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ROAD TRANSPORT

Operators place flurry of demands

Seek bus fare hike, financial benefits for Covid-induced losses

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Leaders of road transport associations yesterday demanded the government increase bus fares and give them financial benefits as their businesses were "hit hard by the pandemic".

They raised the demands at the 28th meeting of the National Road Safety Council (NRSC) at the head office of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), meeting sources said.

The leaders also got into a verbal spat with Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC), over the lease of city bus terminals.

Meanwhile, the closed-door meeting, chaired by Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, also the

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A Bailey bridge over a stream collapsed at Bangalhalia in Rangamati's Rajasthali unable to handle the load of a construction materials-laden truck that was crossing it on Thursday afternoon. Road communications between Bandarban and Rangamati remains snapped since, causing travellers of the two hill districts to suffer. Mosleh Uddin Chowdhury, executive engineer of Roads and Highways Department in Bandarban, said they started repairs but it would take around a week.

World's oldest DNA sequenced from mammoth

CNN ONLINE

A tooth from a mammoth that roamed the Siberian steppe more than a million years ago has yielded the world's oldest DNA sequence.

It's the first time that DNA has been recovered from animal remains more than a million years old. Previously, the most ancient DNA sample was from a horse that lived between 560,000 and 780,000 years ago.

The information recovered from

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SHIMULIA-BANGLABAZAR

'Technical glitch' halts ferry service

BNP terms it ploy to stop party's motorcade from joining rally

STAR REPORT

Ferry services between Shimulia and Banglabazar were suspended for over two hours yesterday morning when a motorcade of the BNP was supposed to go across the Padma river.

BNP leaders and activists, who were on the way to a rally in Barishal, then left their vehicles and hired boats to go across the river.

The authorities concerned said there was a technical issue, but BNP leaders said the services have been suspended

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SPAT OVER NEW AUSSIE LAW

Facebook blacks out news

Emergency services affected

REUTERS, Sydney

Facebook faced an angry backlash yesterday after blocking news feeds in Australia in a surprise escalation of a dispute with the government which could be a test for the future of online publishing worldwide.

The move was denounced by media groups, politicians and human rights groups in Australia and beyond, as it became clear that official health pages and emergency warnings had been scrubbed along with news sites, just three days before the launch of a nationwide Covid-19 vaccination programme.

"Facebook's actions to unfriend Australia today, cutting off essential information services on health and emergency services, were as arrogant as they were disappointing," Prime Minister Scott Morrison wrote on his own Facebook page.

"These actions will only confirm the concerns that an increasing number of countries are expressing about the behaviour of Big Tech companies who think they are bigger than governments and that the rules should not apply to them."

The dispute centres on a planned Australian law, which would require Facebook and Google to reach commercial

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Indian military officers given more financial powers

INDIA TODAY ONLINE

In a first, India has given financial powers of up to Rs 200 crore to military officers below the level of vice-chief to empower the armed forces to make big-ticket capital procurement and cut down on procedural delays.

While financial powers of up to Rs 200 crore have been given to 3-star officers at the service headquarters level, the Centre has also enhanced financial powers up to Rs 100 crore for military commanders who are heading the field formations.

This is the first time such powers have been given below the level of vice-chiefs in view of the emerging security

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BANGLADESH BANK HEIST

US charges North Korean hacker

SHAHRIAR RAHMAN

Almost five years after the Bangladesh Bank heist, the most sensational cybercrime involving a financial institution to date, the US Department of Justice has formally announced charges against Park Jin Hyok, a North Korean hacker.

Following a complaint in May 2018 and the subsequent probe, charges of

"conspiracy to commit wire fraud" and "conspiracy to commit computer related fraud" was filed against Hyok. He was allegedly involved in several high-stake cyber intrusions, including the hack of Sony, creation of Wannacry ransomware, and Bangladesh Bank heist.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Hyok has three other

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PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 19

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



Preparations are going on to mark the International Mother Language Day on February 21. The Central Shaheed Minar is getting a new coat of paint after cleaning up. People from all walks of life through there to pay tribute to the language movement martyrs on that day. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

UK, Canada slap sanctions on Myanmar generals

REUTERS

Britain and Canada imposed sanctions on Myanmar's ruling generals yesterday for toppling the civilian-led government while Japan said it had agreed with the United States, India and Australia that democracy must be restored there quickly.

Western countries have condemned the Feb. 1 overthrow and detention of elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi, which has also brought daily mass demonstrations to the streets of the Southeast Asian country.

Following sanctions from the United States announced last week, both Britain and Canada announced measures.

Britain said it would impose asset freezes and travel bans on three generals while Canada said it would take action against nine military officials.

"We, alongside our international allies, will hold the Myanmar military to account for their violations of human rights and pursue justice for the Myanmar people," British foreign minister Dominic Raab said.

Britain already had sanctions in place on junta leader Min Aung Hlaing, accusing him of human rights abuses against Rohingya and other ethnic minority groups.

Myanmar's government made no immediate reaction to the new sanctions. On Tuesday, an army spokesman told a news conference that sanctions had been expected.

The coup halted a tentative

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LUNA SHAMSUDDOHA

We are gravely saddened and express our deepest condolences at the untimely demise of Ms. Luna Shamsuddoha, Managing Director of Global Voice Telecom Limited. She was the former Chairman of Janata Bank Limited, a visionary leader and a role model for women in technology. May Almighty Allah forgive her and grant strength to the bereaved family to bear this loss.

IOF
IGW Operators Forum