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WHERE MIGHT IS RIGHT



Cars mostly of high officials and government high-ups travel dangerously against the traffic on city streets to avoid jams. A police car, apparently part of a minister's escort, takes the wrong way in front of the Ruposhi Bangla Hotel, *top left*. A car swerves out of the way of another vehicle travelling on the wrong way, *bottom left*, in front of the hotel. Apparently a minister's flag-bearing SUV driving on the wrong side of the road, *centre*, while people are stuck in traffic on the correct side. A car with an unusual number plate travelling moving on the wrong side in front of the hotel, *top right*. Two SUVs choose convenience over law, risking lives of other motorists, *bottom right*.

PHOTO: AKHRAN HOSSAIN

Asteroid strike on Earth inevitable



PTI, London

An asteroid strike on Earth is just a matter of time and it could destroy major cities, experts have said. According to Alan Fitzsimmons from Queen's University Belfast in Britain, it is a case of when an asteroid collision will happen, rather than if it will happen.

The warning comes ahead of the Asteroid Day to be observed on June 30. On that day in 1908, a small asteroid exploded over Tunguska in Russia's Siberia, leveling trees and burning the ground over 2,000 square kilometres.

This year, discussions and presentations will be streamed live from Luxembourg on June 30. Experts including Apollo 9 astronaut Rusty Schweickart and

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Saudi king upends royal succession

Appoints son as crown prince

AFP, Riyadh

Saudi Arabia's King Salman ousted his nephew as crown prince yesterday and installed his son Mohammed bin Salman, capping a meteoric rise for the 31-year-old that puts him one step from the throne.

The young prince already wielded huge power before he was named heir, spearheading a sweeping economic and social reform programme for the ultraconservative kingdom.

His rise comes at a crucial time for Saudi Arabia

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Largest coal company to close 37 mines

Declares plants are no longer economically viable as solar power's influence grows

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The largest coal mining company in the world has announced it will close 37 mines because they are no longer economically viable.

Coal India, which produces around 82 percent of India's coal, said the mines would be decommissioned by March 2018.

The closures, of around 9 percent of the state-run firm's sites, will reportedly save around 8,000,000,000 rupees (€98m).

India's solar sector has received heavy international investment, and the plummeting price of solar electricity has increased pressure on fossil fuel companies.

The government has announced it will not build any more coal plants after 2022 and predicts renewables will generate 57 percent of its power by 2027 – a pledge far outstripping its commitment in the Paris climate change agreement.

Plans for nearly 14 gigawatts of coal-fired power stations – about the same as the total amount in the UK – were scrapped in May, signalling a seismic shift in the India's energy market.

Analyst Tim Buckley said the move away from the dirtiest fossil fuel and towards solar in the country would have "profound"

implications on global energy markets. "Measures taken by the Indian government to improve energy efficiency coupled with ambitious renewable energy targets and the plummeting cost of solar has had an impact on existing as well as proposed coal-fired power plants, rendering an increasing



number as financially unviable," he said. "India's solar tariffs have literally been free falling in recent months."

A report in February by Delhi-based research group, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), found that if the cost of renewable energy continued to fall at the same rate, India could phase out coal completely by 2050.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Muhith now scapegoat

SHAKHAWAT LITON

On Monday, some ruling Awami League lawmakers raised a hue and cry in parliament.

They blamed the finance minister for failing to act against those allegedly involved in banking sector scams, and blasted him for allocating Tk 2,000 crore in the proposed budget for recapitalisation of a number of state-run banks suffering from capital deficit following the scams.

The next day, some MPs from opposition Jatiya Party intensified the attack on AMA Muhith and demanded his resignation. They also demanded that Muhith be sued for "criminal offence" for offering recapitalisation to the graft-riddled banks – BASIC, Sonali and Rupali.

But they might all have forgotten the reality on the ground. They might also have overlooked what Muhith said two years ago.

On June 29, 2015, the finance minister told parliament that action could not be taken against the scamsters because they "belonged in his own house".

But is Muhith alone responsible for this non-action against these fraudsters? And was it his personal choice to provide the scam-hit banks with fresh capital?

Since the AL took office in 2009, taxpayers have paid Tk 14,505 crore for the so-called recapitalisation.

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Indian judge jailed for contempt

AGENCIES

A former Indian judge, who has been on the run since receiving a jail sentence last month, has been arrested and imprisoned.

Justice CS Karnam was the first sitting High Court judge in India to face a jail term. He was arrested in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu on Tuesday night.

He was sent to a prison in Kolkatta (Calcutta), and a bail plea made yesterday morning was rejected by the Supreme Court.

A vacation bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Sanjay Kishan Kaul said that order for his arrest was passed by a seven-judge bench of the apex court and it was binding.

It said that other bench could not suspend the order and asked Karnam to approach Chief Justice of

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People taking part in a programme on the International Day of Yoga, 2017. Around 5,000 people participated in the IDY 2017 organised by the High Commission of India yesterday at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

PHOTO: FEROZ AHMED

SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING JUNE 22

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN	3-45	12-45	5-00	6-52	8-15
JAMAAT	3-55	1-15	5-15	7-02	8-45

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