

City

ELECTRIC RAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY No headway in six years

Planning Commission sits today with fresh move

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Bangladesh Railway's initiative to introduce electric train service in the country has not seen any progress over the last six years, thanks to indecision on selecting the route to be converted for electric traction.

More than 70 percent of neighbouring India's huge railway network has electric traction system. But Bangladesh is yet to launch the system, which is considered cost-effective and environment friendly.

The BR has recently revived the initiative to convert its two sections --Narayanganj-Dhaka-Chattogram and Tongi-Joydebpur -- for electric traction. It has submitted a fresh proposal to the Planning Commission to carry out feasibility study on introducing the system on these routes.

As per the proposal, the feasibility study would be completed by August next year at a cost of Tk 15.55 crore, according to BR officials.

Planning Commission is scheduled to hold a meeting on the proposal today, with its member (physical infrastructure) Mamun Al Rashid in the chair.

A railway electric traction system supplies electric power to locomotives and thus trains do not require any on broad fuel. An overhead electricity line has to be installed along the railway track to transmit energy to electric locomotives.

The BR operates diesel-powered broad-gauge and metre-gauge trains across its 3,019km railway network.

On the other hand, 45,881km railway line of Indian Railways, which SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



BRTC buses were illegally parked on both sides of the main road opposite the Kamalapur BRTC bus depot. Due to this, other vehicles were struggling to navigate their way through. The photo was taken yesterday.

рното SK ENAMUL HAQUE Two journos, Somoy TV CEO sued under DSA STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two journalists and an official of Somoy have been sued under the controversial Digital Security Act over airing a report on corruption allegations against a Noakhali court official, Mohammad Alamgir.

Alamgir, najir (sheriff) of Noakhali District Judge's Court, filed the case with Chattogram Cyber Tribunal on May 11 against six people, including the private TV channel's Senior Reporter Afzal Hossain, Senior News Editor Manwar Hossain and Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Ahmed Jobaer.

The three other accused are: Md Jahangir Alam from Dhaka's Green Road Mashiur Rahman area, from Bagrakosa village in Sherpur, and Subel Ahmed SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Souls founder Ronny Barua passes away Arts & Entertainment Desk

After fighting lung cancer since early 2020,

renowned musician, designer, theatre

personality and founding drummer of revolutionary pop rock band Souls, Subrata Barua Ronny passed away yesterday at 5:00am at a hospital in Dhaka.

He was 65 years old. Eminent musician and former Souls member, Naquib Khan, confirmed

the news. After independence,

MAY 27, 1971 Shamsuddoza Sajen FUND FOR EAST PAKISTANI

\$2.4 million by Britain were the first by governments for a fund for East Pakistani refugees in India, the office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees announced today.

Bangladesh legislators plead for recognition

ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

UNHCR added that nearly \$7 million had already been pledged to aid East Pakistani refugees. PLEĂ FOR RECOGNITION A Bangladesh

parliamentary delegation pleaded for immediate recognition of the Bangladesh government at a meeting of the MPs in New Delhi yesterday. The delegation SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



C'NAWABGANJ LOCKDOWN Mango traders incur losses

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Farmers and traders of Gopalbhog mangoes are incurring huge financial losses because of the ongoing sevenday lockdown in Chapainawabganj.

According to the

Seals helping scientists learn about melting glaciers

CNN ONLINE

Known as the Earth's "thermostat," Antarctica plays a vital role in regulating the planet's complex climate system.

Scientists are investigating how environmental changes in Antarctica will impact the rest of the world, but the continent's remote location and hostile climate, with winter temperatures that plummet to well below -100°F, make it an incredibly challenging environment for humans SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



Indian variant now Bangladeshis travelling to





REFUGEES Pledges of \$2.5 million by the United States and

Ronny started a choir group named Prantik Shilpi Goshtthi in Chattogram, where artistes covered songs by the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra. Inspired by Chattogram's then popular band Lightnings, he started SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



PRAYER TIMING MAY 27 Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-43 8-05 JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-47 8-35 SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Devotees pray at the Dharmarajika Buddhist Monastery in the capital's Bashabo on the occasion of Buddha Purnima, the largest religious festival of the Buddhist community. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

farmers and traders, the ongoing lockdown caused an unexpected shortage of customers in the local markets and barriers in the transportation of the produce.

The breed of mangoes started ripening and it is not possible to keep those on the trees any longer. If the situation remains the same, the farmers and traders will face a huge financial loss, they added. Johnny Ali, a mango

trader, said he purchased around 200kg of Gopalbhog mangoes yesterday morning but was unable to sell even a kg because of buyers' absence in the markets. SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

in 53 territories

Says WHO about the Covid-19 type AGENCIES

The coronavirus variant first detected in India has now been officially recorded in 53 territories, a World Health Organization report showed yesterday.

Additionally, the WHO has received information from unofficial sources that the B.1.617 variant has been found in seven other territories, figures in the UN health agency's weekly epidemiological update showed, taking the total to 60.

The report said B.1.617 had shown increased transmissibility, while disease severity and risk of infection were under investigation.

Globally over the past week, the number of new cases and deaths continued to decrease, with around 4.1 million new cases and 84,000 new deaths reported -- a 14 percent and two percent decrease respectively compared to the previous week

Israel will be punished

Warns foreign minister DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday warned that legal action will be taken if any Bangladeshi citizen travels to Israel.

"We don't recognise Israel. Anyone [Bangladeshi] going to Israel has to face punishment," he told reporters after the handover of pharmaceutical products for the people of Palestine to its Ambassador to SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



EDITOR & PUBLISHER : MAHFUZ ANAM. Printed by him from Transcraft Ltd, 229, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215, Tel: 09610222222, 9144330 & 9117796, Fax: 58156306, GPO Box No: 3257, for Advertisement: 01711623910, e-mail: editor@thedailvstar.net, reportino@thedailvstar.net, advertisement@thedailvstar.net