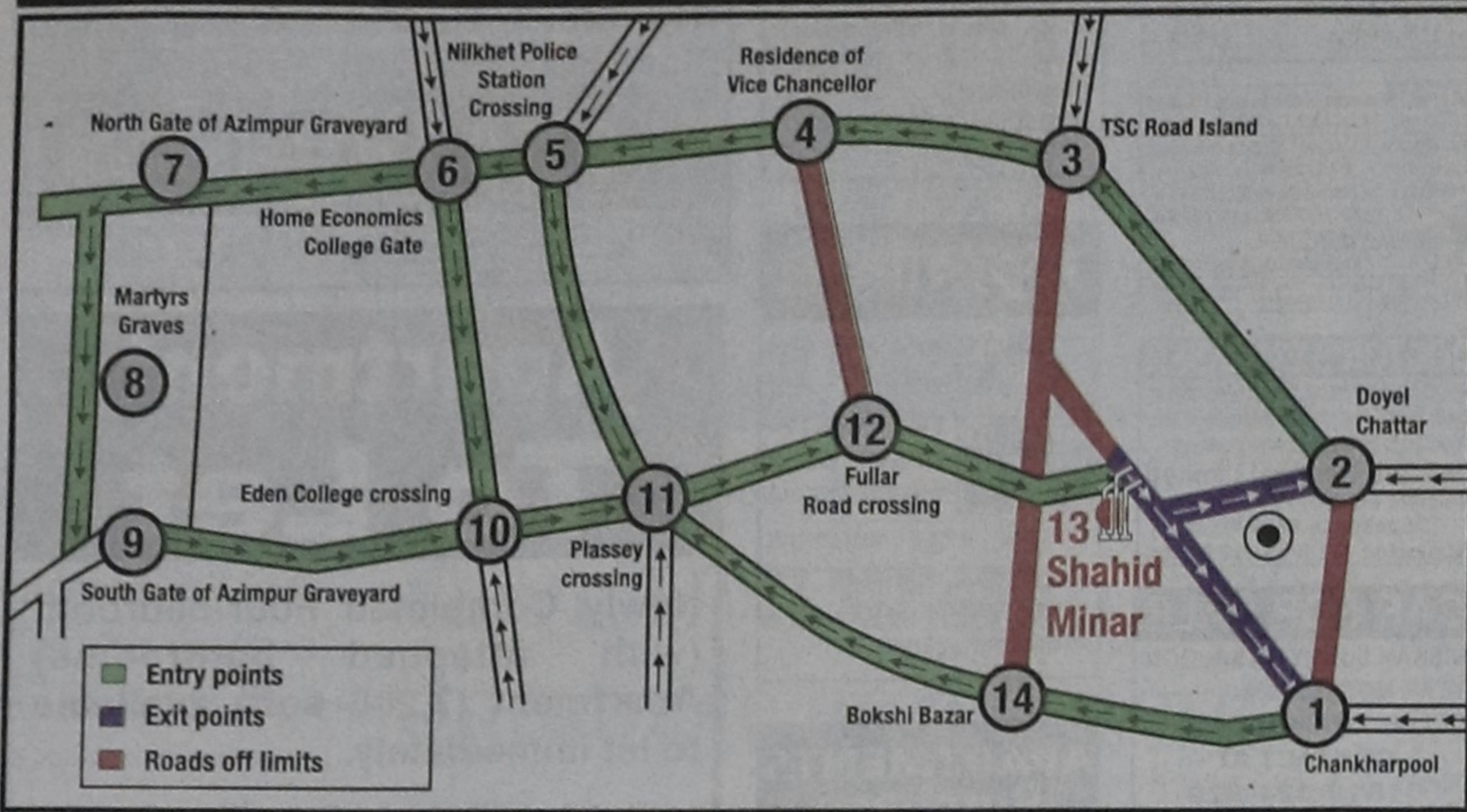


Route map for Shaheed Minar, Azimpur Graveyard



Ban Ki-moon supports govt for democracy

UNB, Dhaka

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon congratulated Zillur Rahman on his assumption of the office of president and assured his maximum cooperation with the new government.

In a letter to the new leader, he said, "Bangladesh has marched one step forward towards democracy through peaceful holding of general election on December 29 after seven years." Ban Ki-moon extended his support to the commitment of

new government to ensuring democracy and good governance. Terming the partnership between Bangladesh and the United Nations on various issues as 'invaluable', Ban expressed his hope that the existing close relations between

Bangladesh and the UN, whose foundation was established since Bangladesh's joining the UN in 1974, would further be consolidated. He also assured the president of providing his maximum cooperation on his behalf.

Mamun's detention illegal

Declares HC
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday declared the detention of controversial businessman Giasuddin Al Mamun illegal.

A division bench of the HC comprising justices Syed Mahmud Hossain and Quamrul Islam Siddiqui also asked the government to release Mamun immediately from jail if he is not arrested in any other cases.

Mamun, a close friend of former premier Khaleda Zia's elder son Tarique Rahman, was arrested on March 25, 2007 during the interregnum period of the immediate past caretaker rule.

The HC judgment came upon a habeas corpus petition filed by Mamun's brother Jalaluddin Rumi challenging the legality of the detention order against Mamun.

Barrister Fakhru Islam, a lawyer for the petitioner, yesterday told The Daily Star that Mamun could not be released from jail following the HC verdict since he was arrested in other cases.

He said a total of 19 cases were filed against Mamun after his arrest and he secured bails from the HC in all cases but the Supreme Court stayed eight bail orders, he added.

The immediate past military backed caretaker government on January 4 issued a 30-day detention order against Mamun.

Barrister Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik appeared for the petitioner.

Cousin not Poly's killer

Police arrest her ex-friend

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five days after the gruesome murder, detective police arrested Eden College student Poly's killer from the Stadium market area in Paltan yesterday.

The DB police have also recovered the victim's cell phone set and knives apparently used to kill her, from the possession of AKM Nahidul Baksa who has confessed to killing her.

After his arrest, AKM Nahidul Baksa, 30, confessed that he had murdered Poly and based on information given by him, police recovered Poly's cell phone set from his house at Wari.

They also recovered a blood stained T-shirt and a pair of trousers belonging to Nahidul as well as the knives he used in the killing.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Detective Branch (south) Awlad Hossain told reporters yesterday that Nahidul said that he had a love affair with Poly in the past and had stabbed her to death to take revenge on her as she had broken off the year-long relationship recently and started going out with someone else.

DB sources said that Nahidul made contact with the victim over a cell phone before he went to Poly Rani Halder's residence on the night of February 15 when everyone else in the house were out.

After his arrival at the flat, Nahidul attacked Poly with knives he had bought on the way there, DCDB Awlad said. At one point, he also grabbed a boti -- a carved kitchen blade -- from the kitchen and repeatedly attacked her with it till she was dead.

He then fled the scene with Poly's cell phone set.

Two teams of DB police have been working on the case since the murder five days ago. Acting on information from the police intelligence, they were able to identify Nahidul yesterday and arrested him from the city.

Earlier on Tuesday, police arrested Poly's maternal uncle and cousin and put them on a four-day remand for interrogation suspecting their involvement in her murder.

The body of Poly Rani Halder, 23, of Pirojpur, was recovered from the kitchen of her uncle Shoileendra Mitra's home, on the second floor of a seven-storey building in Lalbagh.

Poly had been residing with her uncle's family for several years for her studies.

Mohammadpur School reunion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A reunion of the former students of Mohammadpur Government High School will be held soon, says a press release.

To this end, a committee has been formed with Meer Noor Ali as convener and Khondoker Mahbub Islam and Rafikul Haider Ratan as co-conveners.

Interested former students of the school are requested to contact the temporary office of the committee at Meer Bhaban 16/10, Azam Road, Block D, Mohammadpur in the city.

They can also dial 8150112, 01712830243, 01713229931 or 01823236000.

Ex-BNP MP Hafiz freed on bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former BNP lawmaker Hafiz Ibrahim was released on bail from Dhaka Central Jail yesterday.

Senior superintendent of Dhaka Central Jail Towhidul Islam told The Daily Star that the former lawmaker, also the elder brother of controversial businessman Giasuddin Al Mamun, was freed at about 3:30pm.

Accused in 16 cases, including extortion and tax evasion, he is also convicted in four cases.

Hafiz Ibrahim was arrested on February 25 in 2007 when he went to submit his wealth statement to the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Training for police on child rights

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The concluding ceremony of the two-day training workshop titled 'Training for trainers of law enforcing agencies on the issue of child rights, protection and the responsibilities of law enforcing agencies' organised by Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) was held at the confer-ence room of the mission in the city yesterday.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission organised the workshop at part of its programme on community-based child protection and techniques of development.

Unicef has been supporting the programme under which some 17 police inspectors participated at the training workshop.

DAM Programme Director Shafiqul Islam, Assistant Director Advocate Shirin Nahar, and Training Coordinator Ayub Khan, among others, were present at the programme.



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