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ROAD TRANSPORT

Operators place flurry of demands

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

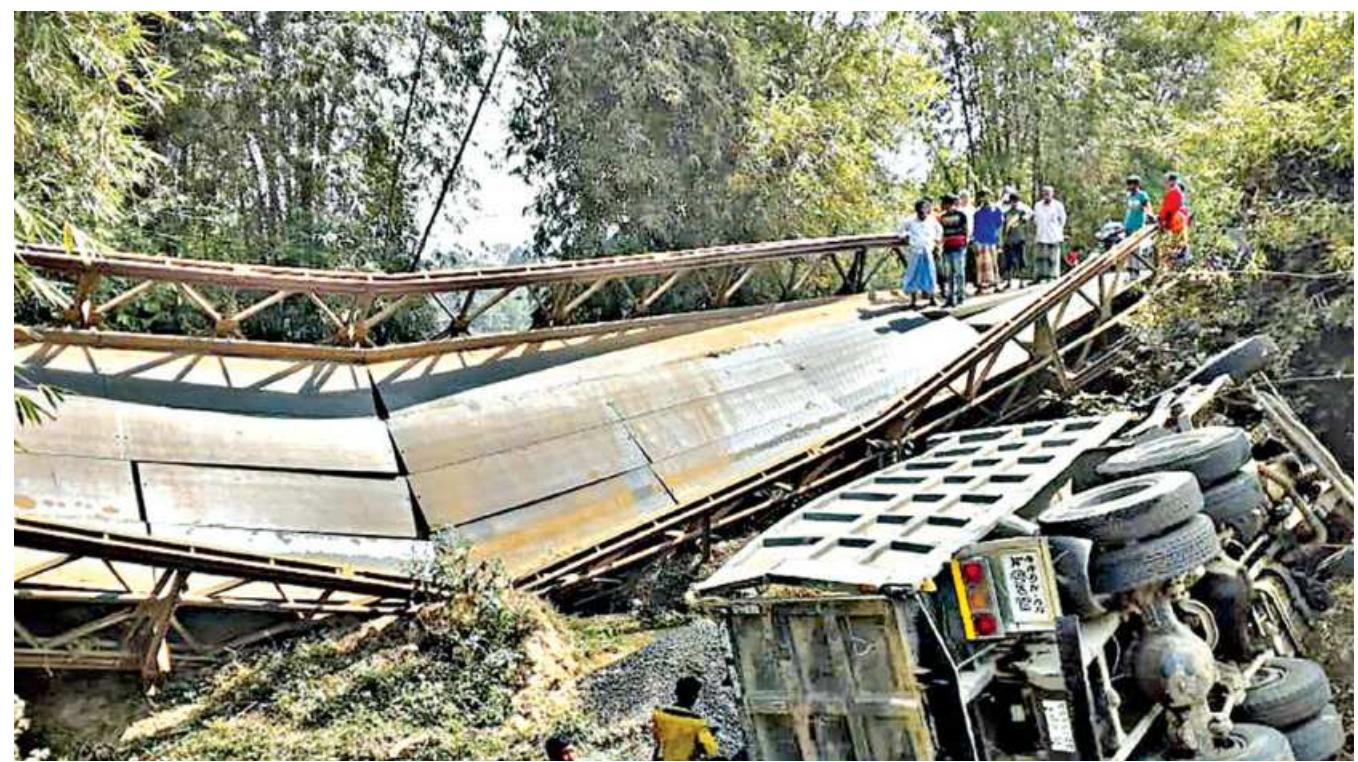
TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Leaders of road transport associations yesterday demanded the government hike 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 some leasing out city bus terminals.

Meanwhile, the meeting, presided over by Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, also the NRSC president, formed two committees to deal with two issues.

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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 MEDIA LAW

Facebook blacks out news in Australia

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

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INDIAN MILITARY

Officers get 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.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

ANTI-COUP PROTESTS IN MYANMAR

Hackers target govt portals

AFP, Yangon

Hackers targeted Myanmar government websites yesterday to protest against the military coup, as the junta pressed on with its attempts to stymie nationwide opposition with internet blockades and troop deployments.

The cyberattacks came a day after tens of thousands of people rallied across the country to protest against the generals toppling Aung San Suu Kyi's civilian government earlier this month.

A group called Myanmar Hackers disrupted websites including the Central Bank, the Myanmar military's propaganda page, state-run broadcaster MRTV, the Port Authority, and the Food and Drug Administration.

"We are fighting for justice in Myanmar," the group said on its Facebook page. "It is like mass protesting of people in front of government websites."

Internet access was severely curtailed for the fourth night running at about 1:00 am yesterday (1830 GMT Wednesday), according to NetBlocks, a Britain-based group that monitors internet outages around the world.

It said connectivity had dropped to just 21 percent of ordinary levels, and was restored eight hours later ahead of the start of the working day.

For a second day, motorists in Yangon blockaded roads with vehicles, leaving their bonnets up and pretending they were broken down to stop security forces from moving around Myanmar's biggest city.

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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.

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