



Take outdated vehicles off the road in six months

Govt asks transport owners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday set a six-month timeframe for removing all outdated vehicles from Dhaka after a meeting with transport owners.

There are 28,761 registered buses and minibuses that are over 20 years old, according to Bangladesh Road Transport Authority. Of them, 10,556 are in Dhaka.

A total of 46,481 registered trucks, lorries and other heavy vehicles have crossed 25 years. Of them, 14,683 are in Dhaka.

Removing outdated vehicles will significantly improve the air quality of Dhaka, which is crucial for safeguarding public health, Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan told reporters after the meeting at Bidyut Bhaban.

“Without such action, there will soon be no breathable air left in the city,” she said.

Air pollution, a major issue for the capital, is one of the greatest

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



A male Great Mormon butterfly takes a break from fluttering about in the Hajarikhil Wildlife Sanctuary in Fatikchhari. This fascinating species of butterfly is renowned not only for its large size and striking appearance but its unique behavioral traits and ecological significance. Widely distributed across South and Southeast Asia, the Great Mormon showcases a variety of forms that mark significant differences between the males and the females. The males typically have deep blue or black wings, sometimes with red streaks, while the females have sepia-colour forewings with different coloured streaks. The butterfly thrives in a range of environments and plays an important role in any ecosystem it inhabits – as pollinators as well a subject of study in evolutionary biology, owing to its complex mimicry -- its ability to deceive predators into thinking it's toxic by resembling species that genuinely are -- and its polymorphism.

PHOTO: KAMOL DAS

At least 986 killed in July uprising

Says rights body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 852 people were killed in two phases of the protests during the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement from July 18-20 and August 4-7.

The information was published in a report by the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), which recorded 986 deaths during the entire movement, of whom 868 have been identified. The rest 18 remained unidentified.

The HRSS report said between July 16 and August 3, the death toll stood at 346.

On August 5, the day the Hasina-led government fell, 294 deaths were recorded.

Another 213 people died between August 6 and October 14. Many of them were injured earlier.

Of the deaths, 77 percent died of bullet injuries and 20 percent of mob beating and due to arson.

A total of 127 of the dead were minors and 265 students. Students and workers collectively made up 71 percent of the dead.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Khaleda cleared of 2 more cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia was relieved from two more cases yesterday.

With these, she is now cleared of seven out of 36 cases against her so far.

Earlier, a day after the fall of the Hasina-led government, the president cleared Khaleda of the graft charges she was convicted on during the Awami League rule.

The 79-year-old former prime minister has long been battling various ailments, including liver cirrhosis, arthritis, diabetes, and issues related to the kidney, lung, heart, and eyes. She was under house arrest after her conditional release from prison in 2020.

Yesterday, a Dhaka court dismissed a case filed against her and three others over the murder of 42 people during the 2015 nationwide blockade enforced by the BNP-led 20-party alliance.

Dhaka Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Ziadur Rahman passed

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

17 killed, dozens hurt in Israeli strike on school

AGENCIES

At least 17 Palestinians, including children, were killed yesterday in an Israeli strike on a school in Nuseirat camp in the central part of the Gaza Strip, where people displaced by the fighting were sheltering, Nuseirat's Al-Awda hospital said.

The Israeli military said it had hit a Hamas command and control centre embedded in a compound formerly used as a school in Nuseirat.

Mahmud Bassal, a spokesman for the Gaza civil defence agency, told AFP that the strike killed 17 people and wounded dozens more. The nearby Al-Awda hospital gave the same death toll.

Palestinian woman Umm Muhammad, who told AFP she was at the school at the time of the strike, described a terrifying scene with “stones and glass” falling from above.

“I hugged my little girl. I couldn't see anything through the thick plume of smoke,” she said.

“I ran and screamed for my sister and found her alive downstairs,” Umm Muhammad added.

“But there were children torn to pieces” as a result of the attack, she said.

The Hamas government media office said in a statement that “thousands of displaced people were sheltering in the school, most of them children and women.”

In recent months, Israeli forces have struck several schools-turned-shelters across Gaza, with the military maintaining that it has targeted militants.

In a statement, Hamas called the latest strike “criminal” and reported many “women and children” among its victims.

» Hamas says Israel aims to clear north Gaza of its residents

» Israel says raid aimed at Hamas militants

» Gaza health officials say three hospitals hardly operating

Cyclone Dana lashes Odisha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The severe cyclonic storm Dana early today slammed into Bhitarkanika and Dhamra coasts of the eastern Indian state of Odisha where authorities evacuated a million people to safety, shut schools, and suspended flight and train operations.

The landfall process of the cyclone with a wind speed of 110km per hour was expected to continue for several hours, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

Around 12:30am (local time), the storm moved north-northwest at a speed of 15kmh over the past six hours before making landfall between Bhitarkanika in Kendrapara district and Dhamra in Bhadrak district, a senior IMD official said.

“The landfall started with the entry of the outer cloud mass of the system. When the centre of the system reaches land, the wind speed is expected to reach 120 kmph,” Umashankar Das, a senior scientist at the Regional Meteorological Centre in Bhubaneswar, said.

The landfall process will last for nearly five hours, Das added.

The IMD issued a “red warning” for heavy to very heavy rainfall in seven districts of Odisha: Mayurbhanj, Cuttack, Jajpur, Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, and Jagatsinghpur.

Authorities in Odisha and West Bengal cancelled more than 400 trains and suspended flight operations in Bhubaneswar and Kolkata airports in view of the cyclone.

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said his government was fully

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Trump accused of groping model he met thru Epstein

AFP, Washington

A former model has accused Donald Trump of groping her after the two were introduced by sexual abuser Jeffrey Epstein in the 1990s, the Guardian newspaper reported on Wednesday.

Stacey Williams said she met the Republican White House candidate at a party in 1992 after being introduced by the disgraced financier, whom she had dated.

“It became very clear then that he and Donald were really, really good friends and spent a lot of time together,” Williams was quoted as saying.

Williams discussed the alleged assault on a call on Monday organized by Survivors of Kamala, a lobby group supporting Trump's Democratic presidential rival Kamala Harris.

Epstein, who was convicted on sex offenses and killed himself in prison in 2019, paid Trump an impromptu visit with Williams in 1992 at his New York office block, where he pulled her toward him and began groping her, she alleged.

Williams, now 56, says Trump put his hands “all over” her breasts, waist and buttocks, causing her to freeze on the spot, and she noticed that the two men

appeared to be smiling at each other.

The Trump campaign did not immediately respond to AFP's request for comment, but The Guardian quoted a campaign spokeswoman dismissing the allegations as a “fake” story.

She said it was invented by the Harris campaign and described Williams “a former activist” for Democratic president Barack Obama.

Williams shared a postcard depicting

Trump's south Florida mansion she said he had sent her agent after the episode, with the message, in his handwriting: “Stacey – Your home away from home. Love Donald.”

About two dozen women have accused the former president, who has been convicted of multiple felonies, of sexual misconduct dating back decades. The allegations have included claims of Trump kissing them without their consent, reaching under their skirts, and, in the case of some beauty pageant contestants, walking in on them in the changing room.

He was ordered by a New York court in January to pay \$83.3 million to compensate the writer E. Jean Carroll, whom he was found liable for sexually assaulting and defaming.



Batting debacles: A continuing headache

Tigers lose 1st SA Test

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

Batting debacles are a regularity in Bangladesh cricket and they appear to be happening more frequently in recent times.

Tested against a top-quality attack – this time in the form of South Africa's Kagiso Rabada and Keshav Maharaj – Bangladesh batters once again failed to find answers during their seven-wicket loss against the Proteas, materialised on Day 4 of their first of two-Test series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

For South Africa, it was their first Test win in Asia since July 2014 when they last beat Sri Lanka by 153 runs at Galle. It also snapped the Proteas's nine-match losing streak

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Mehedi Hasan Miraz walks back to the pavilion as Bangladesh get bundled out for 307 in their second innings, setting South Africa a paltry 107-run target on Day 4 of their first Test in Mirpur yesterday. Miraz departed after a gritty 191-ball 97 but that was not enough as the Proteas romped to a seven-wicket win with ease inside the first session.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Lost Silk Road cities discovered

CNN ONLINE

Lost for centuries, two cities lay buried, nearly 5 kilometers (3 miles) apart, underneath grassy pastures in the mountains of Uzbekistan. Now, archaeologists for the first time have mapped these intriguing highland strongholds in the country's southeast – once a key crossroad of ancient silk trade routes – that were inexplicably abandoned.

Using drone-borne LiDAR – light detection and ranging equipment – that can find structures obscured by vegetation, researchers captured images revealing two unexpectedly large-scale urban settlements dotted

with watchtowers, fortresses, complex buildings, plazas and pathways that tens of thousands of people may have called home.

Uncovering what would have been bustling medieval cities at a dizzying elevation of more than 2,000 meters (6,562 feet) above sea level was surprising, said anthropologist Michael Frachetti, lead author of the new research published Wednesday in the journal Nature.

