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SERVICE LIFE OF COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

Govt finally moves to set limits

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The government is finally going to fix the economic service life of all commercial vehicles, including buses and trucks, more than two years after a high-powered committee recommended it.

The committee had identified outdated vehicles as one of the major reasons behind road crashes and put forward a set of measures to reduce road accidents and bring discipline in the road transport sector.

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) will sit today with all the stakeholders -- experts, transport leaders, and vehicle manufacturers and importers -- to discuss the issue of setting the economic service life of commercial vehicles.

Currently, there is no fixed economic service life for such vehicles. Taking advantage of this, owners of decades-old buses and trucks are running their rickety vehicles.

Though the transport authority in 2010 banned over 20-year-old buses and over 25-year-old goods-carrying vehicles in the capital, many such run-down vehicles operate on district and inter-district highways, posing serious risk of road crashes and causing environmental pollution.

"We have started a process of fixing the economic service life of commercial vehicles in line with the committee's recommendations. As a part of it, we have called a meeting tomorrow [today]," BRTA Chairman Nur Mohammad Mazumder told The Daily Star yesterday.

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Owner of Wahed Mansion in Chawkbazar's Churihatta, which was badly damaged by a disastrous fire in February 2019, has changed its look by plastering the building and repainting it. Over 71 people were killed in the chemical-fuelled fire in Old Dhaka. After the incident, the government declared the building risky. Inset, the damaged building after the fire.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



HC asks for documents on Khaleda's birth date

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has sought relevant documents from the government in order to determine the actual date of birth of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

In response to a writ petition, the court yesterday asked authorities concerned of the government to provide the record regarding her birthday to it in 60 days.

The HC also issued a rule asking the respondents to show causes as to why their inaction to prosecute Khaleda Zia under the relevant law for celebrating her birthday on different days to deliberately

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Humpback whale spits out diver



CNN ONLINE

A Cape Cod lobster diver is safe Friday, following a fluke encounter with a humpback whale that nearly made him the leviathan's lunch.

Michael Packard was diving off the coast of Provincetown, Massachusetts, Friday, when the capital cetacean caught him unawares.

"I got down to about 45 feet of water, and all of a sudden I just felt

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Snare of Bigo Live runs deep

Live streaming app abused to rake in fortune, says CID; 5 arrested

MUNTAKIM SAAD

A 40-year-old reputed businessperson joined Bigo Live, a video streaming app, a year ago and spent around Tk 26 lakh on young women, who lured him through live streaming.

These women were recruited by Bigo's agents in Bangladesh. Recently, after being defrauded by one of the Bigo users, he complained to the Criminal Investigation Department of police.

When the CID nabbed one of the agents, it found a transaction of Tk 23 crore, only through his mobile banking merchant account. The CID then conducted raids in the capital's Karwan Bazar, Kataban, Chawkbazar and Mirpur areas on Saturday and arrested five people, including a Chinese national, who introduced himself as the country manager of Bigo Live in Bangladesh.

The arrestees are Jie Yao, 31, Mostafa Saif Reza, 26, Arif Hossain, 27, SM Nazmul Haque, 27, and Asmaul Husna, 28.

"We got some more names. Law enforcers have so far tracked down transactions of more than Tk 100 crore in banks and mobile financial service accounts of the arrestees and their accomplices. We suspect that the majority of the money earned through Bigo Live and Likee is siphoned from the country," Jamil Ahmed, deputy inspector general (cyber wing) of CID, told reporters at a press briefing yesterday.

A CID official, wishing not to be named, told The Daily Star that Jie Yao, who lives in Gulshan area, himself collected most of the money in cash from the hosting agents.

The official said that they first arrested Nazmul from his home in Kataban area. They found a transaction of Tk 23 crore made through his mobile banking accounts. On his mobile, the CID found a Whatsapp

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RELIEF GONE BAD Singair UNO served show-cause notice

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Manikganj's Singair Upazila Nirbahi Officer Runa Laila has been served a show-cause notice as relief materials kept in her garage were found rotten.

Deputy Commissioner SM Ferdous on Saturday issued the notice asking her to respond by yesterday, said sources.

The decision was made after reports were published in media on June 10.

The UNO kept 100 packets of relief materials in her garage and 90 packets were found rotten, according to intelligence agency.

Potato and onion of the packets have already rotted and rice and lentils were going bad.

There is also allegation that the poor were not getting food assistance though they called 333

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ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Yahya delays plan for power transfer

JUNE 14, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

YAHYA SAID TO DELAY PLAN FOR CIVIL RULE

Pakistan President Agha Mohammad Yahya Khan postponed the announcement of his plan for the transfer of power to a civilian government. The president, who rules by martial authority, said May 24 that he would announce the plan in two to three weeks' time.

The Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who met President Yahya today, said the delay was due to the Government's preoccupation with the budget, to be announced later this month.

Bhutto reiterated his demand for an "early and effective" transfer of power to the elected representatives, both at the national and provincial levels. He said Yahya was sincere about transferring power, but "a coterie of civil servants, defeated politicians and big business" had been trying to impede the process.

MUKTI FOJ ACTIVE ON WIDE FRONT IN BANGLADESH

The Mukti Foj guerillas were active on a wide

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G7 vows to take action on vaccines, climate issue

Rebukes Beijing on rights AFP, Carbis Bay

G7 leaders yesterday vowed to start delivering one billion doses of Covid vaccines and to step up action on climate change, in a US-led summit call to arms that also took on China and Russia.

In a final communique issued at their first physical summit in nearly two years, the leaders of the elite club largely hewed to US President Joe Biden's push to regain the West's cohesion after Donald Trump's tumultuous tenure.

"We will harness the power of democracy, freedom, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights to answer the biggest questions and overcome the greatest challenges," Biden and his colleagues from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan said.

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RMG workers take to street demanding arrears

1 die trying to escape police chase

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A readymade garment worker was killed in a clash between police and factory workers at Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) in Savar yesterday.

The victim is Jasmine Begum, a swing operator at Goldtex Garments Limited, said police.

Asaduzzaman, superintendent of Dhaka Industrial Police (zone-1), said, "She died after hitting an electric pole while trying to escape the clash."

More than 600 workers of Lenny Fashion Ltd and

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PRAYER TIMING JUNE 14

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-50 8-15
JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Workers of two closed factories of Dhaka Export Processing Zone yesterday blocked the Nabinagar-Chandra highway in front of DEPZ in Ashulia, demanding their arrears. A female RMG worker was killed as police and workers clashed.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

FLASHING GUNS AT PWD OFFICE Two pro-AL contractors surrender arms



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Following reports that pro-Awami League contractors wielded guns during their showdown at the Public Works Department office in Pabna, two contractors handed over their firearms to police yesterday.

Police said they were looking into the incident that took place on June 6, but PWD has yet to file any complaint over this.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday condemned the incident and demanded proper investigation and punishment of the culprits.

It was reported that on June 6, a group of pro-AL contractors went to the PWD office in Pabna carrying firearms. Six days later, security camera footage of the office was leaked to journalists.

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