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People's Right to Know

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Two students sign a huge paperboard at the inaugural event of a mass signature campaign in the city yesterday to protest the use of children as camel jockey in United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Step to probe alleged tax evasion by pvt bank directors

RAFIQ HASAN

The government is investigating alleged tax evasion by directors of the 30 private commercial banks in the country.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) recently directed its tax department to bring all the bank directors under a separate tax unit named Large Taxpayers Unit (LTU) and look into their tax payment position, sources said.

This step has been taken as the directors' files are scattered in various tax zones in the country, totalling 18 in the country now. So it is very difficult to identify a zone in

which a bank director pays income tax, they said.

The department has also been asked to look into the directors' other business and sources of income.

The order was given following allegations that most of the bank directors were not paying tax according to their income. Although they earn lots of money every year, they pay very insignificant amounts as tax, the sources said.

The tax officials also do not know the directors' actual income because of the self-assessment system in income tax payment.

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Washer-men dry clothes in sunlight on the bank of the Buriganga in the city yesterday. Many washer-men wash clothes in the river, itself contaminated with dumped waste. A drive to clear illegal encroachers off the riverbank is already on. (Editorial on page 4)

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Signals on the blink

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifty-nine of the 69 automated traffic signals of the capital have been out of order for over two years.

And the city traffic system is now virtually maintained by traffic policemen who become exhausted grappling with snarls, disorderly traffic and pollution.

To control unruly rickshaw-pullers, the Traffic Department of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police recently equipped most city traffic policemen with sharp screwdrivers.

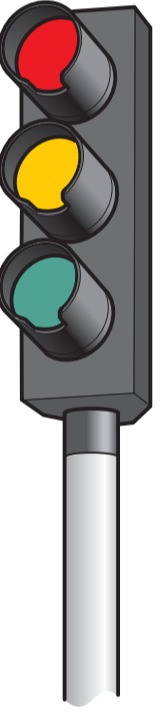
They prick the tyre of defiant rickshaw-pullers to hand out impromptu justice. Nearly 20 types of motorised and non-motorised vehicles ply the city streets.

The government now plans to fix the inoperative electronically controlled traffic signals at different intersections. But sources at the Dhaka Transport Control Board (DTCB) said it would take more than two years to make the entire system up and running again.

Streamlining city traffic by electronically controlled traffic signals is proving to be an impossible task, as 'defiant and ignorant' road users tend to flout traffic rules unless baton-wielding traffic police and sergeants are there.

At present, the Traffic Department is working at

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7 students hurt Road accident kills JU female teacher in India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A female teacher of Jahangirnagar University (JU) was killed and seven students were injured, four of them critically, in a road accident in Chandigarh, capital of Haryana State of India, in the early hours of yesterday.

The teacher, Hosne Ara Motahar, was an associate professor of Archaeology department. She was leading a team of seven students of the department on a 15-day study tour of India.

The injured students were hospitalised. Four of them — Deneb, Munni, Jol y and Nupur - were stated to be in critical condition.

JU sources said a jeep carrying the teacher and the students was on way to Shimla from Delhi. The jeep

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Young man handed over to N'ganj police dies

26 more listed criminals nabbed, SMG recovered in Moheshkhali

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A young man handed over to police by army on Tuesday in Narayanganj died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) Thursday night, police said.

The victim has been identified as Mohammad Masum alias Masud, 23 of Chachuya in Narayanganj.

Fatullah police said Masum and another young man Arif Hossain alias Aziz were handed over to them by army on Tuesday night. The two were caught by some persons while they were trying to steal car parts from garage in Masdair area in

Narayanganj town at on Monday night and handed over to army, they said.

But army sources in Dhaka said the army neither received the two persons nor handed them over to police. As per their information, it is a police case and only police can give details about the incident. Army is not involved in the incident in any way, they said.

Our Narayanganj correspondent quoting police said Masum and Aziz entered the garage of one Rokonuddin at Masdair on Monday night. The two were caught while stealing car parts and handed over to

an army team.

The army handed them over to Fatullah police on Tuesday night. Police took them to Narayanganj General Hospital as their condition was critical.

As Masum's condition deteriorated he was shifted to DMCH where he died on Thursday night.

Hospital sources said there were marks of injury on his body.

Narayanganj Police Superintendent (SP) Nur Hossain told our correspondent that the two were members of a gang of car lifters.

Police said they had used a white

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Sectarian violence in Nigeria kills 105

Beauty contest runs into fresh trouble

AFP, Lagos

At least 105 people have been killed in rioting between Muslims and Christians in the northern Nigerian city of Kaduna, a Red Cross official told AFP yesterday.

George Bennet, Nigeria representative of the International Federation of the Red Cross, said that a 50-strong Nigerian Red Cross emergency team in Kaduna had confirmed the deaths.

"There are also indications that the trouble has flared again this morning," he said.

Earlier a spokesman for the Nigerian Red Cross was unable to confirm the death toll, but said that at least 521 injured people had been evacuated by volunteer medical teams to city hospitals.

Shehu Sani, head of the Kaduna-based Civil Rights Congress told AFP by telephone from the city that observers from his agency had seen 50 dead and many injured in various parts of the city.

"The situation has further aggravated, there have been more burnings of churches and mosques," he said.

Reverend James Wuye, who represents an inter-faith group set up to broker peace between the communities, confirmed that a riot that began as a Muslim protest against a "blasphemous" newspaper article was now a sectarian conflict.

"Last night there were reprisal attacks against Muslims in the northern part of Kaduna," he said. "Now there is an uneasy calm. Religious leaders are meeting with the state governor this morning to try and find a way to restore peace."

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Cold climes come back

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Winter has set in with fogs and cold like every year, with mercury likely to go down further in the days to come.

Although it feels mostly hot in the evening and early night, the presence of winter is surely felt in the early hours.

People have switched to warm nightclothes. Thick fog envelops roads and open spaces in the morning.

Met officials said the arrival of winter was timely this year. The cold of winter is likely to intensify in the second week of December.

It was expected that the cold spell would set in after the cyclonic storm that crossed the country in mid-November, whipping up incessant rain for about two days.

The officials said mercury is likely to range between 12 and 15

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