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SHAH CEMENT

Traffic chaos heaps misery on commuters

Operators take buses off the city roads, long routes

Staff Correspondent

It was around 1:45pm yesterday. With his left leg in a plaster cast, Sharif, 25, tightly held onto his brother Selim and limped in front of Kurmitola General Hospital in the capital.

After walking on the Airport Road for nearly 45 minutes, the two brothers somehow managed to board a pick-up and left for their home in Gazipur.

Sharif, who works at a factory, had just been released from the hospital where he was admitted on Wednesday. He had broken the leg as the shutters of a shop fell on it.

The brothers' ordeal is only a snippet of the public suffering on the city roads yesterday as thousands of students took to the streets for the fifth straight day, demanding safe roads and justice for their two peers killed in Sunday's road crash.

Commuters and those who went out for emergency works were the worst sufferers as almost no public transport was available after 10:00am.

Those who travelled in other modes of transport like CNG-run auto-rickshaws, cars and minibuses got stuck in traffic for hours as different important roads were blocked by the protesters.

Many moved in rickshaws paying exorbitant fares while many others had to walk for hours to reach their destinations.

Masud Khan arrived in the capital from Bogra yesterday

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During their protest, a group of students helps an ambulance pass Sonargaon Intersection area in the capital yesterday. Inset, with no room inside the packed bus, commuters travel on the back bumper on Airport Road near Kurmitola, putting their lives at risk.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ/PRABIR DAS



Editors, Noab condole death of Moazzem

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Editors' Council and the Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab) yesterday expressed their heartfelt sorrow and condolences at the demise of AHM Moazzem Hossain, editor and publisher of The Financial Express.

In a condolence message, the Editors' Council said Moazzem was one of the finest journalists of the country who, through his untiring devotion and strict adherence to ethical journalism, made enormous contribution to the growth of professional journalism in the country.

Moazzem, who was suffering from heart and

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Dhaka sees no reason to worry over Assam list Says Shahriar Alam

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam said he does not see any reason for Bangladesh to be worried about Assam's National Register of Citizens (NRC) and that there is no scope for doing politics over the matter.

Talking to reporters after attending a programme organised by the Human Rights Forum of Bangladesh yesterday morning, he said the Assamese government has given a clear explanation of the NRC process. He further said the issue will have no impact on Bangladesh-India bilateral relations.

The names of about four million people in India's Assam state are not included in the final draft list of citizens published by authorities on Monday.

Foreign affairs experts in Dhaka said there was a general feeling in Bangladesh that the NRC process in Assam may trigger an exodus of Bangalees and create another Rohingya-like refugee crisis for Bangladesh.

The Indian High Commissioner to

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NGOs improve their governance

More transparency, accountability in their work than 10 years back, finds TIB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The NGOs run with foreign funding have made notable progress in terms of governance over the last decade, although some corrupt practices still persist, finds a new research by the Transparency International Bangladesh.

"Compared to the TIB study findings of 2007, the NGOs have made significant progress towards strengthening their systems and processes for ensuring transparency and accountability," said TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman yesterday.

"We saw most of the NGOs [that we studied] adopting policies and guidelines on purchase, financial management and gender. There are efforts to avoid overlapping projects," he told a press conference at the TIB office in the capital.

Besides, the NGOs have made efforts to include their beneficiaries in their governing bodies and made more of their organisational information public, found the research titled, "NGOs of Bangladesh Funded by Foreign Donations: Governance Challenges and Way Forward".

However, a good number of NGOs recruit without publishing any advertisement while some do not have any purchase committee, creating scopes for corruption, he added.

A number of officials of the NGO Affairs Bureau were allegedly involved in enjoying undue privileges and financial benefits from the NGOs, Iftekharuzzaman said.

Of the 2,625 NGOs registered with the bureau, TIB studied 48 -- 15 local, 24 national and nine international -- between 2014 and 2016.

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SUBWAY IN DHAKA Govt signs deal with Spanish firm

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bridges Authority and Spanish consultancy firm TYPESA yesterday signed an agreement for conducting a feasibility study on building an subway in the capital.

BBA Chief Engineer Kabir Ahmed and TYPESA Managing Director Antonio Rodriguez Castellanos signed the deal on behalf of their respective organisations.

At the signing ceremony at Sonargaon Hotel, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said the cost of the subway has been estimated at Tk 80,000 crore.

The feasibility study project was included in the Seventh Five Year Plan as a priority project as per the prime minister's directive.

The planning ministry

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Researchers recreate ancient Greek music



MAIL ONLINE

In 1932, the musicologist Wilfrid Perrett reported to an audience at the Royal Musical Association in London the words of an unnamed professor of Greek with musical leanings: "Nobody has ever made head or tail of ancient Greek music, and nobody ever will. That way madness lies."

Indeed, ancient Greek music has long posed a maddening enigma.

Yet music was ubiquitous in classical Greece, with most of the poetry from around 750BC to

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BARAPUKURIA SCAM High-powered committee visits coalmine

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A three-member high-powered committee formed by the government to investigate the Barapukuria coal scam arrived at the company in Dinajpur on a two-day visit yesterday.

Following a directive from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the committee was constituted on July 28. It is headed by Khalilur

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PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 3

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-20 12-30 5-00 6-47 8-15

JAMAAT 4-55 1-15 5-15 6-50 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Endangered turtles may see a revival

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

An endangered species of turtles may see a revival in their numbers following a successful breeding programme in Bhawal National Park in Gazipur.

The Batagur Baska, also known as the Northern river terrapin, was once found in large numbers across Southeast Asia, but their numbers have depleted over the years.

But in the national park, the scenario for the turtles is largely different from the

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A man holds a Batagur Baska hatchling at Bhawal National Park in Gazipur. It is one of the 300 hatchlings there that are giving conservationists hopes of reviving the critically endangered species' population.

PHOTO: ABU BAKAR SIDDIQUE AKAND

Greenhouse gases surge to new highs

Abnormally hot temperatures swept globe last year: Report

AFP, Tampa

Planet-warming greenhouse gases surged to new highs as abnormally hot temperatures swept the globe and ice melted at record levels in the Arctic last year due to climate change, a major US report said Wednesday.

The annual State of the Climate Report, compiled by more than 450 scientists from over 60 countries, describes worsening climate conditions worldwide in 2017, the same year that US President Donald Trump pulled out of the landmark Paris climate deal.

The United States is the world's second leading polluter after China, but has rolled back environmental safeguards under Trump, who has declared climate change a "Chinese hoax" and exited the Paris deal signed by more than 190 nations as a path toward curbing harmful emissions.

The 300-page report issued by the American Meteorological Society and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) mentioned the word "abnormal" a dozen times, referring to storms, droughts, scorching temperatures and record low ice cover in the Arctic. Here are its key findings:

GREENHOUSE GAS SURGE

Last year, the top three most dangerous greenhouse gases released into Earth's atmosphere -- carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide -- reached new record highs.

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