

AIR INDIA SALE
Tata takes over the struggling state-run carrier after winning 180b rupee bid
SEE PAGE 5

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"The government won't take responsibility for those who incurred losses while trading on e-commerce platforms in the country."
COMMERCE MINISTER TIPU MUNSHI



"Those who contested elections defying party's command will not get party nomination in any polls."
AWAMI LEAGUE GEN SECY OBAIDUL QUADER



"Not to have equitable distribution of vaccines is not only a question of being immoral: it is also a question of being stupid."
UN CHIEF ANTONIO GUTERRES

SHIA MOSQUE IN AFGHANISTAN

Blast kills 55

IS suicide bomber attacks during Friday prayers

AGENCIES

A suicide bomb attack on worshippers at a Shia mosque in the Afghan city of Kunduz killed at least 55 people yesterday, in the bloodiest assault since US forces left the country.

Scores more victims from the minority community were wounded in the blast, which appears designed to further destabilise Afghanistan in the wake of the Taliban takeover.

The extremist Islamic State group, bitter rivals of the Taliban, has claimed responsibility of the blast in a statement. The group has repeatedly targeted Shias in a bid to stir up sectarian violence in Sunni-majority Afghanistan.



There are conflicting reports about the number of casualties. A United Nations agency said the explosion killed or wounded more than 100 people.

"Initial information indicates more than 100 people killed and injured in a suicide blast inside the mosque," the UN mission to Afghanistan said in a tweet.

A medical source at the Kunduz

Provincial Hospital said that 35 dead and more than 55 wounded had been taken there, while Doctors Without Borders (MSF) hospital said 20 were dead and scores more wounded.

Matiullah Rohani, director of culture and information in Kunduz for Afghanistan's new Taliban government, confirmed to AFP that the deadly incident was a suicide attack and that 46 people had died and 143 were wounded.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid had earlier said "an explosion took place in a mosque of our Shia compatriots" in Kunduz.

Residents of Kunduz, the capital of a province of the same name, told AFP the blast hit Gozar-e-Sayed Abad Mosque during Friday prayers, the most important of the week for Muslims.

An international aid worker at the MSF hospital in the city told AFP there were fears the death toll could rise even further.

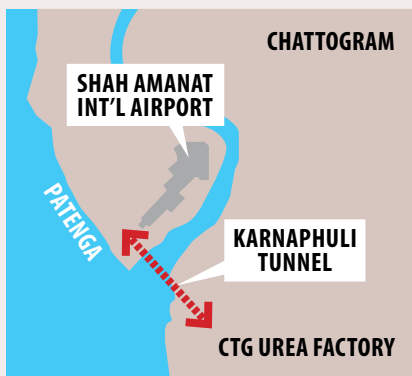
"Hundreds of people are gathered at the main gate of the hospital and crying for their relatives but armed Taliban guys are

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Carrying bags in his hands, a jaywalker crosses the central reservation on Dhaka-Mawa Expressway in the capital's Postagola. Jaywalking often jeopardises people's lives and disrupts the flow of traffic. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



LENGTH	3.32km
NUMBER OF LANES	4
COST	Tk 10,374cr
DEADLINE	Dec 2022
PROGRESS	73%
APPROACH ROAD	5.35km
FUNDING	EXIM BANK OF CHINA Tk 5,913.19cr BANGLADESH GOVT Tk 4,461.23cr

Tunnel of hope

Breakthrough achieved in construction of maiden underwater network connecting both sides of Karnaphuli

MOHAMMAD SUMAN, Chattogram

Construction of the tunnel under the Karnaphuli river reached a major milestone with completion of boring on Thursday afternoon.

Seventy-three percent of the physical work for the 3.32km tunnel is now done.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Tunnel will significantly reduce congestion on both sides of the river and shorten travel time.

Project officials said they might open the tunnel to traffic much sooner than the original deadline of December 2022.

A tunnel boring machine was used to complete the task in two years and four months.

The project authorities are now constructing 5.35km of approach

roads, building the road inside the tunnel, and setting up utility lines.

"The tunnel will connect the southern and northern parts of Chattogram district, opening up economic opportunities for people in the region," said Mahbul Alam, president of Chattogram Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"The Karnaphuli river divides Chattogram into two parts. The tunnel will connect the city and Anwara upazila. The tunnel will also be used as an alternative road to Cox's Bazar, Teknaf and Matarbari and northern Chattogram," he added.

Harunur Rashid Chowdhury, project director of the Multilane Road Tunnel under the River

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Journo pair share Nobel Peace Prize



Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov

AFP, Oslo

Journalists Maria Ressa of the Philippines and Dmitry Muratov of Russia yesterday won the Nobel Peace Prize for fighting for freedom of expression at a time when democracy is increasingly under threat.

Ressa, who is also a US citizen, is co-founder of Rappler, a digital media company for investigative journalism. Muratov is a co-founder of Russia's leading independent newspaper Novaya Gazeta.

The pair were honoured "for their efforts to safeguard freedom of expression, which is a precondition for democracy and lasting peace," said the chairwoman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, Berit Reiss-Andersen.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

UK recognises Bangladesh job certificate

No quarantine required there after full vaccination

UNB, Dhaka

Fully vaccinated Bangladeshi nationals will no longer have to remain in self-isolation on arrival in the UK as the British government added Bangladesh to its list of countries with approved proof of Covid-19 vaccination.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said, "Bangladesh vaccine certification is now recognised by the British authorities. Our Mission contacted them and described our processes and now they recognise our vaccine certification."

High Commissioner for Bangladesh to the UK Saida Muna Tasneem said, "The decision is a reflection of warm bilateral relations between Bangladesh and the UK."

The decision is also a result of the High Commission's sustained diplomatic efforts to remove the remaining obstacles to business, tourism and essential travel between the two countries, she added.

"From 4:00am Monday, Bangladeshi nationals, fully vaccinated with UK-approved vaccines, will no longer require a 10-day hotel or home quarantine and a pre-departure Covid test."

However, a Covid test should be taken on or before Day 2 after arrival in the UK.

Also, Vaccination certificates issued by relevant Bangladesh authorities are required for all travellers as proof of inoculation status.

The travellers who have not been fully vaccinated with a UK-authorised jab must quarantine for 10 days, either at

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



A tea stall in the capital's Shyampur has put up a notice saying the price of a cup of tea has been fixed at Tk 7, an increase of Tk 2, as the prices of sugar and milk have gone up. Sugar now sells at Tk 90 a kg, up from Tk 75 about a month ago. The price of condensed milk has also soared to Tk 75 per 400gm can, an increase of Tk20 from a month ago. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Univ teacher loses arm on tragic travel

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A university teacher travelling by bus lost his right arm as a truck coming



from the opposite direction scraped the side of the bus in Phulpur, Mymensingh, on Thursday night.

Hasan Morshed Ali, 35, assistant professor of animal husbandry at Bangladesh Agricultural University, was resting his right arm out the window of the moving bus when the crash happened, said Abdullah Al Mamun, officer-in-charge of Phulpur Police Station.

Nobody else was seriously injured, police said, quoting locals.

The incident took place in the Banshati area on Mymensingh-Sherpur road around 8:00pm.

The bus driver later abandoned the vehicle in front of Nakla Upazila Health Complex in Sherpur

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6