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**"The [Rohingya] repatriation process should start. How long will we bear the burden?"**  
PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH HASINA AT A MEETING WITH OUTGOING FRENCH AMBASSADOR MARIE-ANNICK BOURDIN



**"We are ready to ensure primary treatment for the patients [of dengue and chikungunya] and also prevention of the diseases."**  
DSCC MAYOR SAYEED KHOKON AT A PROGRAMME IN THE CAPITAL. (PAGE 3)



**"Trump wants to make America white again."**  
US HOUSE SPEAKER NANCY PELOSI FOLLOWING THE US PRESIDENT'S RACIST ATTACK ON CONGRESSWOMEN. (PAGE 16)



## Mercury pollution poses big threat

No guidelines yet for safe management, disposal of mercury in various products despite environmental, health concerns

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Over the years, Bangladeshi stomachs have got accustomed to so many different polluting agents like fertiliser, melamine, formalin and carbide. And the list goes on and on.

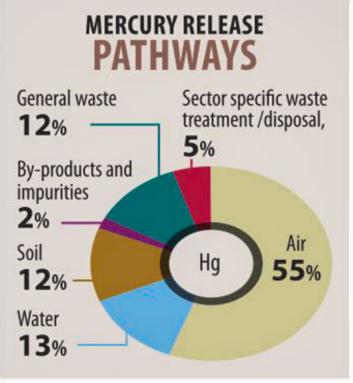
The most recent addition to this is heavy metals and a member of this family is mercury.

An environment department study says mercury, found in thermometers, makeup items such as mascara and skin whitening creams, and used as a regular dental amalgam, has made it to our food.

Already, it has a worrisome presence in the air we breathe.

Yet Bangladesh has no specific guidelines regarding the management of mercury in products, or how to safely manage the use of products and equipment that have mercury.

For example, around 25.64 million CFL bulbs and 2.56 million tube lights were sold in Bangladesh last year and people have hardly any idea how to dispose those products, which release mercury into both land and air.



Against the backdrop, the Department of Environment with the support of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and technical assistance by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) has estimated mercury emission in Bangladesh for the first time ever.

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Ignoring a road sign, a bus stops at the ramp of the capital's Mohakhali Flyover to pick up and drop off passengers, while a few other people jaywalk on the busy street yesterday. Although the Dhaka Metropolitan Police launched several traffic discipline initiatives in the past, such violations of road rules are still rampant in the city.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Myanmar must take back all Rohingyas

PM tells outgoing French ambassador

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reiterated her call to Myanmar to begin the repatriation of the Rohingyas and said that the country must take back them from Bangladesh.

"The repatriation process should start. How long will we bear the burden? ... The sooner the Rohingyas are repatriated, the better it will be for all," she said.

The PM made the comments when French Ambassador Marie-Annick Bourdin paid a farewell call on her at the Gono Bhaban yesterday afternoon.

She said international organisations and UN agencies should work inside Myanmar for the rehabilitation of the displaced Rohingyas. The work should include construction of houses for them.

Referring to the influx of 1.1 million Rohingyas into Cox's Bazar, the PM said they outnumbered local people. "As many

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## 10 killed as train hits microbus

Bride, groom among dead in Sirajganj; level crossing was unmanned

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

A newly-married couple and at least eight others of the bridal party were killed when a Dhaka-bound train rammed their microbus at an unmanned level crossing in Sirajganj's Ullapara upazila yesterday evening.

Two other microbus passengers were injured in the accident which took place around 6:40pm. They are undergoing treatment at the Sirajganj General Hospital.

"The accident happened when Md Rajan was returning to his home in Chargatina village with his newly-wedded wife and his relatives," Abdul Hamid, deputy director of Sirajganj fire service said.

After the collision, the train dragged the vehicle for about one kilometre, he said.

Locals managed to stop the intercity Padma Express and barricaded the rail lines for around 50 minutes in protest.

Nine of the microbus passengers died on the spot and another died at the hospital, Officer-in-Charge of Sirajganj Government Railway Police Station Md Harun said, adding that local police and firefighters rushed to the spot and rescued the victims around 7:30pm.

Eight of the victims had been identified as of filing of this report at 10:00pm. They are Md Rajan, 30, of Kandapara village in Sirajganj Sadar upazila, his newly-wedded wife Sumaiya Khatun, 21, of Chargatina village in Ullapara, their relatives Momota Khatun, 35, Md Sarif, 32, Sadik, 19, Abdus Samad, 45, Nure Alam, 35 and Md Khokon, 25.

In a similar incident in August 2014, at least 11 people were killed and

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## Kiwis praise team but query 'cruel' rules

AFP, Wellington

Heartbroken New Zealanders expressed pride on Monday in the Black Caps' fighting spirit after defeat to England in the Cricket World Cup final, but also bemusement at the obscure rules that cost them the match.

The Black Caps lost even though scores were tied at the end of both regular play and a Super Over shootout, with England's superior boundary count giving them victory.

Later on Monday, a member of the sport's chief rules committee told media that England were mistakenly awarded an extra run when a freak fielding deflection off Ben Stokes' bat that raced to the boundary, seeing the team

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## Man stabbed to death in court

The killing took place in front of Cumilla judge, policemen

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

A murder accused was stabbed to death by another right before a judge and police members inside a packed courtroom in Cumilla yesterday.

The dead is Faruk, 26, son of Ohidullah of the district's Manoharganj upazila. The attacker, Hasan, 26, from nearby Laksham upazila, is his cousin. The two along with six others were sued in August 2013 for murdering a man in Manoharganj, said lawyers from the court.

Such an incident exposed the lack of security at the court, they said.

Liakot Ali, public prosecutor of Cumilla Third Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court, said the killing took place around 11:30am when Judge Fatema Ferdous was holding the proceedings in the case.

Faruk and Hasan, both on bail, had arrived at the court earlier in the day.

Md Salauddin, inspector (investigation) of Cumilla Kotwali Police Station, said Hasan brought a sharp knife with him with an intention of killing his cousin.

Hasan had earlier claimed that he was innocent and that he had been implicated in the murder case because of Faruk, he said.

During the hearing yesterday, Hasan, all of a sudden,

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## BUSINESS Diversify economy



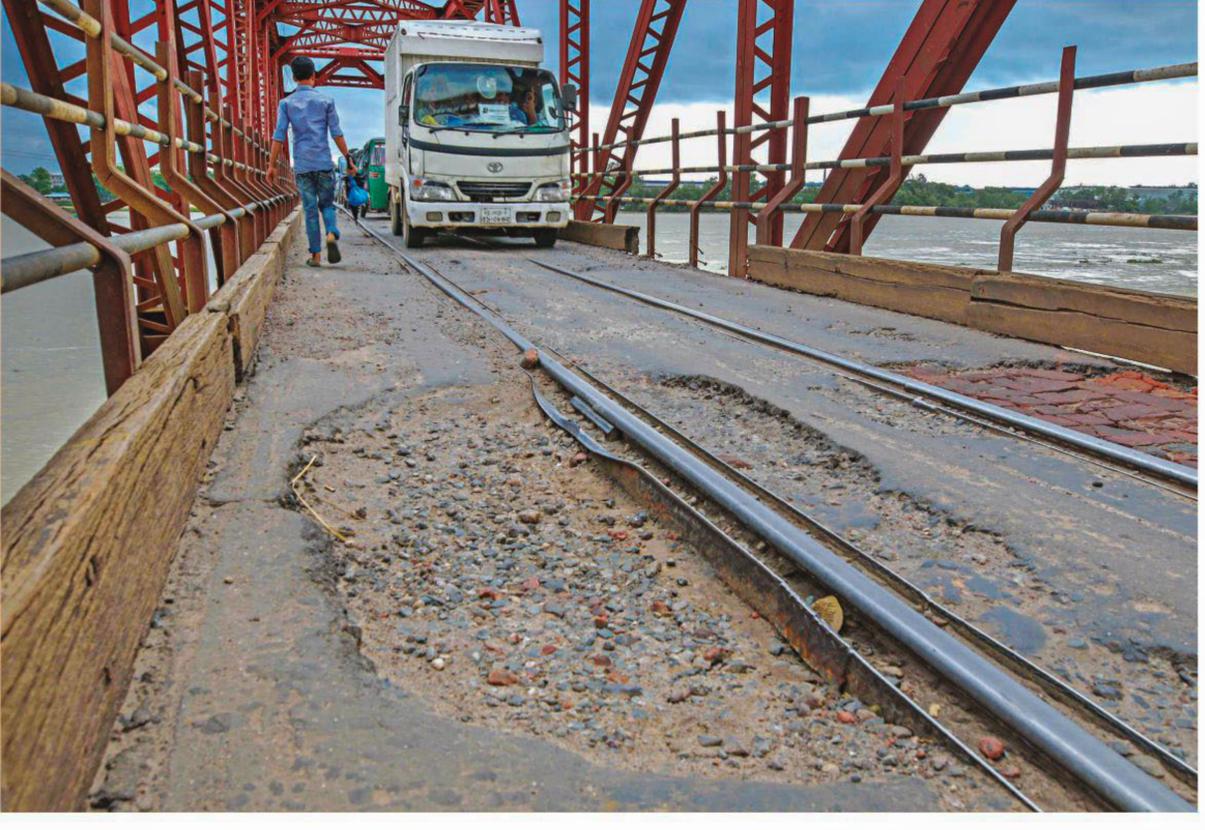
WB CEO says

Bangladesh needs to sustain higher economic growth and diversify the economy in order to create jobs for a young population, said Kristalina Georgieva, chief executive officer of the World Bank.

"The textile sector has served the country very well. I don't want to make it sound like it is not important. But there are risks when you are dependent on a single industry," she told The Daily Star in an exclusive interview.

Georgieva, who was in Dhaka last week on a two-day visit, said she was very happy to come and see how much progress Bangladesh has achieved.

STORY ON B1



A crater has formed on the Kalurghat Bridge in Chattogram yesterday. Built in 1931 over the Karnaphuli river, the bridge is riddled with potholes while its metal fencing and pedestrian decks have worn out in places, creating risks of accidents.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

## INDUSTRIES OUTSIDE ECONOMIC ZONES No new electricity, gas connections

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Factories outside economic zones and designated places would not get new gas and electricity connections, said State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid yesterday.

"Refrain from making proposals for setting up industries outside the planned areas," he told deputy commissioners at

the DC conference in the capital. "The decision will go into effect right now," he told reporters after a session on the second day of the conference.

This year, the annual conference of divisional and deputy commissioners is being held over five days instead of the usual three.

When his attention was drawn to DCs' request for power

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