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A significant portion of Kazi Alauddin Road in Old Dhaka remains dug up as part of a drainage work. As the work drags on for over two months, locals continue to suffer. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

576 died in 505 road accidents last month

Says Jatri Kalyan Samity report

UNB, Dhaka

A total 576 people were killed and 1,055 injured in 505 road accidents across the country in July, said a report of Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity.

Also, 48 people died in 47 railway accidents while 21 died and 15 were injured in 16 accidents on waterway, it said.

The report, based on analysis of news on accidents published in the country's national and regional dailies and online news portals during the period, was published yesterday.

In total, 644 people were killed and 1,075 injured in 644 accidents on roads, waterways and railways across the country in July.

Of the fatalities on road, 195 people died and 122 others were injured in some 180 motorbike accidents across the country last month, which is 31.61 percent of the total fatalities and 35.64 percent of the total number of accidents.

Among those killed in road accidents in July, 119 were drivers, 77 pedestrians, 17 transport workers, 29 students, seven teachers, three members of law enforcement agencies, one army personnel, one navy personnel, one Border Guard Bangladesh member, one fire service man, 82 women, 42 children and seven activists

of different political parties.

Dhaka division saw most of the fatalities and accidents with 173 people killed and 271 injured in 157 road accidents, while the figures are lowest in Barishal division with 38 killed and 138 injured in 23 road crashes.

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Among the vehicles involved in the accidents were 18.74 percent buses, 22.84 percent pick-up vans, covered vans and lorries, 6.83 percent private cars, jeeps and minibuses, 5.74 percent CNG-run auto-rickshaws, 25.99 percent motorbikes, 15.32 percent battery-run human hauliers and 4.51 percent three-wheelers.

Of the accidents, 38.61 percent occurred on national highways, 30.69 percent on regional highways and 24.15 percent on roads.

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ATTACK ON FEMALE FOOTBALLERS

PM stands by the girls

UNB, Khulna

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed solidarity with the female footballers who were attacked in Khulna's Batiaghata area.

Sheikh Salahuddin Jewel, lawmaker from Khulna-2 constituency, conveyed the message while talking to the girls.

"The PM said the ground where female footballers train will be renovated and a football academy will be built there," said Jewel.

Salauddin Jewel was accompanied by Khulna administration officials.

Meanwhile, Sadia Nasreen, the captain of the team, said, "The premier has directed the

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PHOTO: COLLECTED

Sit together to avoid conflict

Speakers urge political parties ahead of national polls

DU CORRESPONDENT

Civil society platform Shushashoner Jonno Nagarik yesterday called for dialogue and consensus among political parties to resolve the current political tension.

The next parliamentary polls should be inclusive and competitive. But the current political situation is unsuitable for such an election, said speakers at a human chain in the capital's Shahbagh.

Awami League and its allies are saying that next general polls should be held in line with the constitution, meaning it should be held under the current government. Meanwhile, the opposition BNP is on the street with their demand for elections under a neutral election time government, they explained.

As the election approaches, streets are getting heated. There are also incidents of clashes and deaths on streets, said Dilip Kumar Sarkar, Shujan coordinator.

Shujan believes, if the political parties do not come to an agreement, the country will head towards a

"conflict", he said.

"A participatory, competitive, peaceful, fair, and acceptable election requires dialogue and mutual understanding among political parties," he added.

Shujan directed political parties to come to a unanimous decision regarding the type of government to be in power during the upcoming national polls.

"Concession is necessary when two parties look to come to a consensus. We were able to reach a common conclusion through discussion in 1996, and that played as a level field during the polls. However, the settlement was broken following the 15th amendment of our constitution," said Shujan secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar.

"The elections will not be fair, if we fail to create a level playing field", he added.

Shujan leader Zakir Hossain said, even after 52 years of independence, the government has failed to ensure fair elections.

Dhaka University Prof Robaet

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BNP a 'blister' in country's politics: Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said BNP is a "blister" in the country's political arena.

Quader said this while talking to reporters after placing wreaths at Banani Graveyard on the 74th birth anniversary of Sheikh Kamal, eldest son of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"Mirza Fakhrul claims that Awami League has been bowled out by their googly. But with a no ball, it doesn't matter if it's a googly," he said.

Quader said, "BNP has once again resorted to the politics of terror and conspiracy to gain power through backdoors."

Speaking there, Information Minister Hasan Mahmud said if Sheikh Kamal wasn't brutally murdered, he



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Promote renewable energy to improve air quality: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government needs to promote renewable energy to improve the country's air quality, especially in the cities and other urban areas, stressed speakers at an event yesterday.

They made the remarks at a press conference jointly organised by Center for Atmospheric Pollution Studies (CAPS), Bangladesh Resource Center for Indigenous Knowledge (Barcik) and World Vision Bangladesh at Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) in the capital.

In a keynote speech, CAPS Founding Chairman Prof Ahmad Kamruzzaman Majumder said use of renewable energy plays an important role in improving air quality and energy development.

Use of fossil fuels constantly increases the extent of greenhouse gas emissions, which significantly deteriorate the air quality, he mentioned.

Promoting use of renewable energy and reducing fossil fuel dependency can be effective solutions to address the aforementioned challenges, he added.

Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon joint secretary

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Every citizen has the right to clean air, and the government has the responsibility of ensuring this.

DOMINIC SENTU GOMES
Technical coordinator,
World Vision Bangladesh

Making fake notes for smuggling yaba

3 members of syndicate held in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A counterfeit currency-making syndicate was plotting to smuggle a large consignment of yaba pills from Teknaf to Dhaka using forged currency.

As a part of the plan, they managed to print fabricated notes amounting to approximately Tk 10.20 lakh.

Since 2020, this syndicate has been in the business of creating counterfeit Indian rupees, which were used not only to purchase narcotics but also as payment for smuggling consignments, including goods like sarees.

The syndicate's activities extended beyond mere transactional use, as they engaged in distributing the fake rupees across various border points. They distributed around five crore counterfeit rupees into the market so far.

It cost them between Tk 2,000 to Tk 2,500 to make one lakh fake Indian rupees, which were then sold for Tk 8,000. Similarly, the syndicate sold one lakh fake Bangladeshi notes for Tk 12,000.

Deputy Commissioner Md Jafar Hossain of Lalbagh Division of Police revealed these while addressing the media at the Dhaka Metropolitan Police centre

yesterday.

These findings followed the arrest of three syndicate members in Lalbagh and Keraniganj areas on Friday. The arrestees are Sajjad Hossain Robin, 38, his brother Sadman Hossain Hridoy, 30, and their cousin Md Mahi, 19.

The syndicate's activities extended beyond mere transactional use, as they engaged in distributing the fake rupees across various border points. They distributed around five crore counterfeit rupees into the market so far.

Authorities seized approximately one lakh counterfeit Indian rupees from their possession, along with equipment like printers, ink, and fake note production materials.

Police first arrested Mahi, confiscating 50,000 fake notes from him in Lalbagh.

Based on the lead, a subsequent operation in Keraniganj led to the arrest of Robin and Sadman, accompanied by the

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Turning Dholaikhal reservoir into a park

DSCC plans to finish project by April next year

DIPAN NANDY

The Dhaka South City Corporation has taken an ambitious project to rejuvenate the Dholaikhal reservoir, which has long been used as a garbage dump. As per the project, DSCC will transform it into a park.

The project aims to create a pleasant environment and an attractive recreational space, surpassing the allure of Hatirjheel, according to officials.

DSCC Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh inaugurated the construction work on May 18 this year, expressing his vision for the area's transformation.

"The environment of Dholaikhal water retention pond will be more beautiful than Hatirjheel when the project will be completed," the mayor said at the inauguration ceremony.

"Dholaikhal reservoir is a lung of Old Dhaka. The present situation of this place will be changed within the next year and



VIEW OF ENTRY PLAZA

a more beautiful and greener than Hatirjheel will be created."

Two contractors — Masud Hitech Engineering Limited and Charu Enterprises — have been tasked with the construction works of the Dholaikhal reservoir development project and are expected to complete the project within one year and two months, DSCC sources said.

development work is ongoing under the "Greening of Dholaikhal Reservoir and Development of Aesthetic Environment" project. It will cover an area of 5,309 acres, including a pond that spans 2 lakh square foot area.

According to the revitalisation plan, the primary focus of the project is to create a pedestrian-friendly environment. A 1,968 feet pedestrian path and a 2,155

feet bicycle lane will be built to promote non-motorised transportation and encourage outdoor activities.

The park will provide ample green spaces, covering a 60,000 square feet area, with a designated 2,130 square feet area for children.

The centrepiece of the park will be the two amphitheatres, designed to host public events and gatherings. The larger amphitheatre will span 5,890 square feet, accommodating up to 350 people, while the smaller one, covering 2,302 square feet, will offer seating arrangements for 150 people. Additionally, a 1,076 square feet ghat will be constructed, adding to the park's appeal. There will also be a food court for the visitors.

With an estimated cost of Tk 19.88 crore, the project commenced on February 23 this year and is set to conclude by April 23, 2024.

"Once the project is completed,

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