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Repair risky rail bridges

PM directs authorities in response to train derailment in Moulvibazar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the authorities to conduct a survey on railway bridges and culverts across the country and repair those damaged or risky. Her directive came a day after four people were killed and scores injured following derailment of Upaban Express in Moulvibazar.

The PM gave several other directives while presiding over the weekly meeting of Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) at the planning ministry. The meeting approved 10 projects involving Tk 6,967 crore.

One of the 17-carriage intercity train, heading to the capital from Sylhet, fell into a canal under Boromchal bridge in Kulaura, while two others fell close to the canal's banks. Three other carriages also derailed.

After the accident, different media published reports on poor condition of railway bridges and tracks across the country. The railway authorities, however, denied that poor condition of the bridge was responsible for the accident.

While passing a railway project for refurbishing 21 metre-gauge locomotives at a cost of Tk 242 crore yesterday, the PM

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A jeep bound for Himchhari drives through water on Sayeman beach at Kolatoli point of Cox's Bazar yesterday. Vehicles plying the Kolatoli-Himchhari route have been using the beach for over two months as a 1.3km stretch of the road is being repaired by Cox's Bazar municipality. Locals said such use of the beach is damaging the environment. Top right, workers pushing CNG-run three-wheelers through the sand at the beach. Middle, a vehicle is stuck in a sandy rut.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

3 'traffickers' killed in a 'gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Three suspected human traffickers were killed in a reported gunfight with police in Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar early yesterday.

The dead are -- Kurban Ali, 30, Abdul Quader, 25, and Abdur Rahman, 30 -- all accused of swindling money from Rohingyas, according to police.

Teknaf OC Pradip Kumar Das said a police team raided Maheskhaliapara boat terminal around 4:00am on a tip-off to arrest those named in a case over trafficking of 15 Rohingyas.

"Sensing their presence, the traffickers opened fire forcing the law enforcers to fire back in self-defence. This triggered a gun-battle and at one stage, most of the traffickers escaped," said the OC. "Later, police found three men lying on the ground with bullet wounds and took them to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital where doctors pronounced them dead."

Three policemen -- Sub-Inspector Sayef, Constable Mong, and Constable Md Shukkur -- were also injured in the incident who were taken to the Teknaf Upazila Health Complex, he said.

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JCD overhaul move mired in age demo

Initiative follows dismal show in Ducusu polls

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal's dismal show in the Ducusu polls has been an eye-opener for the BNP, which now feels the urgency to reorganise the student body with regular and active leaders, said party insiders.

In the March 11 Dhaka University Central Students' Union election, the pro-BNP JCD could field only 58 candidates against 259 posts due to a lack of suitable contenders.

It could not win a single seat. Besides, the vice-president candidate bagged just 245 votes.

These setbacks put the Chhatra Dal, which had dominated the previous Ducusu committee, in an embarrassing spot, prompting the party to take up some overhaul moves, said party insiders.

As part of the plan, the party dissolved the student body's central committee on June 3 and announced that a council election to pick future JCD leadership would be held next month.

Earlier in March, BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman formed a "search committee", comprising former JCD leaders, to regroup the student organisation. The aim was to prevent any more debacles in Ducusu election, said party insiders.

But what followed led to disagreements and anger within the JCD.

On June 3, a press release, signed by BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, said anyone wanting a JCD post will have to be a member of the student organisation and must be a student of any education institution in Bangladesh. The individual also has to pass SSC or equivalent examination either in 2000 or later.

The party has decided to elect the president and the general secretary of a new JCD committee through a council within the next 45 days, said the release.

The announcement, especially on the age restrictions, left a section of

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LIVER TRANSPLANT BSMMU does it, first by a public hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Surgeons at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) have successfully performed liver transplant for the first time at a government hospital in the country.

A team of 50 doctors conducted simultaneous surgeries on a 20-year-old man and his 47-year-old mother, who donated a portion of liver, said the surgeons at a press conference at the BSMMU yesterday.

The team started the surgery at 6:00am on Monday and it took around 18 hours to complete the operation.

Prof Zulfikur Rahman Khan, chairman of the department of Hepatobiliary, Pancreatic and Liver Transplantation Surgery at BSMMU, led the team.

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Paris eyes flying taxis by 2024



CNN ONLINE

Visitors to Paris may soon be able to arrive in the city center in style, traveling by flying taxi.

Aircraft manufacturer Airbus is working with French transport operator RATP Group to explore the feasibility of "vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) vehicles" to operate in the French capital, hoping to bring the air taxis to Paris in time for the 2024 Olympic Games.

The feasibility study, launched in partnership with airport operator Groupe ADP, the Paris Ile-de-France region and the French civil aviation authority (DGAC), will look into traffic management, urban integration, maintenance, and design and production.

To get to the city center, visitors arriving at Charles de Gaulle International Airport currently have to take a taxi, a 35-minute train, or a bus that

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Yet another PCJSS man shot dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A supporter of the Parbatya Chattogram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) was shot dead in Bandarban's Rowangchhari upazila early yesterday.

The deceased, Aung Sing Ching Marma, 38, was a resident of Thoai Aung Gya Para, a remote area in the upazila.

Quoting family of the victim, police said seven to eight men picked up Aung Sing at gunpoint from his house around 1:30am.

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PRAYER TIMING JUNE 26

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-52 8-17
JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



With their rickshaw caught up in a tailback, a mother fans her child with a book to give him some relief from scorching heat in the city's Purana Paltan area. A mild heat wave is sweeping over some parts of the country. Yesterday, the highest temperature was 38 degrees Celsius in Rajshahi.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

3 Bangladeshis arrested in Kolkata on terror charge

STAR REPORT

Kolkata police yesterday arrested four people, including three Bangladeshis, from Sealdah Railway Station area for their alleged involvement in militant activities.

The Bangladeshis are Ziaur Rahman alias Mohsin alias Jahir Abbas from Chapainawabganj, Mamunur Rahashid from Rangpur and Shahin Alam from Rajshahi.

The other arrestee is Rabiul Islam from Mitrapur area of Burdwan in West Bengal.

Subhankar Sinha Sarkar, joint commissioner of Special Task Force (STF) of Kolkata police, said the three Bangladeshis, alleged members of Jamaa'tul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), had trespassed on the Indian territory to avoid arrest at home.

The four were produced before a Kolkata court in a terror case.

The STF picked up two suspects from near

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AIR POLLUTION FROM TOXIC FUMES

Malaysia shuts 475 schools

AGENCIES

Malaysia has ordered nearly 500 schools and kindergartens to close until tomorrow, after dozens of people were hospitalised with symptoms suggesting they breathed toxic fumes, possibly from industrial waste, the second such incident this year.

Students made up the bulk of the 75 people who have suffered breathing difficulties, vomiting and dizziness since last week, after inhaling the fumes, possibly from waste dumped by factories in the southern state of Johor, bordering Singapore.

More than 1,200 people went to hospital in a similar incident in March that led Malaysia to charge several directors of a tyre oil company with illegal dumping of chemical waste.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad vowed to get tough

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