator below on the footpath behind the building, narrowly missing pedestrians, said witnesses.

The workers died instantly as they fell from the Wari Club. The iron window-cleaning platform, falling from such a height, also damaged windowpanes of the building, they added.

Mohammad Sohrab Hossain, nephew of the deceased, said another worker Rokon was mixing paint on the roof while his uncles were painting the top floor perched on the rusty platform, which was hanging riskily at the rear of the building.

Our correspondent visited the spot and found the wires attached to the platform to be rusty and worn.

Ziaul Aziz, who supervised the construction work of the four-year-old building, said Abbas Bepari provided the platform as he took the contract of painting the building.

"Abbas agreed to complete the work for Tk 6.5 per square foot using his equipment and manpower while the authorities would

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Two worker brothers died after they plunged from this high-rise at Motijheel yesterday while painting the top portion of the structure.

PHOTO: STAR

Pirates throw 36 fishermen into Bay to loot trawlers

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Pirates threw 36 fishermen into the sea with their hands and legs tied, after attacking two fishing trawlers off the coast of Cox's Bazar early Monday.

The pirates looted fish, fishing net, and trawler engines worth several lakh taka and beat up most of the fishermen.

Nineteen fishermen of one trawler were rescued from the Bay of Bengal while floating on the water on Monday morning. Seventeen men of the other trawler were rescued yesterday noon.

At least 24 fishermen, injured in the attack, were admitted to different hospitals in Cox's Bazar.

Hemayet Uddin, 35, one of the injured fishermen, said they were returning in two trawlers -- FB Senoara and FV Sukkur -- to Cox's Bazar after fishing in the deep sea for six days. The armed pirates in two

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Govt to set up new power line

Counts on enough electricity from upcoming projects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to give power connections to 3.5 lakh new subscribers by setting up around 7,000 kilometres of new lines within the next three to four years.

With Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair, Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecne) yesterday approved five projects including two for setting up power lines at a cost of Tk 1,847 crore.

Connecting these subscribers will increase power demand by 178 megawatts when the present load shedding hovers between 1,200MW and 2,000MW.

The officials concerned, however, say that the upcoming power projects would take care of the shortage.

After the meeting held at NEC auditorium in the capital, Planning Minister AK Khandker said as per the government's master plan it would be possible to supply electricity to the new

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Govt plans to increase CNG-run auto fare

SHAHNAZ PARVEEN

The government is planning to almost double the fare of CNG-run auto rickshaws.

In response to strong persuasion from auto rickshaw owners, the communications ministry has formed a committee late last year for suggestions.

The committee, headed by chairman of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), is also comprised of auto rickshaw owners and leaders of drivers association.

The BRTA sent its suggestions on the revised fare to the ministry last week and waiting for approval, said Aiybur Rahman Khan, head of the committee.

As per the proposal, the fare is fixed at Tk 25 for the first two kilometres, up from Tk 14, while the charge for each subse-

quent kilometre will be Tk 7, which is now Tk 6. The waiting charge is proposed at Tk 1.25 per minute in place of current Tk 1, said BRTA sources.

The committee also suggested raising the daily deposit for drivers to Tk 600 from Tk 450.

The BRTA chairman said the commuters had last seen fare hike for CNG-run auto rickshaw in 2007.

"We have asked the owners and drivers to abide by the rules and bring order in the sector if the fare hike is implemented," he said, adding, "A driver must go to the destinations as per a passenger's request and run on meter without charging extra while a owner should charge the official daily deposit from a driver."

He said, "The route permit of an auto rickshaw will be cancelled if a owner or driver fails to abide by the rules."

Meanwhile, passengers reacted sharply to the new government move. Even BRTA officials have doubts that the fare hike would bring order in the sector.

"I already spend extra money on transport and the proposed hike would cost almost half my salary," said Sabera Sultana, a resident of Uttara working in a private company.

"The government has had several talks with the owners and drivers on fixing fair fare for all. But we still have to cope with their disregard for the law," said a banker.

In response to public reaction, ATM Nazmul Hasan, general secretary of Dhaka City CNG Auto-rickshaw Owners' Association, said, "The existing government rate is no longer cost effective for us, as it was fixed three years ago and the maintenance cost of an auto rickshaw has

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RENTAL POWER DELAY Otobi gets court order against further penalty

SHARIER KHAN

After paying the government Tk 11.55 crore penalty for failing to launch its 110 megawatt rental power plant in Bheramara in time, furniture giant Otobi obtained a court injunction against paying further penalties.

Otobi has also sought Power Development Board's permission to convert the same diesel fired plant into a heavy fuel oil (HFO) fired plant and sought a new deadline of October 30 in that light. It has done so as a contractor is allowed 120 days to complete a diesel-fired rental plant and 270 days for an HFO-based plant.

The PDB has rejected the offer and decided to take the legal battle very seriously.

The 110MW plant being set up by Quantum Powers of Otobi was supposed to be commercially launched on June 4. But it is seriously lagging behind the schedule and its failure has

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PHOTO: STAR

Rain on the river Buriganga yesterday. Dhaka residents exhausted by humidity felt a wave of relief as the downpour cooled the city.

Stop war crime suspects from fleeing in guise of Hajj pilgrims

Sahara asks law enforcers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Sahara Khatun yesterday directed the intelligence and law enforcement agencies to prevent suspected war criminals, Rohingyas and militants from leaving the country in the guise of Hajj pilgrims.

"A list of probable Hajj pilgrims will be submitted to the Special Branch of police within this month to verify whether there is any Rohingya, suspected war criminal or terrorist or not," she said while talking to newsmen after a meeting on passport issuance

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THREAT BY BIGOTS

Tangail Ahmadiyyas left to live on nerves

MIRZA SHAKIL and RASHIDUL HASAN

Male members of Ahmadiyya Muslim community at Chandtara village under Ghatail upazila of Tangail are afraid to go back in their houses following continuous threats by the religious bigots.

Women and children of some 32 Ahmadiyya families of the village are panic-stricken and living with food crisis and insecurity.

Irate at the move to rebuild an Ahmadiyya mosque in the area, religious bigots allegedly patronised by local BNP and Jamaat leaders vandalised and looted almost all houses of the

Ahmadiyyas in a series of attacks on June 17, August 7 and 8 leaving 20 people of the community injured.

Under the banner of "Imam parishad", a group of locals led by Imam Mufti Nasiruddin of Ghatail upazila parishad mosque has been campaigning against the Ahmadiyyas in the village for long.

Abu Taher Akanda, a member of the community told The Daily Star, "Local bigots hanged sign boards at different places in the village saying Kadianis [Ahmadiyyas] have no

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OnlinePoll ✓

Do you think prime minister's warning against the wrong-doers will discourage the corruption within the ruling party?

Yes (13.3%)
 No (85.2%)
 No Comments (1.5%)

Total votes: 480

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government will be able to complete the 21km expressway in the capital by 2013?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Jet crash kills 42 in China

AP, Beijing

A Chinese passenger jet overshot a fog-shrouded runway in the country's northeast and burst into flames yesterday, killing 42 people and injuring 49 others, state media said.

The Henan Airlines plane with 91 passengers and crew crashed in Heilongjiang province's Yichun city, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

China Central Television quoted Sun Bangnan, deputy director of the Heilongjiang Public Security Department, as saying that 42 bodies had been recovered and that 49 people were rescued and taken to local hospitals.

Wang Xuemei, vice mayor of Yichun, told CCTV that three of them were in critical condition but gave no details.

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Iftar & Sehri timing for Dhaka & neighbouring areas

Today's Iftar

Ending time for tomorrow's sehri

Prayer Timing August 25		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-16	4-26
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-27	6-37
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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