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## We want to encourage joyful learning

Says PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government wants to develop an education system in the country that enables students to pursue their studies with interest and joy.

The premier said this while inaugurating the distribution of stipends, tuition fees and awards among insolvent and meritorious students at a programme in the city's Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

In the event, the PM also conferred the awards to the most talented students of Bangabandhu Srijanshil Medha Onneshan-2024 (Bangabandhu Creative Talent Search-2024) and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Scholar Award-2023.

Hasina said her government modified textbooks and syllabuses, and took initiative for a

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina awards a student at a programme as part of the Bangabandhu Srijanshil Medha Onneshan-2024 (Bangabandhu Creative Talent Search-2024) and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Scholar Award-2023. At the event, the premier also inaugurated the distribution of stipends, tuition fees and awards among insolvent and meritorious students. The programme was held in the city's Osmani Memorial Auditorium yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

## Help us resolve Rohingya crisis

PM urges China during meeting with Chinese minister Liu Jianchao

AGENCIES

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sought Chinese support to solve the Rohingya crisis quickly.

"It has already been six years since the influx of the forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals to Bangladesh. Bangladesh is now very much worried about the Rohingya crisis due to the uncertainty in finding solutions," she said.

The premier said this at a meeting with visiting Minister of International Department of the Communist Party of China Liu Jianchao at her Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban office, reports BSS.

PM's press secretary M Nayeemul Islam Khan briefed the reporters afterwards.

Nayeemul quoted Hasina as saying, "It [Rohingya crisis] is very much frustrating and worrying for us." He said the premier told the Chinese minister that "It's a special message [from myself] to convey to the Chinese president [to resolve the Rohingya issue]."

Liu Jianchao said China is committed and working with Myanmar to facilitate repatriation of the Rohingyas from Bangladesh, adds UNB.

"Even the Myanmar government does not have the position to implement any plan [regarding this issue]. The civil war situation has turned into a complex issue due to the conflicting situation [in Myanmar]," he said.

Jianchao also said China realises that Bangladesh is affected due to the Rohingya issue and they highly appreciate that Bangladesh is supporting the Rohingyas on humanitarian grounds.

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## 'Drive on to recover Babu's three mobile phones for evidence'

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Kazi Kamal Ahmed Babu, the relief and social welfare affairs secretary of the Jhenaidah Awami League, has allegedly used his cell phone to

communicate and exchange photos with the suspected killer of lawmaker Anwarul Azim Anar. Babu communicated with the alleged coordinator of the killing mission Amanullah alias Shimul Bhuiyan in phases, on behalf of Saidul Karim Mintu, general secretary of Jhenaidah AL, claimed detectives.

Mintu advised Babu to dispose of three cell phones used in communication to destroy evidence. Subsequently, the phones were discarded in two

ponds near Payra Chattar in the district. Babu then filed a general diary reporting his phones were lost as per Mintu's direction, the cops said.

An official investigating the incident and a report submitted to the court by the Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police revealed this information.

According to the investigation progress report, Amanullah returned from Kolkata after executing the killing mission on May 15 and communicated with Babu on May 16 night to give him updates.

At one stage, Babu and Amanullah held a meeting at Bhanga in Faridpur and

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MP AZIM MURDER

## EID JOURNEY

## Road crashes kill 262 in 13 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 262 people were killed and 543 were injured in 251 road crashes in the 13 days centring the Eid-ul-Azha holiday, said Road Safety Foundation yesterday.

Of them, 32 were women and 44 children.

Of the casualties, 104 were killed in 129 bike related crashes between June 11 and June 23, which is 39.69 percent of the total deaths, it said through a press release.

The rate of motorcycle accidents was 51.39 percent, a 13.31 percent rise compared to the same period last year.

During this time, there were seven waterway accidents, resulting in 12 deaths and 3 injuries. There were also 16 railway accidents in which 14 people were killed and eight injured. Regional statistics of the accidents indicate that 28.68 percent of the accidents occurred in Dhaka division. Of them, 18 took place in the capital, resulting in 14 deaths and 11 injuries.

The organisation has also identified 10 main causes behind these road accidents, which include faulty vehicles, reckless speeding, incompetence and physical-mental illness of drivers, plying of slow moving vehicles on highways, and reckless bike riding by the youth.

It has also made several recommendations, like ensuring strict monitoring systems on roads, waterways, and railways before and after Eid, formulating sustainable transport strategies, and implementing the "Road Transport Act-2018" without any hindrance.

Road Safety Foundation prepared the data by compiling several media reports. Referring to the IRAP (International Road Assessment Programme) method, the organisation said the country incurred a Tk 998.55 crore loss of human resources due to road crashes.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

These makeshift bridges set up by locals over a canal are being traversed daily. Some of them are even being used by battery-run rickshaws. This sort of temporary solution pose a risk to pedestrians as they could collapse at any moment. The photo was taken in the Jatrabari area recently.

## 'BPSA statement to encourage corrupt people'

Says Peshajibi Parishad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The recent statement by the Bangladesh Police Service Association regarding the media and journalism would embolden corrupt individuals, said Bangladesh Somnilito Peshajibi Parishad in a statement yesterday.

The BSPP, a platform of pro-BNP professionals, described the police association's statement as a veiled threat to independent media and impartial journalism, aimed at shielding corrupt officials.

In the statement signed by its convener Dr AZM Zahid Hossain and member secretary Quader Gani Chowdhury, the BSPP said such threats are indicative of a police state.

The BSPP criticised the home ministry for

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## CTG KALURGHAT RAIL AND ROAD BRIDGE Project to see light of day after nearly a decade

Loan agreement with S Korea to be signed Thursday

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

After nearly a decade of planning, the complexities surrounding a project for a rail and road bridge at Kalurghat in Chattogram are finally set to be resolved with a loan agreement to be signed this week.

The Economic Relations Division (ERD) will sign a loan deal with South Korea on Thursday for the Tk 11,561 core project, officials said.

The Development Project Proposal (DPP) of the long-awaited project is now pending with the Planning Commission after the completion of all procedures and is expected to be approved soon, they said.

The new dual-gauge double-line rail plus double-lane road bridge is expected to replace the existing dilapidated bridge

### AT A GLANCE

- Project Cost Tk 11,561cr
- South Korea to provide Tk 7,128cr loan
- Project Deadline Dec 2030
- 1 year defect liability period
- Project first taken in 2014
- Initial estimated cost Tk 1,163.27cr

within the next five and a half years.

The proposed deadline for the project is December 2030, with a one-year defect liability period.

"With the signing of the loan deal, we hope all uncertainty over the project

will be dispelled," Sardar Shahadat Ali, director general of Bangladesh Railway, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Built in 1931, the metre-gauge single-line rail bridge was reconfigured in 1962 so that vehicles could use it too.

But the bridge has become almost unsafe and the authorities have to repair the bridge occasionally, with the latest one in last year, to keep it usable. Trains have a speed limit of 10 kmph on the bridge.

Construction of the new bridge became more important after the opening of Chattogram-Cox's Bazar rail line last year, as the capacity of the new line could not be used due to bottlenecks.

However, the process to replace the bridge started in 2014 when the government

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