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Kabiguru's 74th death anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rabindranath Tagore is not just a name in Bangla literature, he is the joy in our celebrations, hope in our plight and inspiration in our struggle for a better world.

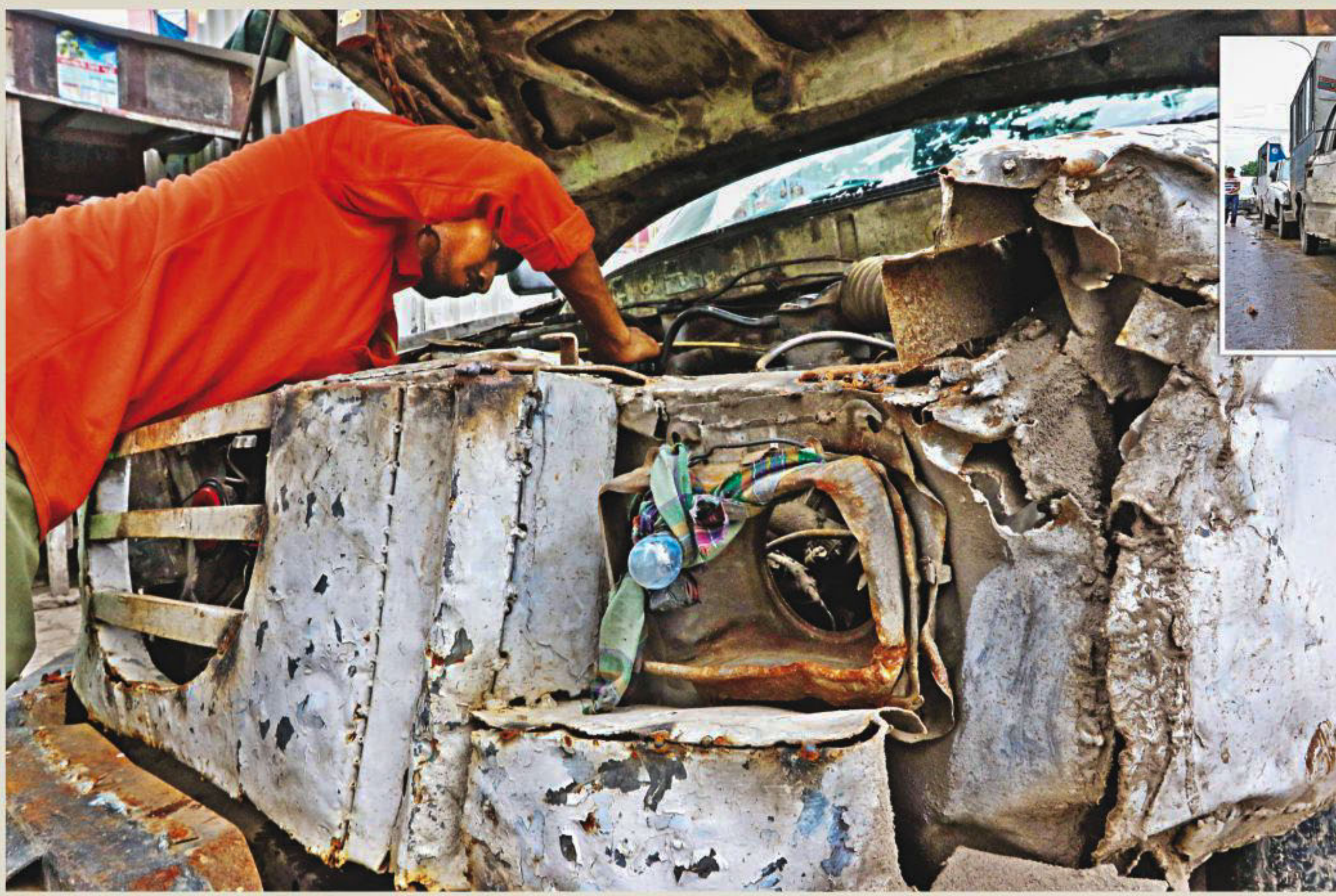
The greatest of all Bangalee writers dealt with the subject of death in many of his poems, songs, plays and prose pieces, and pondered whether death was the ultimate truth of life.

He journeyed to the beyond on this day, 22nd Srabon in 1348 of the Bangla calendar or August 7, 1941.

But we all know how death has failed to separate him from us. Even 74 years after his death, he remains as ubiquitous in our lives as he was while alive. The vast body of his unsurpassable creations touches us in so many ways that we feel his ubiquity every so often.

Born on 25th of Baishakh, 1261 (Bangla year) or May 7, 1861, the

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A headlight bulb sticks out of where the lens should be in a human haulier, left, as a man tries to fix the engine of the rundown vehicle. Another human haulier, top, that is in worse shape than jelpies seen in Looney Tunes. A rope, bottom, is used for keeping the driver's door of another vehicle closed. The photos of the vehicles, which run between Mugdha and Motijheel, were taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

'Scraps' on streets

PANKAG KARMAKAR

Unfit human hauliers, driven by reckless drivers without licenses or with fake licenses, ply the Motijheel-Mugdha route in the capital putting commuters' lives at risk.

Sources say the transport operators continue to operate the rundown vehicles on the route by "managing" a section of law enforcers and ruling party men.

While visiting Motijheel and Mugdha areas recently, this correspondent found that most of

the human hauliers were in a dilapidated condition. Dents, scrapes and damage were everywhere. Many had their headlights and front bumpers broken. Seats were shabby and torn.

Reckless driving was the main reason behind such battered condition of the vehicles, the drivers claimed.

"Everyone wants to drive fast to get more trips done in a day. While trying to do so, our vehicles often hit other vehicles, resulting in dents and damages," said Abu Miah, a driver of

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Tailbacks in city hard to tackle

JS body to suggest remedies in three months; BRTA fines unfit vehicles

RASHIDUL HASAN and PANKAG KARMAKAR

Terming the city's traffic "horrific and an alarming issue", the Jatiya Sangsad committee on home affairs yesterday formed a sub-committee to find ways to a solution.

Led by ruling Awami League MP Abu Sayeed Al Mahmood Swapon, the three-member sub-committee was asked to submit its recommendations before the parliamentary body within three months.

"Traffic congestion in Dhaka has reached such an alarming level that businessmen, buyers and foreigners are not coming to the city. Traffic system is on the verge of collapse," Tipu Munshi, chief of the parliamentary watchdog, told reporters emerging from a meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

"We have asked police to bring the situation to a tolerable level at any cost. Such congestion cannot continue in the capital city months after months. The sub-committee will work out how to reduce it," Tipu, also an AL lawmaker, added.

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MRP ISSUANCE Progress not encouraging

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Immigration and Passports (DIP) yesterday presented a progress report on issuance of machine readable passport (MRP) to Bangladeshi expatriates before the parliamentary committee on home ministry apparently without showing the real scenario.

Saidul Islam, deputy director of the DIP, told a meeting of the parliamentary committee held in Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban that around 20 lakh expatriates have already got the MRP, while around 16 lakh are waiting for it.

However, the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment says at least 30 lakh Bangladeshis have yet to get the MRP. According to the ministry, at least

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Human traffickers laundered money

Central bank probe finds evidence

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

Bangladesh Bank has found evidence that human traffickers used banking channels to launder money in and outside the country, according to a top official of the central bank.

In an investigation, the BB has detected that traffickers made monetary transactions through some bank branches in Cox's Bazar town and Teknaf upazila.

The central bank referred the money laundering cases to the Anti-Corruption Commission and those of terrorist financing to the Criminal Investigation Department of police, said BB Deputy Governor Abu Hena Mohd Razee Hassan.

"We will take action against the banks involved in these activities," Hassan told The Daily Star on Tuesday.

He, however, declined to give names of the banks, saying investigation was still going on.

In recent times, Bangladesh and Myanmar saw an exodus of people travelling south by boat through the Bay of Bengal towards Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia. A number of them died during the perilous

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Spicy food can lower risks of early death

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Gastronomically speaking, adding a touch of spice to your daily meal has well-established advantages. But could it be that those who like it hot are also improving their health?

Researchers in China are

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HAPPY REUNION OF MOTHER, CHILD



It must be her indomitable will to live that finally brought Suraiya to her mother's lap two weeks after her miraculous birth despite bullet injuries in her tiny body. Doctors at the Special Child Care Unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday taking all precaution against possible infection finally permitted Nazma Khatun to breastfeed the bullet-survivor Magura baby. The team of doctors responsible for her care witnessed the moment of their reunion.

PHOTO COURTESY: DR ABU HANIF TABLU



FLOODED RAIL TRACKS IN INDIA 27 killed as 2 trains derail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

At least 27 people were killed and 25 others injured when a dozen bogies of two express trains derailed while crossing the flooded rail tracks in central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday night.

Bodies of twenty four, including nine men, 10 women and five kids, were recovered from the mishap site between Khirkiya and Harda stations, Anupam Rajan, commissioner of Madhya Pradesh public relation department, told PTI.

However, NDTV said the death toll was 27.

Seven coaches of Kamayani Express derailed and minutes later five bogies and the engine of Janata Express went off the tracks around 11:30pm as the base material on the tracks got washed away by the waters of the swollen Machak river, according to Piyush Mathur, public relations officer (PRO) of West Central Railway.

"Nearly 25 passengers also suffered injuries," Piyush said.

Divisional Commercial Railway Manager Brajendra Kumar said the search operation was launched in nearby areas to find passengers who might have been washed away in heavy floods.

Bhopal Railway PRO said over 250 passengers were rescued. The rescue train reached the spot and several passengers were brought to a nearby station.

Railway Board Chairman AK Mittal said following a flash flood, the tracks caved in as the soil underneath shifted.

The surge of flood water had weakened the culvert, which

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BAGERHAT WAR CRIMES Verdict in case against two on Aug 11

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 is set to deliver verdict on August 11 in a case against two Bagerhat "Razakars" in connection with genocide and crimes against humanity they allegedly committed during the Liberation War in 1971.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice M Eanayetur Rahim also abated Abdul Latif Talukdar,

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PRAYER TIMING

AUGUST 6

| | | | | |
|--------|-------|------|---------|------|
| 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