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PART-1
PRABIN HOSPITAL

Symbol of negligence

Road in front of hospital for old people left uncared for

HELEMUL ALAM

A thick black patch of sewage covers the road and entrance to Bangladesh Association for the Aged and Institute of Geriatric Medicine (BAAIGM), the only hospital for senior citizens at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the capital.

The road stretching from Technical Education Board to the edge of Islamic Foundation is filled with dirty water and sewers for around seven months due to clogging of the sewerage there but no move has yet been made to clean it up, local people said.

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC), Public Works Department (PWD) and Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage (Wasa) are at loggerheads over whose responsibility it is to clean up the road whereas pedestrians and people in the neighbourhoods continue to suffer.

Executive Engineer of DNCC Zone-5 Md Farhad said PWD was responsible for the maintenance of the road, as it had not handed over the charge to the city corporation.

He alleged the city corporation authorities had written to PWD to hand over the charge of the roads in Agargaon but did not get any positive response.

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A thick layer of mud and filth on the road in front of Geriatric Hospital (Prabin Hospital) in the capital's Agargaon has turned part of the road completely unusable. The stretch has been like this for around a year now as the drainage systems there remain blocked with filth, thanks to carelessness of the authorities. The photo has been taken recently.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

UTTARA GANG-RAPE
2 arrested, sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police picked up two people at the capital's Uttara Friday night in connection with the gang-rape of a girl there on Thursday.

A court yesterday sent arrestees, Babu, 22, caretaker of an under-construction building in Uttara, and Aslam, 19, to jail, said Biplob Kishore Sheel, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Uttara Pashchim Police Station.

The two made confessional statements before a magistrate yesterday, the police officer said.

Babu told the magistrate

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PRAYER TIMING

AUGUST 2

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
4:20	12:45	5:00	6:47	8:15
JAMAAT	4:55	1:15	5:15	6:50
				8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

New Taliban leader urges unity

Vows to continue insurgency amid reports of divisions among militant ranks

REUTERS, Dera Ismail Khan/ Peshawar

The new Afghan Taliban leader appealed for unity in the insurgency in his first public message released yesterday amid reports his predecessor's family members opposed his selection.

The new head, Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour, was deputy for several years to the elusive one-eyed former leader Mullah Omar, who served as a unifying figure and a spiritual guide for the insurgency despite his absence.

This week the Taliban confirmed Omar had been dead for some time. The Afghan government said it was more than two years.

Mansour's selection could be a promising development for peace talks, analysts say, if he can persuade other factions of the fractious insurgency to support him.

"The enemy can't defeat us if we shown unity," he said in an audio recording that Taliban members provided to journalists.

"I will utilise all my energies to follow our late Mullah Mohammad Omar and his mission," he said. "We need to be patient and should try to go to those friends who are unhappy. We will have to convince them and take them on board."

On Friday, Taliban commanders who attended the meeting that chose Mansour as Omar's successor told Reuters that Omar's son and brother had walked out of the gathering in protest.

The open dissent within the movement's core group underscores the challenge Mansour faces. He has to try to persuade wavering commanders to pursue peace talks with the Afghan government at the same time a new extremist group is stepping up its recruiting in the region - Islamic State.

Two Afghan militant groups declared Omar was dead last month and swore allegiance to Islamic State.

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1.4 lakh Yaba pills seized on the Naf

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) yesterday seized 1.4 lakh yaba tablets worth around Tk 4.25 crore at Teknaf upazila in Cox's Bazar.

BGB-42 Battalion Commanding Officer Abuja Al Jahid said security was beefed up in New Transit Ghat on information that a large yaba consignment would reach the area.

Around 8:00am, a wooden boat went near Keora Bagan point of the Naf river. Sensing presence of a BGB team there, the smugglers left the boat and fled, Jahid said.

Later, the BGB members searched the boat and found the tablets there.

About two weeks ago, Rapid Action Battalion seized 2.70 lakh yaba pills worth around Tk 11 crore and detained five people in the district.

The elite force also arrested two people with 80,000 yaba tablets worth around Tk 3.20 crore in Chittagong city on July 23.

The biggest consignment of the contraband tables was seized by members of Bangladesh Navy at the outer anchorage of Chittagong port on February 5.

Some 15 lakh pills worth around Tk 82.50 crore was recovered from a fishing trawler then.

Stand up for your waist!

AFP, Paris

Being healthier may be found in something as simple as standing more and sitting less at work, said a study Friday.

Replacing sitting time with standing time appeared to improve sugar, fat and cholesterol levels in the blood, researchers wrote in the European Heart Journal.

The findings suggest that making small changes to a sedentary lifestyle can have a big impact on health -- and that you don't need to go as far as taking up marathon running.

A study of nearly 800 men and women in Australia revealed a clear association between less sitting and better health markers.

"An extra two hours per day spent standing

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POLLS-TIME GOVT BNP hasn't budged on its demand

Says Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP has not changed its stance on election-time government, said Khaleda Zia last night, reiterating that the national election must be held under a neutral government, not under Sheikh Hasina.

"I told at a meeting with

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Reunion kept in wait

Bullet-hit mother and child still separated

due to safety concern

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The condition of the newborn, Suraiya, who received a bullet while in her mother's womb, is stable, doctors at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) said yesterday.

Her mother Nazma Khatun's health has improved a little, they added

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A CNG-run auto-rickshaw and a rickshaw plying the Dhaka-Mawa highway yesterday when a government ban on the operation of all sorts of three-wheelers on highways took effect. Many such three-wheelers were seen running on different highways throughout the day.

CNG autos defy ban on highway

STAR REPORT

Illegal, slow and locally and foreign-made three-wheelers and CNG-run auto-rickshaws plied the highways across the country yesterday, defying a government ban.

These vehicles are often the causes of fatal accidents on highways.

As road crashes continued to claim lives on the highways after Eid-ul-Fitr, the Road Transport and Bridges Ministry on July 27

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Border killing to top agenda

Talks with India tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A director general-level conference between Border Guard Bangladesh and Indian Border Security Force begins tomorrow in New Delhi where Bangladesh would put emphasis on ending border killings.

Although killing of unarmed people on the border has reduced significantly since 2009, a good number of people are still being killed reportedly by the BSE.

According to BGB statistics, 20 people have so far been killed on the Indian border since January this year. The number of such deaths was 24 last year, 18 in 2013, 24 each in 2012 and 2011, 55 in 2010 and 66 in 2009.

Eminent rights activist Sultana Kamal said the BGB

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