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REDUCING FATALITIES ON ROADS

Aim gets lowered

Authorities plan to cut up to 25pc casualties by 2024 after failing to halve them in 10yrs

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

As road safety authority failed to achieve the target to halve the number of road accident fatalities by last year, it is now going to extend the deadline by another 10 years.



Bangladesh, which witnessed two major movements in the past three years for ensuring road safety, officials said.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, also the chief of the

NRSC, will preside over the meeting at the BRTA's head office in the capital.

Several ministers, secretaries, leaders of transport associations, and experts and road safety campaigners are the members of the apex body formed in 1995 to take policy decisions over road safety issues.

DRAFT ACTION PLAN

Since 1997, total of eight action plans were approved by the NRSC with the last and eighth one approved in November 2017 and 2020.

The goal of the eighth action plan was to achieve the SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) target and reduce the number of road accidents fatalities and injuries by 50 percent with the year 2020.

But the target could not be achieved, officials and experts said.

Around one month before the last

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Faisal Ahmed Fahad, Liberation War Affairs Secretary of Sylhet Metropolitan Swachchhasebak League and a resident of Pirmahalla area of the city, was arrested with a weapon during a clash between transport workers and city corporation workers while removing an illegal rental car stand on the side of Chauhatta-Amberkhana road in Sylhet city.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

20 unives to hold uniform entry tests

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Twenty public universities have decided to hold uniform admission tests, likely in June-July.

Besides, Chattogram University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet), Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) and Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (Kuet) have set June 12 as a tentative date for a single entry test.

The decisions were made at a virtual meeting of Bangladesh Bishwabidyalya Parishad yesterday, Jagannath University Vice-Chancellor Prof Mizanur Rahman, a joint convener of a committee working to hold the cluster entry tests at the 20 universities, told The Daily Star.

Bangladesh Bishwabidyalya Parishad is an association of VCs of public universities. Prof Mizan and the association's Deputy Secretary Motahar Hossain said the

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Luna Shamsuddoha passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Luna Shamsuddoha, a leading software entrepreneur in the country, passed away at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore yesterday.

The 53-year-old entrepreneur was receiving treatment for cancer at the hospital.

Her elder brother Zulfikar Rahman confirmed it to The Daily Star.

Luna was the chairperson of Dohatec New Media, a leading IT, and software company.

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Transport workers attack BU students in private dorms

25 hurt; students block highway, torch bus

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Several private dorms for Barishal University students in the city's Rupatli area were attacked early yesterday, leaving at least 25 students injured.

BU students said the attack was carried out by a group of transport workers in the district.

It happened after university students vandalised a BRTC bus counter and blocked the Barishal-Kuakata regional highway for two hours till 5:00pm Tuesday, protesting the stabbing of a fellow student, they said.

University sources said BU student Sajol and a female student went to the counter to go to Khulna on Tuesday afternoon. At that time, they got into an altercation with a transport worker named Rafiq. At one point, Rafiq allegedly stabbed Sajol.

After the attack on students' accommodations, agitated students demonstrated throughout the day yesterday, demanding arrest of the attackers.

They set fire to a bus and again blocked Barisal-Kuakata highway for around 12 hours till 6:00pm.

A tripartite meeting involving students, BU authorities and the police was held in the afternoon.

Following the assurance from the police that they would take steps against the culprits and ensure security of students, the demonstrators withdrew the blockade.

Meanwhile, the BU authorities suspended all exams till today.

After the attack, at least 13 injured students were admitted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, while the rest took first aid.

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COVID VACCINATION Minimum age to remain 40

Says health minister; 15.86 lakh vaccinated so far

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The minimum age for Covid-19 vaccination will remain 40 for now, Health Minister Zahid Maleque said yesterday.

The minister was talking to journalists following his speech at an event in the capital's Dhaka Dental College yesterday noon.

He said some 20-25 lakh doses of Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine from Serum Institute of India (SII) would reach the country on February 22.

About vaccination, he said, "Due to much rush at some of the vaccination centers, people who have registered there, are not getting SMS. But everyone will receive vaccine gradually."

As of yesterday afternoon, around 25.5 lakh people registered on www.surokha.gov.bd for the Covid-19 vaccine.

Besides, a total of 145,203 people received the first jab yesterday. With this, the total number of people vaccinated rose to 15,86,368.

The nationwide Covid-19 vaccination drive kicked off on February 7.

As per a tripartite deal among the

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Comet from edge of solar system killed dinosaurs



AFP, Washington

Sixty-six million years ago, a huge celestial object struck off the coast of what is now Mexico, triggering a catastrophic "impact winter" that eventually wiped out three-quarters of life on Earth, including the dinosaurs.

A pair of astronomers at Harvard say they have now resolved long standing mysteries surrounding the nature and origin of the "Chicxulub impactor."

Their analysis suggests it was a comet that originated in a region of icy debris on the edge of the solar system, that Jupiter was responsible for it crashing into our planet, and that we can expect similar impacts every 250 million to 750 million years.

The duo's paper, published in the journal Scientific Reports this week, pushes back against an older theory that claims the object was a fragment of an asteroid that came from our solar

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Govt fixes edible oil prices

The government yesterday fixed edible oil prices to tame the volatility in the domestic market and curb price manipulation by a section of unscrupulous traders.

The price of loose soybean oil was fixed at Tk 115 per litre at the retail level, said Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi after a meeting with major refiners, importers, traders and wholesalers at the secretariat in Dhaka.

The move came as loose soybean oil was selling at Tk 116-Tk 120 per litre at the retail level in the capital, up 3.5 per cent from Tk 112-Tk 116 a month ago.

READ MORE ON B1



PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 18

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-20 12-45 4-30 6-03 7-30
JAMAAT 5-55 1-15 4-45 6-07 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



The existence of Savar's Karnapara canal is now under threat due to mindless dumping of toxic industrial waste, posing health risks to locals. Large buildings and factories on both sides of the canal discard waste right into the water body. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

RAPE IN BEGUMGANJ Court frames charges against Delwar, Kalam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Noakhali court yesterday framed charges against two accused in a case filed for raping a woman in Begumganj upazila.

The video of the rape incident had triggered widespread outrage in social media.

The accused are: "Delwar Bahini" chief Delwar and his accomplice Abul Kalam.

Judge Joyal Abedin of the Women and Children Repression Tribunal-1 heard the case and set March 24 for the next hearing.

Earlier, Public Prosecutor Mamunur Rashid read out the allegations against the accused. Both of them claimed their innocence.

There was no lawyer for the accused at the court, as lawyers of Noakhali

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সবুজ ঘাসফুল দু'লিয়ে মাথা তোমাদের দেবে পরানের বারতা

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