



Infant Galiba Hayat, who was declared dead early Thursday and found alive just as she was about to be buried, is being put into a helicopter in Faridpur. She was brought to Square Hospitals in the capital. A person in Hungary, wishing to remain anonymous, paid for the trip. PHOTO: STAR

That baby flown to Dhaka for treatment

STAR REPORT

The newborn girl, who cried out at a Faridpur graveyard minutes before her burial on Thursday, was flown to Dhaka yesterday for better treatment.

Galiba Hayat was brought to the capital on a helicopter along with her father, grandfather, and a nurse around 7:30pm, Shamimul Haque, an uncle of Galiba, told our Faridpur correspondent.

She is now undergoing treatment at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

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Space aplenty for political opposition

Hasina tells Voice of America

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said there is plenty of political space for opposition in Bangladesh and that people are holding meetings and rallies without facing any obstacles.

She said this during an interview with Voice of America at the Bangladesh mission in the UN in New York on Thursday.

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TRAFFIC CONGESTION

Tk 20,000cr loss to economy a year

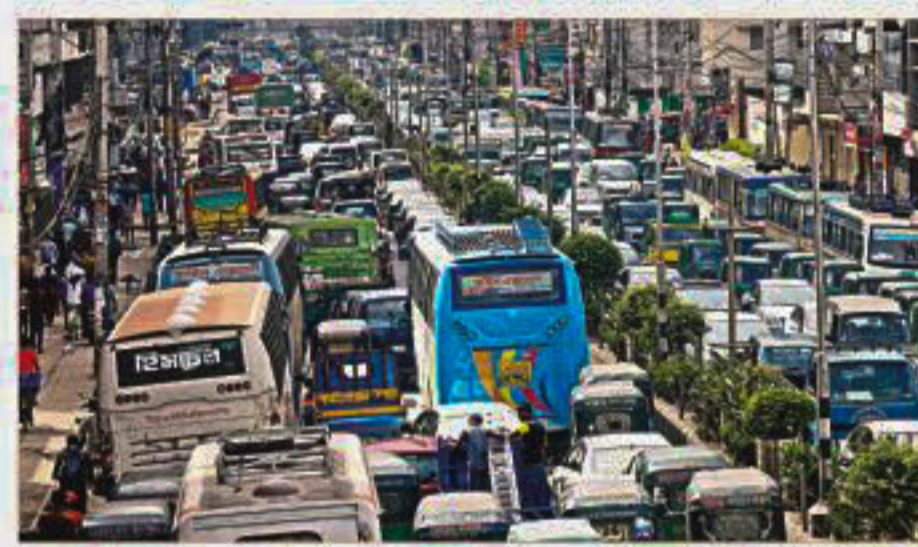
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Traffic congestion in the capital eats up around Tk 20,000 crore a year, an expert said yesterday, quoting a government report.

Some 32 lakh business hours are also lost to the curse every day.

Prof Akter Mahmud of Jahangirnagar University's Urban and Regional Planning department made the comments, citing the Revised Strategic Transport Plan (RSTP) of 2016, at a programme in the capital's LGED auditorium.

Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC), an independent think-tank, and



state-owned Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics jointly organised the two-day event, titled "Urban Poverty: Challenges and Solutions Conference", in partnership with the World Bank. SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Five killed in US mall shooting

Hunt on for sole gunman

AFP, Los Angeles

Police yesterday searched for a shooter who killed five people at a shopping mall in the US state of Washington in the latest chapter of America's epidemic of gun violence.

The gunman opened fire with a rifle in the makeup section of a Macy's department store, killing four women and a man, police said.

The FBI office in Seattle said it had no evidence the shooting was terrorism-related.

The shooter -- described as a Hispanic man in his late teens or early 20s -- later left the store on foot and his whereabouts remained unknown.

A weapon was recovered at the store in Burlington, a town of about 8,000 people some 70 miles (110 kilometers) north of Seattle.

Police released screen-grab photos of the suspect from mall security camera footage to help the public identify him.

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Tigers return to action

First ODI against Afghanistan today

SPORTS REPORTER

The wait is over. The Tigers will finally return to their favoured format of the game when they meet Afghanistan in the first ODI of the three-match series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today.

The day-night affair, which kicks off at 2.30pm local time, will see the Mashrafe Bin Mortaza-led side return to international cricket after an extended break, especially in the one-day format where they will be playing their first

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SEARCH FOR NEW ELECTION COMMISSION

AL, BNP at loggerheads

RASHIDUL HASAN and PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

After months of calm, the country's politics could heat up again over the process of forming a new Election Commission, which would oversee the 2019 general election.

The tenure of the existing EC expires in February.

The ruling Awami League-led alliance wants the new EC to be formed by a search committee under the jurisdiction of the president, a power vested in him by the constitution.

On the other hand, the BNP-led 20-party alliance and other political parties not aligned to the AL-led 14-party alliance want dialogue with all stakeholders before formation of such a committee. They have warned the government against any move to have a "subservient election commission".

The current EC, led by Kazi Rakib Uddin Ahmad, drew a lot of flak over how it conducted polls during its four-year tenure. It held a general election in 2014 that the BNP-led alliance boycotted. It held city corpo-

ration, municipality, and upazila parishad elections that were marred by violence and irregularities.

Its worst performance was in the union parishad elections earlier this year when 126 people died in violence.

The ongoing debate over how the EC should be formed began after Law Minister Anisul Huq had said a search committee would be set up to form the new EC.

His statement was reinforced when AL General Secretary Syed Ashraful

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Heartiest Congratulations to
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