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SHAH CEMENT

Risky rail bridges lie unrepaired

Railway east zone doing little

AMIR HASAN SHAHRIAR, Ctg

Bangladesh Railway east zone has left some vulnerable and damaged rail bridges unrepaired for years leading to trains having to crawl pass them risking lives

The rail bridge at Boromchal under Kulaura Railway Station, where the Upaban Express derailment claimed five lives on June 23, has been listed as one of the 18 vulnerable bridges in Bangladesh Railway's east zone.

Damage to the bridges' box walls, missing or damaged sleepers, poor bed-blocks, lines inundated, and ongoing repair works are the reasons for the bridges to be marked vulnerable. The authorities have placed speed limits at those points.

According to a document of BR, a speed limit was placed at a point between Shambhuganj-Mymensingh in February 2016 due to inadequate ballasts and stagnation of water.

Syed Faruk Ahmed, general manager (East) of BR, said the stagnation of water was a natural problem for the low-lying area and the railway could not do anything. He, however, could not say why the problem of inadequate ballasts was not solved.

The document also said another point between Chinkiaastana and Muhuriganj made the list in August 2018 after sleepers were damaged following an accident. The speed limit is still there and the sleepers have not been repaired even though almost a year has gone by.

Railway officials said the 18 bridges were selected only after accidents and that they had been vulnerable for a long time. The Boromchal bridge was included in this list on June 24, a day after the accident, they said.

Some of the listed bridges were more vulnerable than

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Dead crabs are left on the beach at Inani of Cox's Bazar, evidence of fishermen arriving to the shore from the Bay with their catch. Inset, sea fish in boxes being transported in the woods next to the beach to avoid detection. Some unscrupulous fishermen have been fishing at sea and arriving at dead of night violating the 65-day government ban on fishing at sea. The ban ends on July 23. The photo was taken on July 1.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Ershad's condition unchanged

Says brother

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health condition of ailing Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad remained unchanged, but doctors are hoping that he might get well thanks to the modern treatment facilities, JP acting chairman GM Quader said yesterday.

Quoting doctors, Quader said, "Ershad has been on dialysis for the last two days and different toxic and unnecessary fluids are being extracted from his body to control infection."

He made the comments at a press briefing at Ershad's Banani office.

Quader, the younger brother of Ershad, however, said doctors told them that Ershad was not yet out of danger.

Ershad, now 89, was admitted to CMH on June 26 and kept on oxygen support since June 30.

SOLVING ROHINGYA CRISIS Dhaka wants stronger role of Kuala Lumpur

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladesh wants a stronger role of Malaysia, an influential member of the Asean, in addressing the Rohingya crisis as visiting Malaysian Foreign Minister Saifuddin Abdullah holds a meeting with his Bangladeshi counterpart in Dhaka today.

During the meeting, Dhaka would request Kuala Lumpur to reopen its labour market for Bangladeshis, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen told The Daily Star yesterday.

Recruitment of Bangladeshi workers remains suspended since September last year following allegations of monopoly

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7.1 California quake revives fear of Big One

Authorities assess damage; region braces for more aftershocks

AFP, Ridgcrest

Emergency rescue crews fanned out yesterday to assess damage from the second powerful earthquake to hit Southern California in as many days -- a 7.1 magnitude tremor that revived fears of the so-called Big One the region has feared for decades.

No fatalities or serious injuries have been reported from this second quake, the largest in Southern California in more than two decades. It hit Friday night in a remote and sparsely populated area around 150 miles (240 kilometers) northeast of Los Angeles, where it was also felt.

But the earth's mighty twitch shook buildings, damaged roads and rattled people still jittery from a 6.4-magnitude earthquake in the same region on Thursday.

Around 3,000 people in the Mojave Desert town of Ridgecrest and the surrounding area are without power, the local utility company said.

In the town of Trona some buildings collapsed, gas pipelines ruptured and power was knocked out. Officials would know more as day breaks,

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Man dies trying to flee captivity

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A man died by drowning in the Baral river of Natore's Bagatipara upazila while trying to escape detention yesterday afternoon.

The dead is Azizul Sheikh, 32, of the upazila's Dayarampur area.

Abul Hasanat, additional superintendent of police (Sadar circle) in Natore, said a police team conducted a raid in the area to detain Azizul as they had information that Azizul was trading yaba.

Sensing police presence, Azizul tried to flee the scene. At one point, he jumped into the river and died on the spot, he added.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Natore Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Azizul's brother Rakibul Islam alleged that village policeman Yasin jumped into the river too.

"They had a scuffle in the water. Later, the policeman left the place, leaving my brother dead."

Scientists to open up parallel world!



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Could 2019 be the year humans open the first portal to a shadowy dimension which mirrors our own world?

Scientists in Oak Ridge National Laboratory in eastern Tennessee hope so, and have completed building equipment they are to test this summer which may allow us the first glimpse of a parallel universe which could be identical in many ways to our own, with mirror particles, mirror planets and possibly even mirror life.

That is according to Leah Broussard, the physicist behind the project, who described the attempt to reveal a hidden shadow world as "pretty wacky" in an interview with NBC last week.

The discovery of a concealed mirror world may

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Traffic officer run over and killed by bus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A traffic police officer was killed after being run over by a bus in Dhaka's Jatrabari area early yesterday.

Khairul Alam, 32, was an assistant sub-inspector of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Traffic division and was on duty when the accident took place, said Syed Ziauzzaman, assistant commissioner (Traffic) of Demra Zone Police.

A bus hit him in front of Jatrabari Police Station around 1:30am. He was

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PRAYER TIMING JULY 7

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-10	12-45	5-00	6-55	8-17
JAMAAT 4-45	1-15	5-15	7-00	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A house burns after an earthquake in Ridgecrest, California, US, on Friday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

OBITUARY

Begum Anwara Rahman, mother of K.M.A. Shamim, Director of United Group, died of old-age complications yesterday, 6 July at the United Hospital, Dhaka at around 11:30am. She left behind 1 daughter, 2 sons and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn her death.

Her Namaz-e-janaza will be held today 7th July, Bad-Zuhr at the Azad Mosque, Gulshan.

Her relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Govt resolved to save rivers

Says home boss

UNB, Dhaka

The government is determined to protect the rivers from encroachment, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said yesterday.

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Department of Law

North South University
Bashundhara, Dhaka 1229
Tel: +880 2 55668200, Ext: 2150, 1062 Email: chair.law@northsouth.edu
Helpline: 01614271717 (Graduate Office) Web: www.northsouth.edu