The Daily Star

11 killed in

five road

accidents

Eleven people were killed and 10 injured in five road accidents in

Tangail, Gazipur, Feni and Gopalganj yesterday amid

the Covid-19 "lockdown".

Three of them were

killed when a microbus

rammed a covered van, parked along the Dhaka-Tangail highway, from

around 5:00am.

Shamim, 28.

injuries.

behind in Pakulla Bus Stop area of Mirzapur upazila

The dead are Hasan, 30, driver of the microbus,

his helper Imon, 25, and

passenger Golam Maula

Shamim's wife Meem

Akter, 24, was admitted to Kumudini Hospital with

Mozaffar Hossain, officer-in-charge of

Gorai Highway Police

Station, said the couple

was returning to work in Brahmanbaria after

celebrating Eid-ul-Fitr in Akkelpur village of

STAR REPORT



KALURGHAT BRIDGE Fate depends on new study

DHAKA THURSDAY MAY 20, 2021, JAISHTHA 6, 1428 BS

Tuhin Shubhra Adhikary

More than seven years ago, in April 2014, the government had decided to build a new bridge at Kalurghat in Chattogram through a bilateral cooperation with South Korea.

Since then however, the authorities have not been able to reach a final decision on whether the bridge would be a dedicated single-track rail bridge, a double-track one or a road-slash-rail bridge.

Although the BR had decided to build a single-track rail and road bridge last year, it now depends on a fresh feasibility study -- six years after the first one -- to check whether a double-track-with-road option is technically and economically viable, rail officials said.

The decision was taken at a meeting held yesterday at the Rail Bhaban in the presence of Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan.

Top officials of the railways ministry, BR and Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) of Korea also took part in the meeting.

Railways ministry, through the Economic Relations Division, will now send a letter to EDCF to carry out the study and it may take six to seven months for the study to be completed, the officials said.

While the authorities have failed to take a decision, the British-era bridge over the Karnaphuli river has become unsafe, and has been so for a while.

Hundreds of vehicles plying the bridge are facing difficulties as the deck and iron fencing on both sides often become worn out and potholes develop on the surface, creating risk of mishaps.

Authorities have to repair the bridge occasionally to SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

A microbus, heading to Brahmanbaria from Joypurhat, hit a parked covered van on the Dhaka-Tangail highway in Mirzapur upazila's Pakulla area around 5:00AM yesterday. The driver, helper and one passenger of the microbus died on the spot.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

Joypurhat. The bodies were later handed to the victims'

AL politicians

assure justice

Others demand her

Road Transport and Bridges

Minister Obaidul Quader

immediate release

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

for Rozina

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

Biden expects 'de-escalation' in Gaza today

US again rebuffs Frenchbacked UNSC ceasefire resolution call

AFP, Gaza

US President Joe Biden yesterday told Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that he expects "significant deescalation" in the military confrontation with the Palestinians, amid intense efforts to reach a ceasefire.

Deafening air strikes and rocket fire once more shook Gaza in the conflict that has, since May 10, claimed 219 Palestinian lives according to the Gaza health ministry and killed 12 people in Israel according to Israeli police. "The president conveyed to the prime minister that he expected a significant de-escalation today on the path to a ceasefire," the White House said after a fourth phone call in a little over a week.

ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

'Our struggle is not opposed to Islam'

MAY 20, 1971

Shamsuddoza Sajen

INTERVIEW WITH AHM KAMARUZZAMAN The Pakistan military junta has failed to restore civil administration in areas under its control in Bangladesh

despite desperate efforts and it would never be able to do so, Bangladesh Home Minister AHM Kamaruzzaman told UNI in an interview published in the Hindustan Times today.

"The former civil servants of Bangladesh have vowed not to support the occupational force, for every citizen in Bangladesh considers the army action as an attack on his legitimate right to live

as a free citizen of a free nation," said Kamaruzzaman. If the Pakistani claim of normalcy in Bangladesh was

NARADA CASE Mamata, her law minister now party in petition

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

In a new turn to the Narada sting operation case relating to alleged corruption, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Law Minister Moloy Ghatak have been made parties in a petition by the Central Bureau of Investigation before

the Calcutta High Court population. seeking transfer of trial

Rohingyas must have access to livelihood

Says UNHCR chief Grandi

PORIMOL PALMA

UNHCR chief Filippo Grandi wants to use funds for the Rohingyas judiciously and create livelihood options for them.

In an exclusive interview with The Daily Star, he said, "Rohingyas should have [at least] the minimum access to

livelihood. Otherwise, it is very risky to create a dependent 'Also, it is difficult to mobilse humanitarian assistance for many years."



Addressing a discussion organised by Awami League's Relief and Social Welfare Sub-Committee, Quader hoped that the journalist concerned will



"responsible role" over the issue of Rozina Islam.

As diplomatic efforts intensified to stem the bloodshed, Germany said its top diplomat was heading to Israel for talks today.

Netanyahu earlier yesterday issued a tough threat against the Gaza Strip's Islamist rulers Hamas, who Israel says has fired around 3,700 rockets at Israel since May 10.

"You can either conquer them, and that's always an open possibility, or you can deter them, and we are engaged right now in forceful deterrence," he told

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

was it still barring international organisations and bodies from Bangladesh, he asked. The Pakistani rulers were concocting stories to hide the real state of affairs in Bangladesh from the outside world.

"They know if any impartial body is allowed into Bangladesh, the mischievous propaganda and designs will stand revealed."

Regarding Pakistani propaganda that the troops had to intervene to put down racial and communal riots, he said the Liberation War was not against any religion.

"Our struggle is not opposed to Islam. The value and teachings of Islam shall be preserved. The values and teachings of other religions shall also be protected. We envisage a state which is free of exploitation. Our aim is to establish an egalitarian and classless society in which there will be no barrier between man and man, irrespective of his caste, colour and creed," Kamaruzzaman added.

The home minister further said, "Those who accept Bangladesh as their motherland and are connected with the Liberation War are our brothers. Those who are playing the role of quislings, whatever their religion, are our enemies and the enemies of Bangladesh. They shall be tried by people's courts.'

Kamaruzzaman reiterated, "The only solution to Pakistan's SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

outside the state.

There was no relief for two senior Bengal ministers Firhad Hakim and Subrata Mukherjee and key TMC leader Madan Mitra and ex-Kolkata Mayor Shovan Chatterjee arrested in the Narada case on Monday as the High Court adjourned the nearly two-and-half-

hour hearing till Thursday afternoon. As a result, Hakim,

Mukherjee, Mitra, and Chatterjee would continue to remain in judicial custody.

There were two petitions before the High Court bench comprising acting Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Responding to a question, he said, "Repatriation is the ultimate solution but you cannot keep people in limbo for years and years.

He made the statements on Monday, a day before the UN and Bangladesh launched a Joint Response Plan (JRP) that seeks to mobilise \$943m for nearly a million Rohingyas and five lakh host community people in Cox's Bazar.

Last year, Bangladesh made access to education available for the Rohingya children. Some of them are now engaged in different activities for their livelihoods.

However, a large number of youths at the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar are yet to find a job.

Some 750,000 Rohingyas fled to Bangladesh following a brutal military crackdown in Myanmar's Rakhine State in 2017.

Despite repeated attempts by the Bangladesh government, not a single Rohingya could be repatriated. On top of that, the military coup in Myanmar and the

coronavirus pandemic further complicated the situation. Grandi said, "The impact of the presence [of the SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

PRAYER TIMING MAY 20

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-40 8-00 JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-45 8-30

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zet just been filed and the matter is under trial.

The AL general secretary, who joined the event virtually, added that action would be taken, as

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