

Ctg auto-rickshaw

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Admitting the overcharging, Md Harunur Rashid, general secretary of Chattagram Auto-rickshaw Auto-tempo Sramik Union, called for re-fixing the fare.
When asked, officials of both Bangladesh Road Transport Authority and Chittagong Metropolitan Police said they occasionally conducted mobile courts to check overcharging and other anomalies.
Meanwhile, Obaidul Quader formed a three-member committee, led by Chittagong city Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin, on Wednesday to solve problems relating to CNG-auto-rickshaws and battery-run rickshaws, including fares. Now around 13,000 registered and several thousand unregistered CNG-run auto-rickshaws are plying in the port city, according to the owners' association.

2 women killed

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He said they found Mitu's body in a sack, and she seemed to be asphyxiated. Fakir said police are trying to nab Sabuz who is on the run.
Meanwhile, a woman was declared dead at a diagnostic centre in the capital Thursday night. The body bore marks of torture, doctors said.
Her family claimed that Soma Akter, 25, an intern nurse of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, was murdered by her husband Aminul Islam over dowry.

On Thursday evening, Aminul took Soma to Comfort Diagnostic Centre on Green Road from his Kalyanpur residence in a critical condition.
The diagnostic centre's staff handed Aminul over to police as he tried to flee leaving the body there.
Soma's father Tomiz Uddin filed a murder case with Mirpur Police Station against Aminul and his three siblings.

Living at risk

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36 proposals that included relocating the hill-dwellers vulnerable to landslides, constructing retaining walls, taking up afforestation programmes and erecting barbed-wire fences around the hills.
Though no latest figure on the number of people at risk of mudslides was available, the district administration office last year identified a total of 30 hills in the port city as vulnerable to landslides with around 666 families residing on the slopes of 11 of them. As for the rest of the hills, the number of people living on the slopes and foot of the hills remained unaccounted for.
"The actual number of the families living on the hill slopes now is at least three times higher than the year-old list mentions," claimed Delwar Mojumder, former president of the Chittagong chapter of the Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh.
"They [the administration] have made a list of poor families living in the danger zones but they are not doing the same for those who are illegally renting out the hilly lands to the poor. The middle men, who under the aegis of politicians are occupying and renting out the land should be prosecuted," said Delwar.
Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Mohammad Ellius Hossain of Chittagong, also member secretary of the HMC, said they would start an eviction drive from next week. He hoped to have the lists of the families living on the hills in the meantime.
The district administration also has plans to identify those who encourage the poor people to live on the hills despite eviction drives every year, he said.
"The utility services would be disconnected during the eviction drives this time to prevent the relocated people from returning to these risky areas," Ellius told The Daily Star.

2 more

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mountainous Taplejung district after the landslides, which hit just weeks after twin quakes killed 8,700 people, damaged roads and bridges, and swept away houses.
An army helicopter had airlifted eight injured villagers to a local hospital on Thursday, but was unable to fly in yesterday because of continuing heavy rains.
"Condolences to the family of deceased in Taplejung landslide. Wish speedy recovery of injured. Have asked for prompt recovery and relief," Nepal's prime minister Sushil Koirala tweeted on Thursday.
Scores of people die every year from flooding and landslides during the monsoon season in Nepal.
Taplejung escaped serious damage in the April 25 and May 12 earthquakes, which triggered landslides and destroyed half a million homes, leaving thousands without shelter just weeks ahead of monsoon rains.

WHAT'S BEEN SNAPPED IN BORDER STATE

LINK TO ASSAM: Highway from Itanagar blocked, only a village road links to Assam
WITHIN STATE: Links snapped in 8 districts — Anjaw, Upper Siang, West Siang, Dibang Valley, Parum Pare, Changlang, Tirap, Longding — including to towns on China, Myanmar borders



SOURCE: THE INDIAN EXPRESS

Bangladesh flushing out northeast militants

Indian media reports

STAR REPORT

Following inputs provided by Indian Border Security Force (BSF), authorities in Bangladesh have begun flushing out northeast militants hiding in that country, a senior BSF official told PTI yesterday.
"We have been informed of operations taking place in Bangladesh to flush out militants from their makeshift camps which the BSF had from time to time shared with the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB)," said the senior BSF official.
The BSF came to know about this during a Border Coordination meeting with BGB which concluded here on Thursday, PTI reported.
During the conference, the BSF handed over BGB a list of 39 camps of various outfits in different parts of Bangladesh and sought their cooperation in raiding the camps and arrest the militants, the official said.
The BSF also raised the issue of violation of border by Bangladesh nationals and committing crimes like kidnapping and poaching.
The BGB, on the other hand, talked about killing of Bangladeshis at the border by the border residents besides requesting logistic support and use of Indian roads to maintain and construct border outposts at hilly and remote areas in Bangladesh, the official said.
Contacted, BGB Director General Maj Gen Aziz Ahmed said yesterday that joint forces of Bangladesh often conduct operations in the hilly areas against miscreants. "This is a routine work," he said.
"Last month, such operations were conducted on Myanmar border for several days," he told The Daily Star last night.

US citizen killed fighting for Kurds against ISIS

AFP, Suruc

A US citizen has been killed fighting for Kurdish forces against Islamic State (IS) jihadists in the Kobane region of northern Syria, the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) said Friday.
Keith Broomfield, 37, was killed on June 3 in an operation to take the village of Qentere in the Kobane region from IS, the YPG said in a statement quoted by the pro-Kurdish Firat news agency.
His body had on Thursday been driven through the Mursitpinar border gate to the Turkish side of the border with local Kurds turning out in force, making "V" signs and chanting slogans praising Broomfield, an AFP photographer said.
In the border town of Suruc, hundreds of Kurds lined the road, letting off fireworks, waving Kurdish flags and shouting, 'martyrs never die'. The body was taken to the city of Adana ahead of expected repatriation back home.
The US State Department had Wednesday announced an American man had been killed in Syria, without confirming reports that he died fighting alongside Kurdish forces against the IS.
Reports said Broomfield is believed to be the first US citizen killed fighting for the Kurds against IS.
The YPG said that Broomfield, from Massachusetts, had taken up arms in Kurdish ranks in late February under the Kurdish nom-de-guerre of Gelhat Rumat.
"We announce his death in great sadness and commemorate his enthusiasm and his valuable comradeship", said the YPG.
"We offer our condolences to the family of Keith, to all American people and the people of Kurdistan, and we reiterate our promise to carry the aims of all martyrs to victory," it added.
YPG fighters have for the last months been locked in intense battles with IS jihadists for control of the Kurdish-populated regions of northern Syria, just over the Turkish border.
They scored a major victory at the start of this year by winning the battle for the hugely symbolic main town of Kobane but fighting is still raging elsewhere.

BNP dependent

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written by former minister AKM Maidul Islam Chowdhury.
"BNP is no longer in the spirit that party founder Ziaur Rahman had. It sank into the policies of Jamaat-e-Islami.
Ties with Jamaat must be cut to revive its politics," he added.
The BNP-Jamaat relationship would not sustain in the future due to pressure from home and abroad, he said, adding that BNP's fourth phase would be bouncing back in Zia's spirit.
Referring to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit, the veteran politician said the people still did not know the terms and conditions of the agreements signed. It will take nearly a year to know whether the country will be benefited from the deals or not, he added.
"The agreements mean ensuring a win-win situation where no one will be the loser. We don't know whether the 22 deals were signed following it."
He also regretted that the proposed Teesta watersharing deal was not signed.

Six human

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The arrestees from Teknaf are Jamal Hossain and Mohammad Abdullah of Shah Parir Dwp, and Mohammad Alam and Abdul Qudus of Baharchhara village.
The detainee from Cox's Bazar town is Mohammad Saker and from Maheshkhali Mohammad Hasan.
Separate cases were filed against the arrestees under the Human Trafficking Deterrence and Suppression Act, 2012.
The arrestees were also produced before the court that sent them to jail.

Interpol pulls

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also cast doubt on the fairness of the bidding process for the 2018 and 2022 World Cups, to be staged in Russia and Qatar respectively.
FIFA hit back at Interpol, voicing disappointment at the decision to suspend the partnership agreement, which it called a "success".
"Our cooperation over the past four years has been a key part of addressing the transnational problem of match fixing," FIFA stressed.
The programme itself was "unrelated" to the current crisis surrounding the football body, FIFA added, calling for it to resume as soon as possible and adding it was in contact with Interpol to resolve the issue.

7 bodies recovered

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said the official, "given the short time frame available...the main idea was to deliver a message that camps across the border were not safe for anyone."
The special forces went almost 11km inside Myanmar, 5km farther than what had been initially planned. One camp destroyed in Pnyo was being led by Niki Sumi, self-styled "Lt General" of the NSCN-K (on the Indian side). But Sumi and an estimated 40 cadres of the group are said to have left the camp before the strike, an official said.
Founded in 1978, the ethnic-Meitei PLA is known to have received support from the NSCN-K, but is not thought to have been involved in the June 4 ambush.
The camp at Onzia, interestingly, did not figure in a 2013 list of major insurgent camps in Myanmar prepared for the Ministry of Home Affairs. An Army spokesperson said that the Army was aware the camp did not house NSCN-K personnel but added that the target was an umbrella of organisations rather than a specific group.
The second Army attack targeted two adjacent NSCN-K facilities at Pnyo, near the Myanmar town of Lahe, just across the border from the Mon district in Nagaland. The camp, across the border, described by Nagaland Police officials as a relatively minor facility, served as launch-pad for NSCN-K movement into the state from its rear bases around Taga, in Myanmar's Sagaing district.
"Though high-profile strikes like these play well on television," said Ajai Sahni, the Director of the Institute of Conflict Management, "experience from across the world has taught us

that they generally prove ephemeral, unless followed up by a sustained campaign to consistently degrade terrorist infrastructure."
"The attack was a tactical success", Sahni added, "but by itself, its strategic value is exactly zero."
SS Khaplang, the aging patriarch of the NSCN-K, has been missing from the organisation's main base at Taga for several months, and is rumoured to be undergoing medical treatment in Yangon. Intelligence on NSCN-K commanders, however appears to suggest that the group is planning further strikes, military sources said.
Life in the NSCN's camps around Taga, a senior military source said, appeared to be largely normal, with no signs that groups had begun to disperse in anticipation of further attacks.
Sources said that Khaplang is said to have approached the Myanmarese authorities for "protection of his cadres" as they were residents of the country.
A high-level meeting, led by Home Minister Rajnath Singh was held at North Block to discuss the aftermath of the strike. It was attended by NSA Ajit Doval, Defence minister Manohar Parrikar, Vice Army Chief Lt Gen Philip Campos. At the meeting, it was decided to be prepared for a retaliatory attack by the insurgent groups.
"A two-pronged strategy will be adopted from now on, one is on the offensive side, which means planning note strikes and the other is being defensive, as we expect retaliation," said a senior government official. A high security alert has also been sounded across northeast after reports that NSCN-K militants have entered India for revenge attacks.

Saarc nations

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She added they would initiate discussions shortly on sharing of revenue and other modalities for achieving a customs union.
"We are hopeful that by 2020, Saarc countries would have a minimalist sensitive list, tariffs would be down to 5 percent maximum and have customs documentation totally digitised and harmonised," Savithri observed.
South Asia is one of the most dynamic but also one of the least economically integrated regions in the world. Intra-regional trade accounts for just 5 percent of total trade, compared to 25 percent in the Association of Southeast Nations (ASEAN), according to the World Bank.
In the opening ceremony of the two-day gathering organised by the Bangladesh Bank, central bankers from Saarc lauded Bangladesh's achievements in financial inclusion in recent years.
Dasho Daw Tenzin, governor of Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan, said his country was keen on learning from Bangladesh's model and adapt to it. "The achievement in Bangladesh is very encouraging. In fact, financial inclusion makes sense in our region."
Later at a press conference, Raghuram Rajan, governor of the Reserve Bank of India, said he would like to learn from Bangladesh the process of financial inclusion.
"One of the issues we are trying to activate more is mobile banking. We have a fair number of banks which understand how to do mobile banking through smart phones. But how do you do mobile banking in simple phones that ordinary people have? I also would like to learn more about how Bangladesh has made agent banking more successful."
On financial inclusion, Rajan said bringing people into the financial net of credit, savings, insurance and payments essentially can give them opportunities and capabilities they did not have otherwise.
"If those capabilities help them become stronger economic citizens and have more incomes and bring status and respectability, they promote social inclusion."
He, however, said with financial inclusion "we have to be careful about over-promising and we should not also be over-optimistic".
Rajan is credited with being one of the few who had pointed out the problems in the global economy before the crisis hit the world.
He, however, said financial institutions, whose excesses are largely blamed for the global economic crisis, still have a proper place in the society as they facilitate economic activities.
"Finance provides useful economic activity. The financier is not simply a middleman taking profits and not providing everything useful. This image of financiers like that is spreading now, which I think is unfortunate and incorrect."
"Financiers should not either be overblown or repressed. There is a proper place for financiers," he

said.
Rajan called for looking at finance as a lubricant as it facilitates. "On occasions, it also can empower."
"But typically to get strong growth, the sources of that growth lie elsewhere -- in entrepreneurship, in large-scale job creation and in sensible infrastructure projects. If there were no finances, any of these activities will become much more difficult."
Atiur Rahman, governor of the central bank of Bangladesh, said financial inclusion initiatives in the Saarc region deserve credit for the region's post-global output growth trend at nearly twice the rate of global output growth, with intraregional trade also growing much faster than the global trade growth.

Prof AR Khan

FROM PAGE 3
said Md Shahjahan Mirdha, general secretary of Bangladesh Kite Federation.
Terming Prof Anwarur one of Bangladesh's best physicists, Prof AM Harun ar Rashid said he made it possible for the DU applied physics department to be established.
One of Prof Anwarur's students, Prof Shamima Karim Choudhury, said he became self dependent and taught them to be so. He was a very good organiser involved with many organisations, said Prof Muhammad Ibrahim.
Prof Mohammad Ali Asgar said Prof Anwarur topped his list of good human beings for he never saw Prof Anwarur engaged in backbiting.
Prof Anwarur's brother Prof Ataur Rahman Khan said apart from being immensely skilled in photography, Prof Anwarur also knew how to play the flute and sitar.
Moreover, Prof Anwarur liked and rode bicycles from childhood till death to stay fit, avoid traffic congestion and save the environment from pollution. Thinking of global warming, he has never used air-conditioners at home, said Md Shajedul Hossain Sarkar, DU instrument engineer.
Prof Anwarur's cousin Maj Gen (ret'd) Dr Abdur Rahman Khan and Prof Rezaul Karim Majumdar also spoke.

India's iconic

FROM PAGE 16
bicycle frames were used to make mosaic sculptures of men, women, animals and gods.
His project was finally discovered in 1976, when it was formally inaugurated, and it now draws thousands of visitors a day.
"He passed away a little after midnight. He had been in hospital for the past few days due to ill health," said Saini.
India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the tributes, saying Chand would "always be remembered for his artistic genius".
Nek Chand's unique art has also been showcased in museums abroad, including at the National Children's Museum in Washington. 40 of Nek Chand's figurative mosaic sculptures will reportedly be on exhibition at historic Chichester in West Sussex in Britain.



Activists hold a protest in front of the Chinese Consular Office in Manila yesterday, as the country commemorates the 117th anniversary of the Philippines' declaration of independence from Spain. The protesters shouted slogans against China's reclamation and construction activities on islands and reefs in the Spratly Group of the South China Sea that are also claimed by the Philippines.

PHOTO: AFP