

IN THE MAIN STRUCTURE OF PADMA BRIDGE
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PADMA BRIDGE

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Two killed as pick-up overturns on Padma Bridge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

At least two persons were killed and three others injured as a Dhaka-bound pick-up overturned on the Padma Bridge last night, bringing vehicular movement on the bridge to a halt for about 15 minutes.

The dead are Raju Khandaker, 45, a passenger of the pick-up, and Md Kawsar, 23, helper of the vehicle's driver.

The pick-up carrying gas cylinders from Shariatpur flipped over near pillar no-17 on the bridge around 9:45pm, said Md Nazrul Islam, assistant sub-inspector of Padma Bridge North Police Station.

Fatally wounded Raju and Kawsar, along with three other injured, were taken to Sreenagar Upazila Health Complex.

The police officer said they seized the pick-up. Vehicular movement on the bridge resumed around 10:00pm.

DRAFT DATA PROTECTION ACT More control feared if data stored locally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government, in its new draft of the data protection act, focuses on preventing citizen's data from going abroad, as certain types of data "must physically stay within the borders".

Stakeholders, however, worry it will serve to tighten control on domestic and foreign organisations, and international companies.

The observations came at a meeting held yesterday in the capital's Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel, where the government's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Division unveiled the latest draft.

With this draft law, Bangladesh joins the ranks of the countries, including India, Russia, China and, to certain extents, Spain, Indonesia and Australia, which are already implementing or mulling the implementation of localisation of personal data.

According to the latest draft, the government will set up a data protection office, which will be in charge of implementing this law.

This office will have the right to access all forms of data, order any "data controller" in any organisation to "provide any data it requires to perform its tasks", and physically enter any space or access any equipment where data is stored.

The draft also includes a provision saying that domestic and foreign organisations have to store

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A farmer, with a boatful of freshly harvested guavas, enters the floating market at the Atgar-Kuriyana Bazar in Pirojpur's Nesarabad upazila. Harvesting of the fruit began two weeks ago and is expected to continue for two more months. The photo was taken yesterday.

SSC exams to begin on September 15 To be held on full syllabus with fewer breaks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Dipu Moni yesterday advised the candidates of SSC and its equivalent examinations to be prepared for a tight exam schedule this year.

Announcing the schedule at a press briefing at the Secretariat, she said the breaks between exams will be shorter than before.

The SSC and equivalent exams will begin on September 15, while HSC and equivalent exams will take place in November, the minister said, adding all exams will be held on full syllabuses.

"We wanted to begin the examinations in mid-August. As there is a possibility of another spell

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Lawmakers turn lawbreakers

Blinded by power, some ruling AL MPs get spotlight for all the wrong reasons



RASHIDUL HASAN and ASHIK ABDULLAH AQU

They are lawmakers. Yet they took the law into their own hands.

Of late, some ruling party MPs have beaten up a teacher, party workers and threatened and verbally abused a government official, forgetting their primary job of standing by the people and enacting laws.

Their unruly and aggressive behaviour generated outrage even within the party, besides hogging the headlines and touching off social media firestorms.

The Daily Star has information on six such instances where MPs crossed all limits. The case in point can be the latest occurrence involving AL MP Razee Mohammad Fakhru.

On Saturday, the Cumilla-4 (Debidwar) lawmaker allegedly punched and kicked Debidwar Upazila Chairman Abul Kalam Azad during a meeting at the LD Hall of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, stirring up resentment among the party grassroots.

Three AL leaders of Cumilla present in the meeting – Raushan Ali Master, AKM Shafiqul Alam

and Mehdi Hasan – confirmed this while talking to The Daily Star.

They alleged that Fakhru publicly beat up Abul Kalam over the formation of the party committee for Elahabad union under Debidwar upazila.

Raushan Ali, general secretary of Cumilla north AL, said when the names of president and secretary of Elahabad union AL were announced, the lawmaker became furious as Abul Kalam supported the committee.

Mehedi, a member of Cumilla north AL who was sitting close to

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EU delegation here to talk about trade standards

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A six-member delegation of the European Parliament arrived in Dhaka yesterday to learn about the country's trade with Europe and its progress in adapting to more demanding trade standards.

The trade committee led by Heidi Hautala also includes José Manuel García-Margallo, Sven Simon, Agnes Jongerius, Jordi Cañas and Maximilian Krah, according to a statement of the European Parliament.

They will meet ministers of commerce, labour, justice and foreign affairs, and will hold discussions with relevant parliamentary committees. They will talk to employee associations, trade unions and civil society organisations

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Social life helps orphaned elephants overcome loss

AFP, Paris

Orphaned elephants manage to overcome the loss of their mother by living in a herd, highlighting the importance of a social life for the species, according to a study.

Scientists investigated the consequences of a mother elephant's death on her child by examining the level of stress hormones in the excrement of 37 young elephants in Kenya between 2015 and 2016.

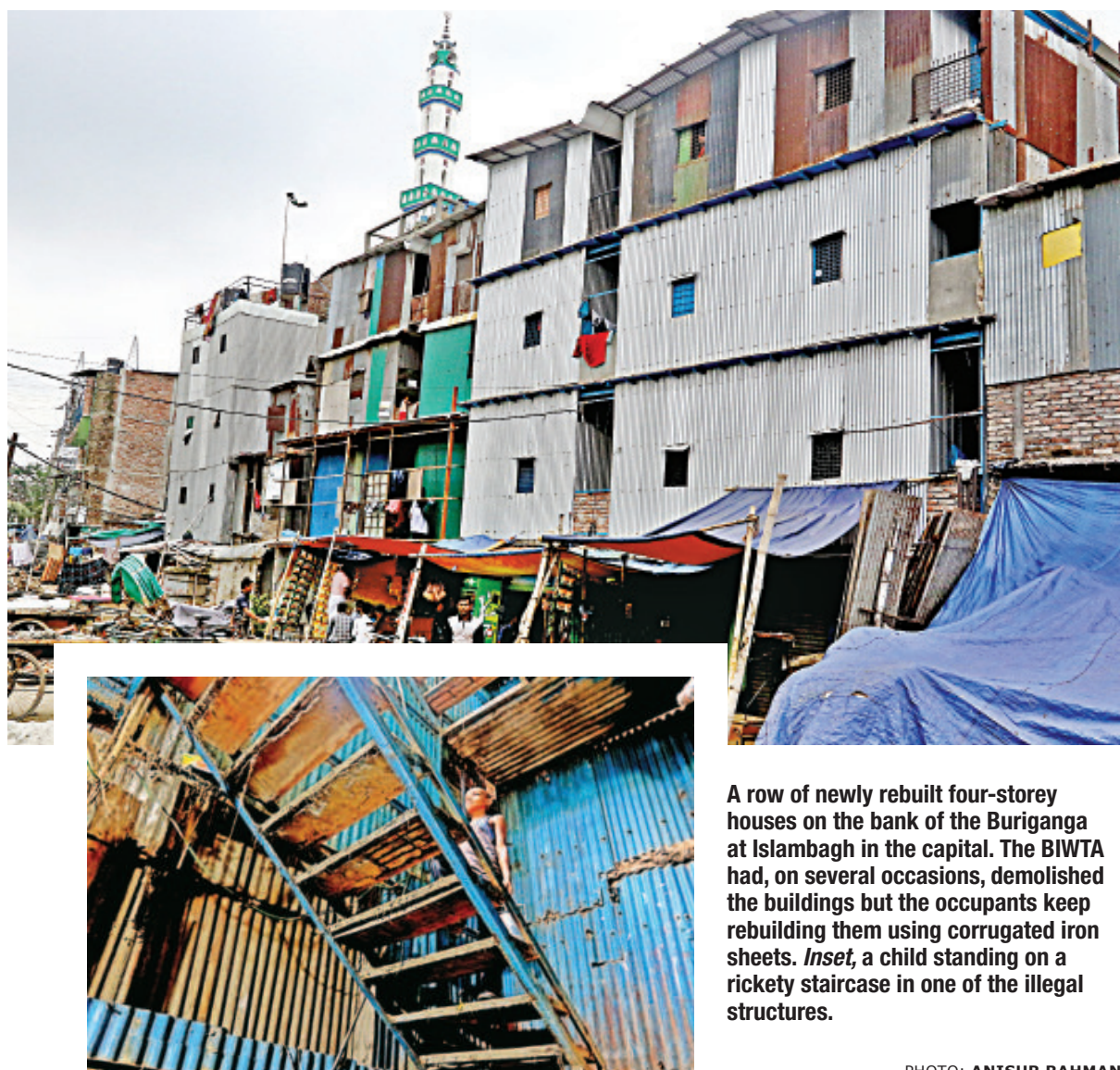
Among the young elephants, 25 had lost their mother between one and 19 years before from poaching or drought.

Of the 25 orphans, 20 stayed within the same family unit after the mother's death, while five joined an unrelated group.

The researchers found that stress hormones were at similar levels in the long term among orphans and the other elephants, even though the former were expected to show more stress symptoms in the absence of maternal care.

Any stress among the orphans did not last long, showing their "resilience" and the effect of social

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A row of newly rebuilt four-storey houses on the bank of the Buriganga at Islambagh in the capital. The BIWTA had, on several occasions, demolished the buildings but the occupants keep rebuilding them using corrugated iron sheets. Inset, a child standing on a rickety staircase in one of the illegal structures.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

YUASA

JAPAN SOLAR

We are deeply saddened and shocked at the untimely and tragic death of a true friend of Bangladesh, the honorable former Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Shinzo Abe.

Our sincere thoughts and prayers are with our Japanese friends and colleagues who are in mourning following the tragedy.