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Bumpy ride to Sylhet via Tongi-Kaliganj

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Anyone would require some nerves of steel if he or she travels to Sylhet by road and chooses the 34-km connecting road leading to the Sylhet highway from Tongi. Large potholes dot almost the entire stretch and a vehicle bumps and jolts like a wild horse. If it's an old car, it might break down during the journey, which may pose a nightmare to those riding it.

The road is also narrow, so narrow that hardly two trucks can pass side by side. In reality, it's not even a two-lane stretch but a one-and-a-half-lane road at best. Vehicles have to get almost off the road as much as possible to avoid collision with traffic coming from the opposite direction.

To add to such sufferings, there will be long queues of traffic if a vehicle breaks down or a bus stops for long to drop or pick up passengers.

"This 34-km road takes us two hours to cross, if we are lucky," said trucker Kalam. "We drive with huge risks,

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Vehicles negotiate the large potholes on the Tongi-Kaliganj Road between Tongi and Sylhet highway. Vehicles often break down while passengers brace for nightmarish journeys every day on this narrow stretch of road.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



Spelling Bee contest on TV tonight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The divisional round of The Daily Star Spelling Bee contest will be aired on Channel i at 7:50pm tonight.

The programme will go on air on Wednesdays and Thursdays, organisers said at a press conference at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

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BDR CARNAGE TRIAL DG sought PM's help instantly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As soon as the BDR mutiny broke out at Pilkhana on February 25, 2009, the then director general of the force Maj Gen Shakil Ahmed sought help from the prime minister.

"The DG [Maj Gen Shakil] talked with the prime minister over the cell phone seeking help," Major Rukhsana Khanam, a firsthand witness, told a Dhaka court yesterday.

Rukhsana and some army officers hid behind the

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SAYEDEE'S WAR CRIMES TRIAL Many key witnesses 'untraceable or sick'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After repeatedly failing to produce witnesses in the case against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee, the prosecution yesterday prayed to the International Crimes Tribunal-1 to accept witnesses' statements as testimonies.

Prosecutor Syed Haider Ali told the tribunal that many of the 19 key prosecu-

tion eyewitnesses have become "untraceable" while others are too sick to travel from their homes to the court.

He referred to a legal provision that allows statements recorded by the investigation officer to be accepted as testimonies in court in case of difficulties in producing a witness.

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WAR CRIMES OF '71 Charges against Alim accepted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday took into cognisance the war crimes charges brought against former BNP lawmaker Abdul Alim.

The tribunal--the first of two set up to deal with war crimes committed during the 1971 Liberation War--ordered the prosecution to place formal charges against Alim on April 24.

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Coconut con man caught

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

A "coconut vendor", who drugged bus passengers unconscious and robbed them of their valuables, got a taste of his own medicine yesterday when a victim made him drink his doped coconut milk.

The innovative way of robbing people was discovered by Mosharraf Hossain, who seven days ago was robbed by this very vendor. He had drunk the coconut milk and had lost consciousness.

Mosharraf, proprietor of Style Optics at Gulshan-2 and a resident of

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School children visit Kadam Mobarak Mosque in Chittagong yesterday as part of their trip to historic places in the port city. The Daily Star organised the trip under its programme Odommo Chattagram.

PHOTO: STAR

JOURNEY TO HERITAGE IN CTG

A learning experience for children

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Ctg

An expedition to historical sites in Chittagong city came as a pleasant opportunity to Sabrina, a student.

"I have come here many times but today I got to know that this was Rangmahal hill and there was a fort at this place," she said, who joined the team of some 250 students at the day-long expedition yesterday to explore Andarkilla.

Excitement could be sensed in her tone when Anjum, a student of Chittagong Mohila College, said, "Today, I learnt that a Buddha sculpture was discovered in the hill



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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL

Do you think two International Crimes Tribunals are enough to complete the war crimes trials within the tenure of present government?

Yes (22.6%)
No (64.4%)
No Comments (13.0%)

TOTAL VOTES: 230

TODAY'S POLL

How do look at the claim of Rab director general Mokhlesur Rahman that the Rab deserves credit for protecting human rights?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT [facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews)

PRAYER TIMING March 28

	Asan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-20
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-20	6-25
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

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