



PHOTO: STAR  
The removal of the one-way lane on the road in front of the city's New Market results in traffic gridlock yesterday. The city's traffic jams never ease partly due to rundown roads, but the flawed traffic plan is largely responsible for the problem.

# Report card for non-govt teachers on cards

**MUSTAK HOSSAIN**  
The government is planning to introduce annual confidential report (ACR) system for teachers and other staff of non-government educational institutions to make them accountable, education ministry sources said.  
The proposal for this was made by the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education to help improve the standard of education.  
"The education ministry is considering introduction of annual confidential report system to make teachers and other staff of non-government educational institutions accountable," a top official of the ministry said.  
"We firmly believe and hope that the system would make the teachers more attentive to their duties and help improve the quality of education," the official said. He however declined to be identified.  
Results of public examinations like Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination showed a downward trend in the rate of success. The percentage of pass in the SSC examination this year was the lowest in the last four years. The pass percentage was 36.58 this year, 40.36 last year, 41.58 in

2000 and 54.62 in 1999.  
"Specified job descriptions for teachers and other staff of non-government primary and high schools and colleges will be made available so that they cannot shirk their responsibilities," the official said. They have to comply with those since the government pays 90 per cent of their salaries and only the rest comes from the resources of those institutions, he mentioned.  
Promotion, salary increment and various benefits of teachers and other employees staff of government educational institutions now largely depend on their annual confidential reports, given by their respective superiors on the basis of their performance.  
There are widespread allegations from students, guardians and all others concerned that many of the teachers of government and non-government schools now do not take classes properly and engage in private tuition or  
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## BELA notice on mayor to stop canal filling

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (BELA) yesterday served a legal notice on different government officials and the mayor of Dhaka City urging them to immediately stop the project to fill up the Haikkar Khal in Mohammadpur for construction of a truck terminal there.  
The legal notice titled 'Notice of Demand for Justice' was served on the secretaries of the Ministry of LGRD, Ministry of Land, Ministry of Environment and Forest, mayor of DCC, chairman of Rajuk, director general of Department of Environment and the deputy commissioner of Dhaka.  
In the notice, BELA requested the officials and the mayor to take necessary actions in this regard within seven days from the date of receipt of the notice, saying that it would otherwise take appropriate legal action.  
The legal notice came following a series of reports in The Daily Star exposing the negative environmental impact of filling up Haikkar Khal, a natural canal in the city's Mohammadpur area next to the Martyred Intellectual's Monument.  
The notice said the Haikkar Khal joins the Buriganga River in the south and as one of the last remaining and fast flowing canal plays a vital role in drainage of water in the city's Mohammadpur area. A culvert had been built over the canal on the road to Basila to ensure undisturbed  
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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Aug 22		6-26 pm
Aug 23	5-36 am	

  

Prayer Timings		
August 22		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-30	5-00
Zahr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-31	6-35
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation



PHOTO: STAR  
Police yesterday seized movable property of T&T director Mohammad Tawfiq who is absconding following a criminal case in connection with the Malibagh incident.

## Graft case filed against taxman

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Bureau of Anti Corruption (BAC) yesterday filed a graft case against an income tax official for misappropriating Muktijoddah Sangshad fund.  
Charges were levelled against S M Jahangir Alam, the present deputy tax commissioner of Chittagong tax zone 2, for embezzling Tk 47.48 lakh in Muktijoddah Sangshad funds.  
According to a case lodged by Abus Sobhan, a BAC official, with the Ramna Police (78, clause 409/420), Alam misappropriated the money when he was in charge of the Sansad's sports section.  
Jahangir Alam has allegedly used false cheques to withdraw money between January and April of this year from the Sansad's account at the press club branch of Agrani Bank.  
Alam did not keep any record of the expenditure of the money, the allegation stated.

# Dhaka-Rome may sign manpower export deal

**RAFIQ HASAN**  
Dhaka and Rome are likely to sign an agreement for export of Bangladeshi manpower to Italy only through government channel and not through recruiting agencies, sources said.  
The expatriate welfare and overseas employment ministry sent a draft of the agreement, vetted by the ministries of law and foreign affairs, to the Italian government recently.  
This followed Rome's proposal for a 're-admission' agreement providing for bringing back all illegal Bangladeshi workers and then sending them through official channel.  
However, Dhaka urged Rome to allow them to stay on and proposed

to bring back only those workers who would be found illegal after the agreement is signed.  
The draft also brought a number of changes in the original proposal by Rome, considering negative aspects of it. The Italian government is now examining that and would give its views very soon, the sources hoped.  
According to a government estimate, there are around 50,000 illegal Bangladesh workers in Italy.  
Rome however assured Dhaka that the workers who already got employment in households would not be sent back. But they would have to collect certificate from their employers, mentioning payment of tax against their wages.  
In reply to a question, an official said a negative aspect of the pro-

posed agreement is that there is a risk if the workers cannot return after coming back home. But a positive side of it is that Bangladeshi workers would be able to find job in the industrially developed country legally and without any harassment.  
Meanwhile, Rome has said it would send all illegal Bangladeshis back if Dhaka does not sign the agreement.  
Italy needs a large number of workers for its industrial sector and thousands of Bangladeshers are already employed there. They have earned reputation for hard work and sincerity, sources pointed out.  
A number of Bangladeshi workers sneaked into Italy through Russia and Central Asian countries.

## Hasina warns of hartal if Aug 24 march is obstructed

**UNB, Dhaka**  
Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the people to join the August 24 protest procession against government's misuse and warned of announcing hartal if and whenever the march is obstructed.  
"Wherever there will be obstruction to the procession, there will be hartal," she said announcing an open-ended option for shutdown, adding that such hartal would start off mass movement against the government for what she said its misuse, torture, terrorism and corruption.  
Addressing a mourning day discussion meeting, arranged by Awami Juba League at Engineers Institution to mark August 15, the 27th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, she said people want to get  
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## Talks on DU reopening next week

**UNB, Dhaka**  
Dhaka University authorities will meet the Provost Standing Committee next week to discuss reopening of the student dormitories before resuming classes.  
Acting vice chancellor Prof AFM Yusuf Haider said this yesterday when a group of teachers of the Awami League backed 'Blue Panel' met him at his office in the afternoon.  
Led by 'Blue Panel' convener Prof Mesbahuddin Ahmed, the teachers' delegation discussed with the acting VC various matters relating to the university's recent developments.  
They urged the acting VC to take steps for the withdrawal cases filed against students and teachers following the July 23 incident at Shamsunnahar Hall. Prof Yusuf told them he was making efforts in that regard, meeting sources told UNB.  
The Blue panelist teachers demanded of the acting VC for immediate resumption of classes.  
Prof Kazi Shahidullah, Prof RIM Aminur Rashid, Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Sharif Ullah Bhuiyan, Prof ABM Mahmud, Dr Mizanur Rahman and Hafizur Rahman Curzon were present in the meeting.

## Don's 'killer' confesses

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Ripon, arrested in connection with the murder of a minor boy, gave a confessional statement before a Metropolitan Magistrate yesterday.  
Ripon confessed to the magistrate that he threw his five-year-old brother-in-law Rubel Ahmed Don into a sewer near his in-laws' house at Mir Hazirbag in Demra in the city.  
He told the magistrate that he had a rocky marriage as he was denied of the dowries that were promised to him.  
He was repeatedly asking for a gold chain to his father-in-law who took him to the Baitul Mukarram  
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# 200 new BRTC buses to replace polluters

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) will add 200 buses, including 50 Volvo double-deckers, to its fleet when some 12,500 two-stroke three-wheelers go off the street on September 1.  
"Now, we run 577 buses and double-deckers on different city routes and will be able to commission 150 to 200 more by the end of this month," BRTC Chairman Taimur Alam Khandakar told a press conference yesterday.  
An additional 460 buses and minibuses, 500 human-haulers and 3,000 taxicabs are needed to fill the vacuum the September 1 ban will create in public transport system, according to a government taskforce.  
The BRTC together with private transport operators who will bring in at best 500 new taxicabs and as many CNG-run three-wheelers by the month-end will fall way short of filling the dearth.  
"Commuters will feel the crunch for at least a couple of months," a transport expert told The Daily Star yesterday.  
On Tuesday, the Bangladesh Road Transport Authorities (BRTA) and auto-rickshaw and auto-tempo owners and employees entered into an agreement that will allow 5,500 two-stroke three-wheelers to ply the city roads until December 31.  
As per the agreement, the BRTC will provide the affected two-stroke vehicle owners and employees with 500 CNG-run three-wheelers by September 1. The BRTC yesterday floated a tender in this regard.  
However, the BRTC chairman said, "It will not be possible for us to provide them with 500 CNG three-wheelers within that time-frame. It will take at least a month."  
BRTC sources, however, believe that at least two months will be needed to complete the process.  
Taimur told the press conference the BRTC has formed a cell for registration of affected owners and employees of two-stroke three-wheelers. "Nearly 1,000 have already registered with the cell."  
He also said the corporation would add 200 CNG-run buses, 500 taxicabs, 1,000 buses, 500 double-deckers, 1,000 trucks and 25 ambulances to its fleet over the next one year.  
He claimed that more than 90 per cent drivers across the country use fake driver's license. "If and when they are caught by law enforcers, the BRTC will make arrangement for their training."



PHOTO: AFP  
Bangladesh Foreign Minister Morshed Khan sits with Nepalese Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba (R) during a reception at SAARC Secretariat in Khatmandu. The ministerial meeting of the 7-nation regional forum opened yesterday.

## Hearing on Benazir's appeal adjourned

**AFP, Karachi**  
A Pakistani court yesterday adjourned for a second time the start of a hearing of an appeal by self-exiled ex-premier Benazir Bhutto against laws barring her from contesting October 10 elections.  
A lawyer representing the Pakistani government, Amir Hani Muslim, asked the Sindh High Court to postpone the hearing until Thursday because the federal attorney general, Makhdoom Ali Khan, was unable to appear due to a cabinet meeting in the capital Islamabad.  
The hearing was supposed to start last week but the court delayed it after issuing an order to Amunshi to appear and give the government's argument.  
Benazir's lawyer Kamal Azfar said he feared the government was planning to pass more laws cementing the two-time former prime minister's disqualification from the upcoming polls.  
"I have serious apprehensions that serious constitutional amendments will be made today to eliminate Benazir Bhutto from the electoral process," Azfar told reporters  
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# Landslide in Nepal leaves 60 dead

**REUTERS, Kathmandu**  
A massive landslide triggered by monsoon rains wiped out a village in east Nepal yesterday, killing at least 60 people, an official said.  
"We understand that around 40 houses have been destroyed and 60 people have been killed," Lekhnath Pokharel, a home ministry spokesman, said.  
Pokharel added that the death toll from the disaster in the remote village of Damti in eastern Ramechhap could rise.  
"This is an initial estimate. The reports coming in are very unclear because the village is very difficult to reach and communication is difficult."  
Officials said a helicopter with relief supplies had been kept ready in Kathmandu but was unable to fly to the mountainous region because of bad weather there.  
It was unclear if relief workers from local agencies in Ramechhap had arrived at the site of the disaster, which is a remote area without communication or road links.  
Mountainous Nepal regularly suffers severe floods and landslides during rainy season. In 1993, more than 1,000 people died during heavy rains.  
Nepal Red Cross said last week at least 422 people had been killed and more than 32,000 made homeless by floods and landslides in the country  
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## Fratricide

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
A young man was stabbed to death by his own brother at Keraniganj yesterday morning.  
Jasim Uddin, 28, son of late Mishir Ali was stabbed by his younger brother Manik following an altercation over dispute of land at Charil at 9:00am yesterday.  
Fatally injured, Jasim was rushed to the Mitford Hospital where the attending doctors declared him dead. The body was sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy.  
The victim was third of his four brothers and three sisters.

## Fish farm owner murdered in Rupsha

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna**  
A fish farm owner was murdered by a gang of armed cardes of Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) at Putimari in Rupsha upazila on Tuesday night.  
Police said seven armed cadres of the outlawed party stormed into Akhtar's makeshift office at Putimari at about 10 pm and hacked him to death.  
According to family sources, PBCP armed cadres killed Akhtaruzaman for not paying illegal tolls.  
Police recovered the body yesterday morning.  
Victim's further Ansar Ali filed a murder case with Rupsha police station yesterday.

## 20 hurt as BNP factions clash in Magura

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura**  
At least 20 people were injured, nine of them seriously, in a clash between two rival factions of BNP at village Paach-Kaunia in Shalikh upazila yesterday.  
Witness said supporters of Abdur Razzak and Yakub Mian, president and general secretary respectively of BNP ward no 5 unit under Shatakhal union clashed over establishing supremacy in the area.  
Both the groups used sharp weapons and sticks during the clash.  
Seriously injured, identified as Shukur 20, Ikram Hossain 22, Shahidur Rahman 35, Abdus Sattar 35, Abdur Rashid 60, Masudur Rahman 25, Muktar Ali 45, Salek Sheikh 40 and Mujibul 28, were admitted to Magura sadar hospital.  
No case was filed till at 5 pm yesterday.