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## DC's vehicle veers off road, kills child

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A toddler was killed and his mother critically injured after they were hit by the SUV of Cox's Bazar deputy commissioner yesterday.

The crash happened as a motorcycle driving down the wrong side of the road fell under the wheel of the SUV, causing it to veer off course and hit the victims in the Mithachhari Kainmar Ghona area of Ramu, said Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Salauddin.

Tanzim, 2-year-old son of Mohammad Shahin and Rubina Akhter, was pronounced dead at a hospital, he added.

Rubina was taken to Chattogram Medical College Hospital with critical injuries.

Salauddin, who was in the vehicle, said a professional chauffeur was driving him to Ukhia at the time.

He added that the motorcyclist, who was on the wrong side to avoid a pothole, lost control and fell trying to avert a direct collision with the SUV.

The biker suffered minor injuries.

"As the front left tyre of the SUV

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Smoke billows over southern Lebanon following an Israeli strike amid ongoing cross-border hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, as seen from Tyre, Lebanon yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

'Ice has started to melt'

Fakhrul on BNP's relations with India

ANI, Dhaka



The BNP believes that the "ice has started to melt" with India after the takeover of an interim government following the student-led mass uprising that toppled the Sheikh Hasina-led government.

The party has been critical of some of the initiatives and agreements concluded with India over the past 15 years during the tenure of Hasina.

Recently, in a significant political outreach, Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma held a meeting with BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir at the BNP office to discuss strengthening relationship.

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## Constitutional changes should reflect people's will

Say speakers at a discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Any changes to Bangladesh's constitution should reflect the will of its people and the charter must be liberal and inclusive, speakers at a discussion said yesterday.

They asserted that the constitution should not solely cater to the will of the majority.

Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Trust (BLAST) and Banglar Pathshala jointly organised the discussion on the need for a new constitution.

The speakers expressed worries that there is a lack of consensus on the constitution's core principles among the people. They recommended the authorities first work towards reaching a consensus.

"Before we can decide whether we need a new constitution or the current one will be amended, we have to determine what changes are necessary," said Prof Muhammad Ekramul Haque of comparative constitutional law at Dhaka University.

Barrister Mustafizur Rahman Khan, a senior Supreme Court lawyer, said, "If we can identify that a certain clause of the constitution advanced fascism, then we can amend that. But if we want to change everything just because we can, we are being opportunists. We should not use this as a chance to advance our own agendas."

While there is concern that the constitution allows an outgoing prime minister to retain office

until a new premier takes over, the constitution does not deal with an absconding prime minister, and so such fears can be assuaged, he said.

"Article 70 of the constitution prohibits floor-crossing, and says that you [a lawmaker] cannot vote against your own party. This is the breeding ground of fascism. If you are unable to criticise your party, you cease to be representative of the people," said Nafiu Alam Shupto, an associate at The Legal Circle.

Qazi Zahed Iqbal, another Supreme Court lawyer, said they want a constitution which would ensure equal power for the president and the prime minister.

Samia Sagar Tasmi, a law student who actively participated in the Anti-discrimination Student Movement, said the current constitution stipulates that the incumbent interim government must hold general elections within 90 days after taking office.

"How can we legitimise this government without amending the constitution?"

she said.

According to the speakers, the process of framing a new constitution will lay bare the societal fault lines.

Lawyer Zahed questioned if all stakeholders could reach a consensus on drafting a new constitution.

Psymhe Wadud, a lecturer at Dhaka University,

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BFIU seeks bank account details of six ex-ministers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) has sought bank account details of four former ministers, two state ministers and three ex-MPs of the Awami League.

The ministers are Golam Dastagir Gazi, former textiles and jute minister; Faridul Haque Khan, ex-religious affairs minister; Hasanul Haq Inu, former information minister; and Anwar Hossain Manju, minister of water resources.

The account details of Enamur Rahman, the former state minister for disaster management and relief, and Zahid Ahsan Russel, the ex-state minister for youth and sports, were also sought.

The three ex-lawmakers are Benizar Ahmed from Dhaka-20, Kazi Nabil Ahmed from Jashore-3 and Shahidul Islam Bakul from Natore-1.

The anti-money laundering agency asked banks and non-bank financial institutions to send the information of savings, current, fixed deposit receipt (FDR),

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## Israel rejects truce proposal from US

Vows to keep fighting Hezbollah 'until victory'; 28 more killed in Israeli strikes in Lebanon

REUTERS, Beirut

Israel yesterday rejected global calls for a ceasefire with Lebanon's Hezbollah movement, defying its biggest ally the US and pressing ahead with strikes that have killed hundreds in Lebanon and heightened fears of an all-out regional war.

An Israeli warplane struck the edges of the capital Beirut, killing two people and wounding 15, including a woman in critical condition, Lebanon's health ministry said. That took deaths from hits overnight and during yesterday to 28.

The strike killed the head of one of Hezbollah's air force units, Mohammad Surur, two security sources said.

Smoke was seen rising after the hit near an area where several Hezbollah facilities are located and many civilians also live and work. Hezbollah's Al-Manar TV broadcast images of a damaged upper floor of a building.

On the Israeli side of the border with Lebanon, the army staged an exercise simulating a ground invasion - a potential next stage after relentless airstrikes and explosions of communications devices.

Israel has vowed to secure its north and return thousands of citizens to communities there who have evacuated since Hezbollah launched a campaign of cross-border strikes last

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Norway to launch world's first CO2 storage service

AFP, Oygarden

Norway is set to inaugurate the gateway to a massive undersea vault for carbon dioxide, a crucial step before opening what its operator calls the first commercial service offering CO2 transport and storage.

The Northern Lights project plans to take CO2 emissions captured at factory smokestacks in Europe and inject them into geological reservoirs under the seabed.

The aim is to prevent the emissions from being released into the atmosphere, and thereby help halt climate change.

On the island of Oygarden, a key milestone was set to be marked yesterday with the inauguration of a terminal built on the shores of the North Sea, its shiny storage tanks rising up against the sky.

It is here that the liquified CO2 will be transported by boat, then injected through a long pipeline into the seabed, at a depth of around 2.6 kilometres (1.6 miles), for permanent storage.

HK court jails former editor for sedition  
Releases another on health grounds

REUTERS, Hong Kong

A Hong Kong court yesterday sentenced a former editor to jail for 21 months and immediately released another after they had earlier been found guilty of conspiring to publish seditious articles in a ruling that has prompted an international outcry.

In a landmark case about media freedom, Chung Pui-kuen and Patrick Lam of the now-defunct Stand News media outlet were convicted last month - the first time journalists have been found guilty of sedition since the handover of Hong Kong from Britain to China in 1997.

Chung was sentenced

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MAJESTIC BENGAL MONITOR

A monitor lizard crawling out of a crevice in the Beelpabla area of Khulna's Dumuria. Called "Guisaap" in Bangla, these Bengal monitor lizards eat frogs, mice, fish, small animals and even snakes. They are usually found in cropland, bushes, forests, and even in the yards of rural homes. Loss of habitat and mindless hunting of these once-abundant creatures have left their numbers dwindling.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

