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"Development projects should be planned properly for the greater interest of people without harming the environment."
SULTANA KAMAL, NOTED RIGHTS ACTIVIST, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE CAPITAL (PAGE 16)

"So, we tackle it now or otherwise it will be like a chronic ailment that will never end."
KHIN ZAW WIN, HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST IN MYANMAR, ON THE CRISIS CENTRING ON ROHINGYAS, OTHER MINORITIES (PAGE 3)

"As we always said we don't want to start the trade war but we are not afraid."
CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING VOWS TO FIGHT BACK IF NECESSARY (PAGE 8)

SEVEN RINGS CEMENT
FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE

Dull Tigers dampen Eden spectacle

SPORTS REPORTER

The Indian subcontinent's first day-night Test was ushered in with pomp and circumstance at the iconic Eden Gardens in Kolkata yesterday, when India and Bangladesh faced off in the second and final Test match of Bangladesh's first multi-format tour of India. New Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) President Sourav Ganguly left no stone unturned in making it a memorable occasion, which was set in motion when Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina -- invited as chief guest by Ganguly for the occasion -- rang the ceremonial bell to signal the start of the match.

The spectacle of cricketers dressed in white under floodlights, only

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina rings the ceremonial bell to signal the start of the second Test match between Bangladesh and India at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata yesterday. The PM was invited as chief guest by Indian cricket board President Sourav Ganguly on the occasion of the Indian subcontinent's first day-night Test match.

PHOTO: BSS

Tragedy strikes bridal party

Nine including six of groom's family killed as bus rams microbus in Munshiganj; reason behind the collision still unclear

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Sixty-year-old Abdur Rashid Bepari and his family members were on their way to Dhaka's Kamrangirchar to have his son's marriage registered yesterday.

As their microbus reached Shoalghar area of Munshiganj's Sreenagar upazila around 2:00pm, a speedy bus collided head-on with it, leaving at least nine, including Rashid and five others of the family, dead on the spot.

Witnesses blamed reckless driving for the accident on the Dhaka-Mawa highway.

The groom, Rubel Hossain, his brother Sohel Bepari and their other family members were in another microbus that was trailing behind.

"There were 24 people in the bridal party. We had started in two microbuses from Rubel's home in Kansar village [Munshiganj's Louhajan]," said Nazrul Islam, who was in the second microbus with Rubel.

"The other microbus was about a kilometre away when it was hit by the bus," he said, adding that all their happiness turned into grief in a matter of moments.

The deceased were identified as Abdur Rashid Bepari, his daughter Liza, 22, Liza's daughter Tabassum, 4, Rashid's daughter-in-law Runa Akhter, 22, her son Tahsin, 3, Rashid's niece Ranu, 12, their neighbours Mofizul, 30, Keramat Ali, 70, and microbus driver Billal.

All of them were in the same microbus.

The accident left 11 others injured. They were being treated at different hospitals in the capital.

Officer-in-Charge Hedaytul Islam Bhuiyan of Sreenagar Police Station said the Mawa-bound Swadhin Paribahan bus from Dhaka was running at a high speed when the accident happened.

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ROAD TRANSPORT ACT Workers stick to demand for changes

Threaten to enforce 72-hr strike in January

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Bangladesh Road Transport Workers Federation will enforce a countrywide 72-hour strike in January if their demand for bringing "necessary amendments" to the Road Transport Act-2018 is not met.

Besides, it will go for an "immediate protest programme" like work abstention if any case is filed against transport workers under the new law.

The federation, a platform of 233 transport workers' unions, made the decisions at its two-day extended meeting, which ended in the capital yesterday, two top leaders of the federation told The Daily Star last night.

The organisation, however, did not announce any protest programme yesterday as Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan called them for a meeting today to discuss their demands, the two leaders said wishing anonymity.

Shajahan Khan, executive president of the federation, said they would place their demands that include bringing changes to several sections of the law.

"We will announce our protest

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

HAZARDOUS MEDICAL WASTE

Hospitals breach disposal rules

BISHAKHA DEVNATH and PINAKI ROY

Many healthcare facilities across the capital have been breaching their legal obligations on safe disposal of medical waste, but a decade-old system is failing to hold them accountable.

On October 28, The Daily Star published a story that focused on how untreated medical wastes were accumulating in landfills in all divisional cities, apart from the capital, posing serious threat to public health.

The scenario in Dhaka is not much different.

An independent investigation by The Daily Star has now revealed quite a shocking picture of medical waste mismanagement, in the underbelly of which thrives an illegal business network of medical waste. But no monitoring or scrutiny in this regard is present.

In the capital city alone, there are over 1,000 healthcare facilities

that generate around four tonnes of medical wastes daily.

Almost all private entities providing healthcare have an agreement with PRISM Bangladesh Foundation, an NGO working for waste disposal, since such an agreement was made mandatory by the Directorate General of Health Services. Licence cancellations or non-renewals follow the absence of such an agreement.

Under it, hospitals are to segregate medical wastes depending on the type -- infectious, sharp and recyclables -- and store those at a designated point, from where Prism will collect and properly treat those at its treatment plant in Matuail before disposal.

To not get caught by the DG Health, healthcare facilities make the agreement. But it is not something they adhere. Neither do they comply the Medical Waste Rules 2008.

Even in regards to this, there is money to be made off illegally.

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How liquid waste causes health risk

BISHAKHA DEVNATH and PINAKI ROY

A 250-bed hospital in Dhanmondi produces about 4,000 litres of liquid waste a day. The liquid is treated to ensure that it doesn't spread infection when disposed of.

This, however, is a rare scenario among government and private healthcare facilities in the capital.

It is rare because no government healthcare facility has any mechanism in place to treat liquid waste, while only five to six percent of private hospitals are taking care of the waste through a formal set-up, according to the Department of Environment.

The Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act, 2010 imposes restriction on dumping

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



The mangled remains of a microbus after it collided head-on with a bus in Sreenagar of Munshiganj yesterday. The accident claimed nine lives.

PHOTO: STAR

CTG AIRPORT TOILET Tk 3.5cr gold bars found

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Customs officials recovered 70 gold bars worth Tk 3.5 crore from a toilet at Shah Amanat International Airport in Chattogram yesterday.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

SINGER SCORECARD

INDIA VS BANGLADESH
2ND TEST BRIEF SCORE

Bangladesh: First innings 106 all out (Shadman 29, Liton retired hurt 24, Nayeem 19; Ishant 5-22, Yadav 3-29, Shami 2-36)
India: First innings 174 for 3 (R Sharma 21, Pujara 55, Kohli not out 59, Rahane not out 23; Al-Amin 1-49, Ebadat 2-61)

Congratulations!

Engineer Abdus Sobhan, Managing Director of AUKO-TEX GROUP has been awarded with the honor of CIP (Commercially Important Person-Industry) for the year 2017 by the Ministry of Industries in recognition of his Extra Ordinary Performance in terms of Ethical Business Practices and massive contributions towards Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) on Environmental & Social issues. We are cordially thankful to the Ministry of Industries for this Prestigious award which will inspire us to move forward for better future.

On this auspicious occasion, we acknowledge and appreciate Honesty, Integrity, Strong Leadership, Intellectual Rigor, Determination and Dedication of our beloved Managing Director, which helped him in paving ways to achieve this significant milestone.

On behalf of all members of AUKO-TEX GROUP, we express our cordial wishes and heart-felt greetings for this achievement. We also pray to Almighty for him along with our beloved company to achieve more glory and laurels in future.

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