

Did you know?

Eureka Tower is a 300-metre (984 ft) skyscraper located at the South bank precinct of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. Construction began in August 2002 and the exterior was completed on 1 June, 2006.



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Make joint efforts to curb traffic jam

JS body asks DCC, DMP, BRTA to draw up detailed plan for a congestion-free city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday asked the organisations concerned to submit their detailed plans on how to ease the city's traffic situation in the committee's next meeting.

At a meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, the parliamentary standing committee on LGRD ministry asked Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) and other organisations concerned to stop blaming each other for the worsening traffic situation and work together to minimise the problem.

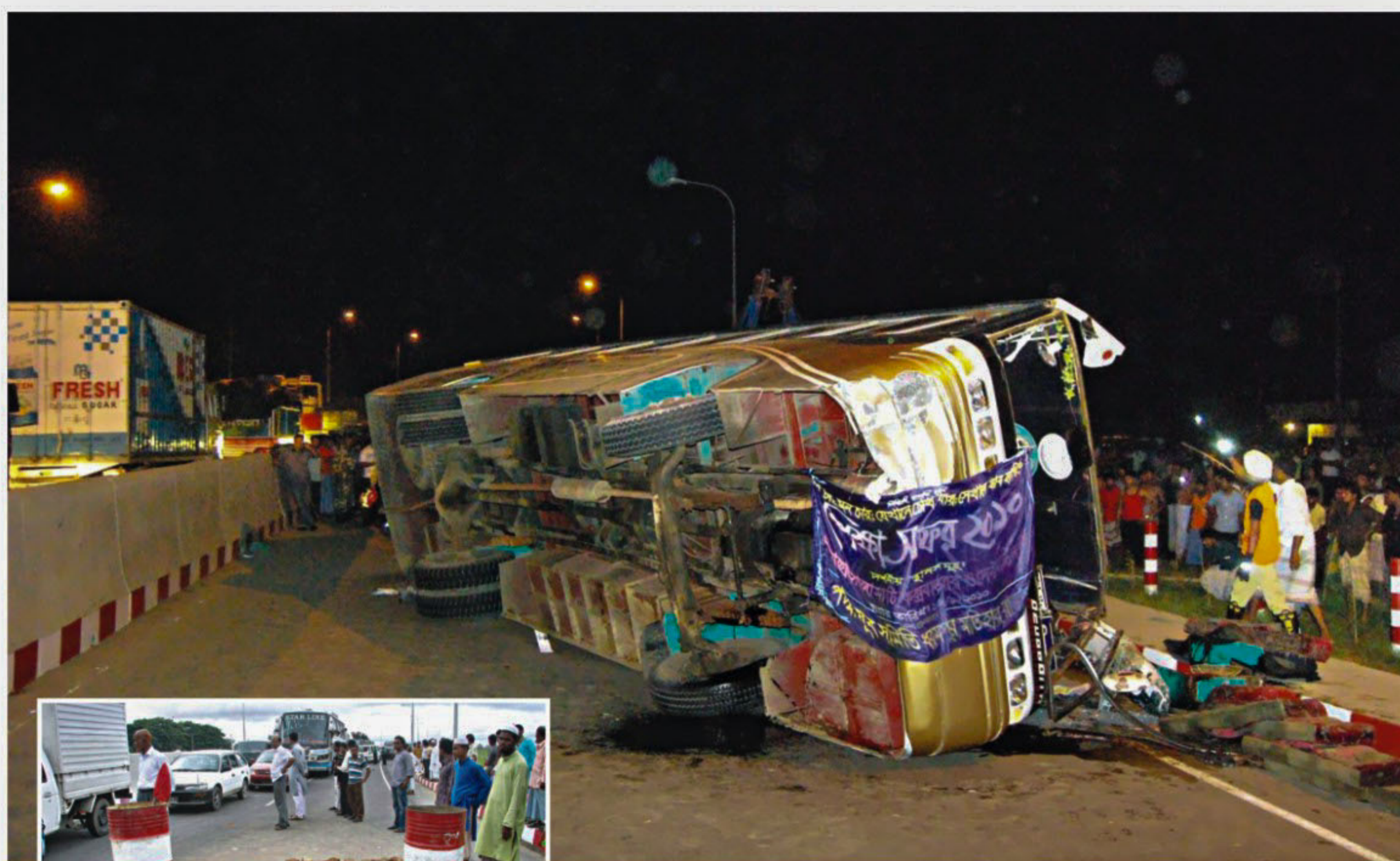
Once they submit their plans, the committee will sit to make its recommendations, Rahmat Ali, chief of the committee, told reporters after the meeting.

Officials of DCC, Rajuk, BRTA and DMP yesterday placed some recommendations including registration of vehicles as per the capacity of city roads, introduction of solar system to run signal lights and prevention of CNG conversion of vehicles.

"No more rhetoric, we just want to see progress in solving traffic congestion," sources at the meeting quoted a lawmaker as saying.

The committee also asked DCC to explain in the next meeting

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After a girl was injured in an accident on the Karnaphuli Shah Amanat Bridge in Chittagong a few days ago, locals themselves built big speed bumps, inset, on the bridge assuming that those would reduce accidents. The bus in the picture flipped on its side after it went over one of the speed bumps at speed leaving two dead. The Roads and Highways Department has removed the bumps. The prime minister opened the bridge on September 8.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

JS body for relaxing height limit around old airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliamentary committee on housing and public works yesterday recommended lifting the height restriction around Tejgaon airport to pave the way for high-rises to accommodate increasing population in the capital.

According to a press release of the parliament secretariat, the huge area of the old airport is used as a helipad, which does not require much space.

The committee observed that many high-rise structures could be built if the height restriction on structures in the area is lifted.

Committee Chief ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury, however, kept from making any comment on the issue.

A meeting source said the committee would discuss the matter with the civil aviation and defence ministries. The committee members believe that once the Bangabandhu

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Muggers kill cabby

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers allegedly stabbed a taxi driver to death at the capital's Kafrul area early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Rabiul Islam, 32, a resident of Jahurabagh, Darus Salam, Mirpur.

Kafrul police said they found Rabiul in his cab with several stab marks in his throat in front of Al-Helal Hospital on Rokeya Sarani around 12:15am. He was rushed to the hospital and later shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead at 12:45am.

Azizul Hakim, manager of Swift Transport at Mirpur Mazar Road, identified Rabiul

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Bangladesh eyes trade, farming in west Africa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh plans to open a new front in agricultural production and trade in west African countries, which have vast fertile and fallow land and import almost all commodities.

Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes, who led a five-member fact-finding mission to four West African countries -- Ghana, Ivory Coast, Liberia and Senegal -- from August 24 to September 2, said this at a media briefing at his office yesterday.

This was the first of a series of visits that Bangladesh has planned to West Africa, Southern Africa and Latin America as part of its target to strengthen South-South cooperation, he said.

The delegation talked to ministers, bureaucrats and business leaders and

found huge potentials for farming, fruit processing and establishing joint ventures in textiles, exporting ready-made garments, medicine and venturing into many other sectors.

"We got tremendous response from them. They are very interested in getting our expertise in agriculture," said Mijarul Quayes, adding, they are still dependent on rainwater for rice cultivation once a year.

Businesses could go to those countries with agriculturists and farmers, lease land at cheap rates and apply the modern farming technologies to cultivate rice round the year like Bangladeshi farmers.

"We asked them if we could do contract farming. They said there could be pilot projects and then it might gradually expand," the foreign secretary said.

A Liberian congressman has offered to take Bangladeshi experts to his own area to produce rice, rubber, coffee, cashew nuts and so on, he said. "This could be the beginning of our cooperation."

Besides, those countries grow abundant fruits, but nobody produces juice out of it. Investors from Bangladesh could easily take advantage of setting up fruit processing industries there, he continued.

The West African countries grow a lot of cotton but are not that competitive in the market. Investors from Bangladesh could also set up backward linkage industries that could immensely help the country's ready-made garment industry, Quayes told the newsmen.

"They literally import everything," he

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Stay alert against evil activities of war criminals

PM urges freedom fighters

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged the freedom fighters and people of all walks of lives to remain alert against evil activities of the war criminals who committed crimes against humanity during the liberation war in 1971.

"The war criminals still cannot accept emergence of Bangladesh as an independent country. This evil force will not sit idle. We all have to remain alert against their activities," the premier said when a 41-member delegation of newly elected Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Command Council met her at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday.

PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed newsmen after the meeting.

Maj Gen (ret) Helal Morshed Khan, chairman of Muktiyoddha Command Council led the delegation.

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Tremor shakes Chandpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A tremor measuring 3.9 on the Richter Scale jolted Chandpur district and its adjacent areas early yesterday.

No casualties were reported.

Met office sources said the earthquake shook the region at 3:33am for a few seconds.

The epicentre of the earthquake was 72km southeast of Agargaon Seismic Centre in Dhaka.

Earlier, three tremors were felt across the country, two on the eve of Eid and another on Eid day.

The first jolt was felt only for a few seconds at 10:42pm on Friday. The second one was at 11:24pm with a magnitude

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Nine more infected with anthrax

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nine more people are infected by anthrax in Pabna and Meherpur districts yesterday raising the number of such people to 517 from August 18, authorities of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) confirmed.

However, no news of fresh infection of animals was found, said an official of live-stock department.

Among the nine cases,

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MONEY LAUNDERING Hearing on charges against Koko on Oct 31

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed October 13 for hearing on charges against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's younger son Arafat Rahman Koko and Saimon, son of former shipping minister Akbar Hossain for their alleged involvement in money laundering.

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So huge are the potholes and puddles that rickshaws have to go around them on Road-15 at Nikunja in the capital.

Roads in Nikunja in bad shape

HELEMUL ALAM

Roads in Nikunja-2 residential area in the capital remain in appalling shape for the last 12 years for lack of renovation work and its residents are made to suffer severely.

Developer of the area Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) did not feel the urgency to repair the roads while the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), which took over charge from Rajuk in late 2008, also failed to make any headway so far.

Tenants do not like staying here for long due to the poor condition of the roads, said Abdul Hasib Khan, a resident of Road-15.

Absence of streetlight turns the roads of the locality into safe havens for muggers at night, he added.

Another native Nurul Amin said the roads

got a face-lift last in 1998 and since then these remained ignored.

Nazrul Islam, owner of Nazrul General Store, said the roads go under knee-deep water just after a light shower because of poor drainage system.

"It makes me count additional cost for carrying goods as the vehicles charge double to come here," added Nazrul.

Nahida Akhtar, a resident of Road-17, said jerking and waterlogging make a rickshaw ride very painful after rain.

"We have to wade through knee-deep rain-water mixed with sewage, if there is no rickshaw to hire," said Papia Afroz, an honours first year student.

Rickshaw pullers charge Tk 20 to Tk 40 to cross a short distance, which is normally a Tk 5

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India, China urged to stop building dams on Siang

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

A number of organisations in North Eastern India have appealed to China and India to stop all under-construction and proposed dams on Siang River saying that it would lead to massive cut in water flow into Bangladesh and Indian states.

In a joint letter to Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his Chinese counterpart Wen Jiabao, at least 50 organisations have expressed fear that the communities surviving on the river's ecosystem might get heavily affected by the politics of water and energy.

China is not only building a series of dams but also diverting water in the upper reaches in the Tibet Autonomous Region, they claimed in the letter. A copy of the letter was released to the media Tuesday.

It would result in massive reduction of water flow having devastating impact on the ecosystems and the way of life in

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OnlinePoll

Do you think the High Court order that declared illegal the construction of ship breaking yards at coastal green belts of Sonachhari will have an impact on stopping environmental degradation?

- Yes (40.9%)
- No (56.8%)
- No Comments (2.3%)

Total votes: 301

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think BNP-led opposition has any issue that justifies street agitations now?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing		
September 16		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-35	5-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-09	6-12
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation