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NUISANCE unbearable

Citizens made to suffer from sound pollution caused by use of loudspeakers in city polls campaigns

HELEMUL ALAM and MATHEWS CHIRAN

As the capital is abuzz with campaigns for the city corporation polls, candidates are found using loudspeakers during the hours when it is not permitted by electoral rules.

They quite often violate section 21 of the City Corporation (Electoral Code of Conduct) Rules 2016, which allows the use of loudspeakers between 2:00pm and 8:00pm.

The rules further say no candidate, or anyone on his/her behalf, can use more than one microphone or sound amplifier during a campaign or street rally in a city corporation ward.

The reality is starkly different. City dwellers have been enduring songs and slogans played on loudspeakers, fitted on moving vehicles, beyond the permitted hours since the campaign began on January 10.

With the SSC exams a little over a week away, students

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Residents have to bear the horns blaring on every alley from the morning until late in the afternoon as one after another bandwagon passes by campaigning for the Dhaka city corporation elections. The noise pollution is particularly disconcerting for SSC examinees. The photos were taken in residential areas in Ahmed Bagh and Ashkona on Thursday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ



Toothless Tigers surrender series

SPORTS REPORTER

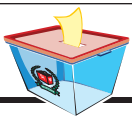
Bangladesh continued their dismal show with the bat as Pakistan clinched the three-match T20I series 2-0 with a game in hand after beating the visitors comprehensively by nine wickets at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore yesterday.

The third and final match of the series will take place tomorrow at the same venue.

Chasing a modest target of 137, Pakistan rode on unbeaten fifties from skipper Babar Azam

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DHAKA CITY POLLS 2020



Will ensure civic services in 90 days

Taposh pledges while canvassing in old town

RASHIDUL HASAN

With the deadline for election campaign ending on January 30 midnight, Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, Awami League's mayor candidate in Dhaka South City Corporation polls, passed a hectic day yesterday trying to woo voters in different areas of Old Dhaka.

Flanked by several hundred supporters, the AL leader carried out electioneering for more than seven hours after starting from Babu Bazar Bridge area around 2:30pm.

On the 16th day of his campaign, he went to roads and alleys in Islampur, Babu Bazar, Nawabpur, Sadarghat, Waise Ghat, Bangshal, Shakhariabazar, and Tantibazar areas. He sought people's blessings and assured them of resolving their problems, if they voted for him.

These areas fall under ward numbers 32, 34, 36 and 37.

Meanwhile, the campaign caused traffic jam in the areas and many city dwellers expressed their annoyance for being stuck on the road for hours.

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Refrain from influencing the polls

Ishraque urges rival as he criss-crosses Old Dhaka

SAYYED MOHMUD ULLAH

It was 3:30pm yesterday in Old Dhaka's Ray Shaheb Bazar Mor area. Traffic at the intersection halted as several hundred BNP leaders and activists surrounded their party mayor candidate Ishraque Hossain.

The candidate for Dhaka South City Corporation campaigned in different parts of Old Dhaka.

With attractive promises to woo voters, Ishraque went door-to-door for over five hours in Nayabazar Bagdasa, Zindabazar Jame Masjid, and Bongshal areas.

In the evening, his campaign gained momentum with the participation of an increasing number of BNP leaders and activists who shook hands with people, hugged them, exchanged greetings, and distributed leaflets on behalf of their candidate in Bongshal, a business hub in Old Dhaka.

From both sides of the streets, enthusiastic leaders and activists showered flower petals on Ishraque, who was seen

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Coronavirus spreads

Europe, South Asia, Australia report first confirmed cases; death toll jumps to 41; Xi warns of 'grave' situation

AGENCIES

Europe, South Asia, Australia yesterday reported first confirmed cases as the death toll from China's coronavirus outbreak jumped to 41.

Australia on Saturday confirmed its first four cases, Malaysia confirmed three and France reported Europe's first cases on Friday, as health authorities around the world scrambled to prevent a pandemic.

Health authorities in Nepal also confirmed that a student who returned from Wuhan, the central Chinese city that is the epicentre of the outbreak, tested positive for the new coronavirus, becoming the first South Asian country to report the deadly disease.

The United States is arranging a charter flight today to bring its citizens and diplomats back from Wuhan, the Wall Street Journal

reported. France also announced similar move.

Meanwhile, President Xi Jinping warned yesterday that China was facing a "grave" situation as authorities took urgent action to halt the spread of the virus.

The world's most populous country scrambled to contain the disease that has already infected more than 1,300 people,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

We can't buy food, groceries

Bangladeshi student trapped in Wuhan appeals for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi students under lockdown in China's Wuhan city, the epicentre of the Coronavirus outbreak that has claimed 41 lives so far, have appealed for help through social media, saying they want to return to Bangladesh.

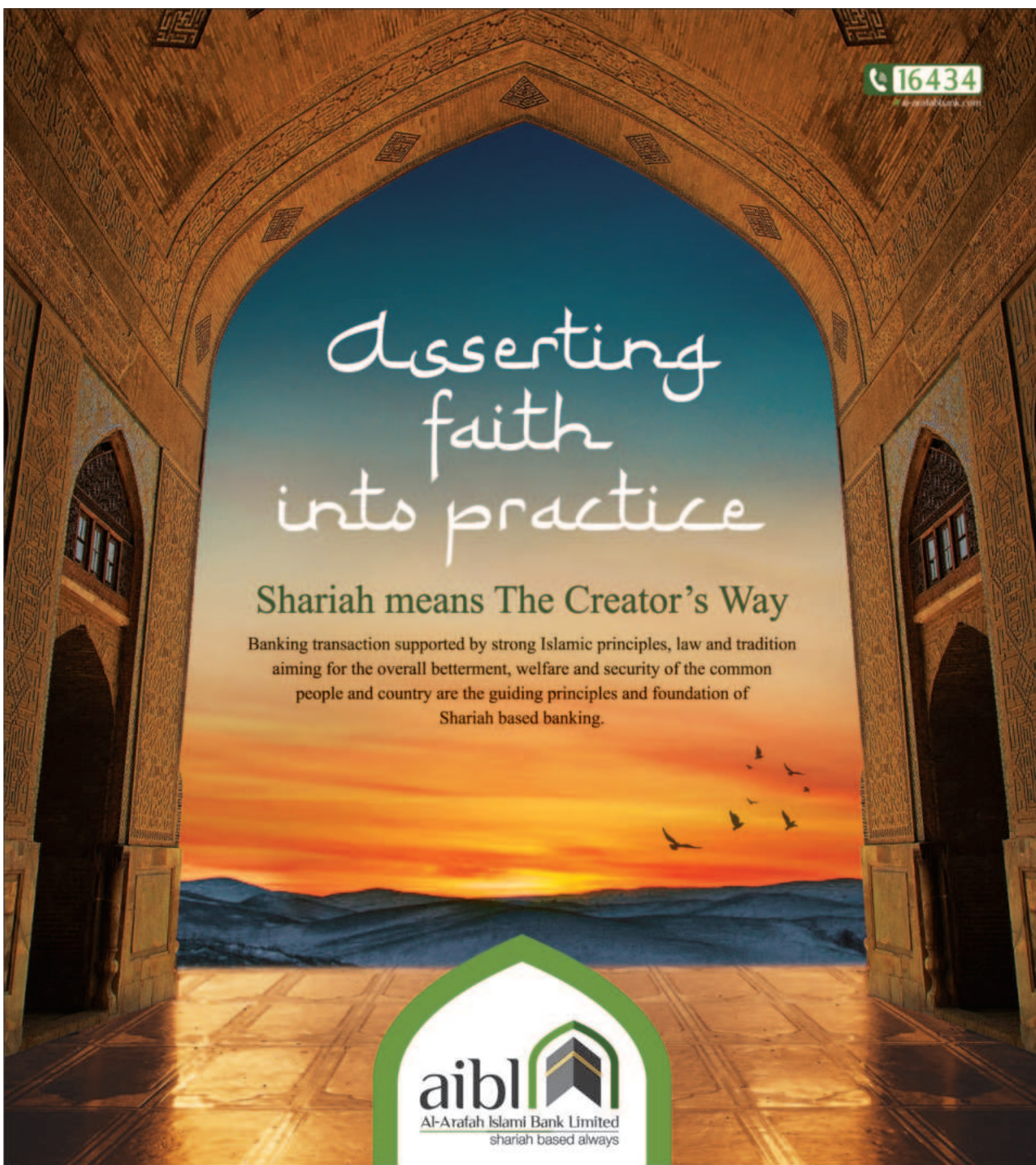
Students in Wuhan, including Bangladeshis, have been under lockdown in their respective dorms and residences for the last two days.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



People looking down a hole on the bridge in Gabtola area of Brahmanbaria town after a large chunk of concrete fell off last week. Local autorickshaw pullers have placed bamboos in an effort to make the rickety bridge steady. The hole was eventually patched up with a slab of metal.

PHOTO: MASUK HRIDOY



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