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Buriganga Bridge

Protection rail in poor state

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The guardrails on the approach road of Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge-1 are at high risk of falling over as cracks in the pavement at different points are yet to be fixed.

The guardrails on both sides of the approach road of the bridge stretch for about 300 metres but around 200 metres of it is damaged. Rails are usually installed on approach roads of bridges and curves.

Over 30-metre guardrails on the northern side of the bridge got damaged around three months ago.

Following the damage, the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) installed bamboo fence there. The authorities concerned sent a proposal to the RHD to rebuild the railings but it has not been approved yet.

Mohammad Shahin, driver of a CNG-run threewheeler, told The Daily Star, "That day, we several drivers were chitchatting under the bridge. Suddenly, we saw a bus hit the railing and the barriers fell near us."

No casualties were reported during the collapse. "But cracks have developed at different parts of the approach road along the railings. These must be repaired soon to avoid accidents," he said.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2



A gaping trench-like crack has appeared between the tarmac and the pavement of the first Buriganga Bridge in Postagola in the capital. The dangerous crack has been there for months but there have been no signs that the authorities concerned were trying to fix it.

5 drown in trawler capsize

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Two mothers and their three children drowned in a trawler capsize in the river Boulai at Mithamain in Kishoreganj yesterday.

The accident happened around 6:45am about four kilometres from Ghaghra point of the upazila due to overloading, said Sadekur Rahman, Mithamain upazila nirbahi officer

(UNO). "The trawler had a capacity for a maximum of 60 people. But the master overloaded it with 100 rice sacks of around 3,700 kg along with 18 people," he told The Daily Star.

However, most of the passengers managed to swim ashore, he added.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 4

Series agitation from Sunday

Decides BNP-led alliance: no trace of Ilias yet

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

The BNP-led 18-party alliance last night decided to go for a non-stop agitation from Sunday, if the government fails to find missing BNP leader M Ilias Ali by Saturday, the deadline given by the main opposition.

During a meeting, the alliance also agreed in principle SEE PAGE 6 COL 1 SYLHET VIOLENCE Death toll

now 3 STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

With another person falling victim to last Monday's fierce clashes between pro-hartal pickets and law enforcers in Bishwanath, the death toll rose to three yesterday.

Zakir Hossain, 28, succumbed to his injuries at Sylhet MAG Osmani

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

SOHEL TAJ'S RESIGNATION

Speaker Hamid in no hurry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speaker Abdul Hamid has yet to give any directive to the Parliament Secretariat on issuing a gazette notification declaring Tanjim Ahmad Sohel Taj's parliament seat vacant.

Sohel Taj, son of the country's first prime minister Tajuddin Ahmad, resigned as lawmaker on Monday sending his resignation letter to the speaker through a messenger.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

370 Hindus killed in a single day

War crimes tribunal told it happened at Alim's directive

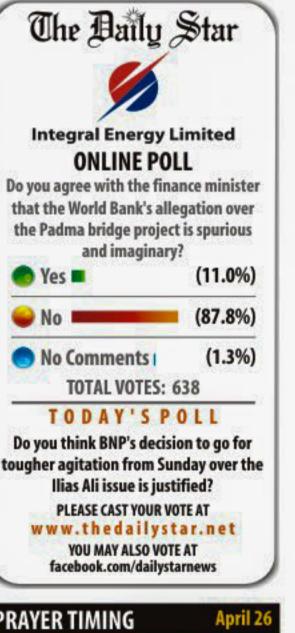
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the directives of Abdul Alim, the Pakistani army and the collaborators killed 370 Hindus in villages of Joypurhat in one single day during the Liberation War, the prosecution told the



International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday.

Driven by "religious malevolence", the Pakistani army and the collaborators in a planned way on April 26 carried out an all-out attack on the Hindu **SEE PAGE 19 COL 5**







Anan Intesar bin Fayez finally with his mother after Nusrat's legal battle across two countries to have her son back. The photo was taken at their Bangla Motor home.

PHOTO: **RASHED SHUMON**

Odyssey of a mother ends in joy

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

mother.

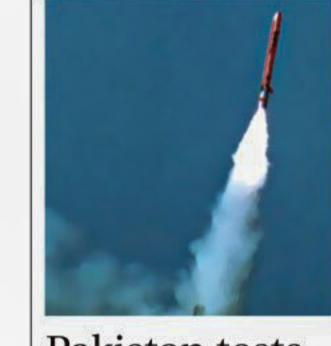
Nusrat knows deep in her heart that her odyssey has ended favourably.

From police station to court, one ministry to another in Bangladesh and India -- she pressed her case to win guardianship of her seven-year-old son Anan Intesar bin Favez.

Her ex-husband AKM Nurul Fayez Bakul inflicted all

the pains on her. He left Anan to a residential school in Siliguri in the Indian state of West Bengal to separate the kid from his

SEE PAGE 12 COL 2



Pakistan tests nuke-capable ballistic missile

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan successfully test fired a nuclear-capable intermediate range ballistic missile yesterday, the military said, less than a week after India test launched a long range missile.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5



and allied products industries under one umbrella



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