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Medical team off to Haiti

UNB, Dhaka
A 30-member medical support team left here on Friday for Haiti to provide medical assistance to the earthquake-affected people of Haiti under the mission named 'Operation Caribbean Hope', said an ISPR release yesterday.
The team, led by Colonel MHM Delwar Hossain, comprises of 17 members from Army Medical Corps, three members from Army Signal Corps and 10 civilian medical personnel.
The team carried necessary medical equipment and medicines provided by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Directorate General of Medical Services.
The team will stay Port-au-Prince for one month. Duration of stay may be extended if necessary.

Kitchens to get prepaid meters

Gas crisis leads Titas to ask industries for replacing old boilers, furnace for energy efficiency

SHARIER KHAN
The Titas Gas company has started working on introducing prepaid meters for all consumers on an urgent basis to stop wastage, increase efficient use of natural gas and end the default billing culture.
Besides, the company has started asking industries using gas-fired old boilers and furnace to either replace them with more energy-efficient boilers and furnaces or switch to alternative fuel within six months.
The energy ministry had earlier asked Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company

Ltd (TGTDCL) to take up these measures to ensure better use of gas. The ministry was prompted to do so in the wake of acute gas crisis this winter.
A top Titas source says on January 12, the energy ministry in a letter asked Titas to urgently prepare a project to introduce prepaid meters for all kinds of consumers to stop wastage and improve gas supply pressure.
Titas is now setting up a technical committee that will analyse the cost benefits of introducing prepaid meters and submit a report within a short time.

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Several shops at Moghbazar in the capital now sell liquefied petroleum gas in cylinders. As parts of Dhaka suffer from acute gas crisis, consumers demand is high these days despite the Tk 1,100 price for one cylinder of gas. PHOTO: STAR

'Criminal' killed in 'shootout'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
A criminal was killed in a "shootout" between his cohorts and law enforcers early hours yesterday at Dakshin Rangamatia village in Fatikchhari upazila of Chittagong.
The dead, identified as Osman Goni, 42, was the leader of a local gang, Osman Bahini.
Acting on a tip-off, a joint team of police and Rapid Action Battalion raided Rangamatia village around 3:30am while Osman with his gang members was making preparation for committing a robbery, police sources said.
The criminals opened fire on the law enforcers forcing them to fire back. Osman came in the line of fire during

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BEFORE AND AFTER AUGUST 15 In eyes of Gen Shafiullah

In this exclusive interview with The Daily Star, Maj Gen (ret'd) KM Shafiullah, Bir Uttam, who was the army chief when Bangabandhu was killed on August 15, 1975, tells Inam Ahmed and Julfikar Ali Manik what was happening in the army before and after the killings.

The artillery and armoured divisions of Bangladesh Army were into regular night training twice a month. Thursdays and Fridays were chosen for the training and incidentally the August 15 night fell between these two days.
"One big problem [at that time] was that the army did not have any organised intelligence wing," Shafiullah says. The usual norm is that the army intelligence wing is developed along with the force. The Directorate of Forces Intelligence that was raised with the army was supposed to report directly to the chiefs of the three forces. But in 1974, the DFI was suddenly placed under the president's secretariat. This

"I have been working on it [draft of the martial law promulgation] for the last three months," Mushtaque told Shafiullah after Aug 15 bloodbath



KM SHAFIULLAH

put the army chief in an information void as the DFI director general was reporting to the president directly. It was then that Shafiullah took an

initiative to reorganise the army and proposed a complete structure for setting up five divisions and the

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BANGABANDHU KILLERS PM vows to bring back fugitives

Directs AL grassroots to protect environment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the six fugitive killers of father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will be brought back home and executed.
"Wherever the killers are, they will be brought back and executed. The world is small, where will they escape to?" said the premier at Gano Bhaban where the ruling Awami League's extended meeting was held after 20 months.
Hasina, also the AL president, directed her party's grassroots leaders to pay sincere attention to protect the country's environment, plant trees and stop cutting trees from the green places. She warned that no deviation would be tolerated in this regard.

This was the first directive of the premier regarding environment protection at any party level meeting. Around 10,000 grassroots leaders of the AL from across the country took part in the meeting.
She also directed them to remain cautious against the "propaganda" and "falsehood" by the opposition, make people aware of it and let them know the right information. Besides, she asked them to strengthen the party at all levels, recruit new party members examining their ideologies and beliefs, and watch out for the opportunists.
"I need the party to fulfil our electoral pledges. Only the organisation can keep holding the people's confidence in the government."

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A large number of banners of coaching centres, targeting students who want to get admitted to different institutions, take over the empty space of a billboard on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway just beyond Shanir Akhra.

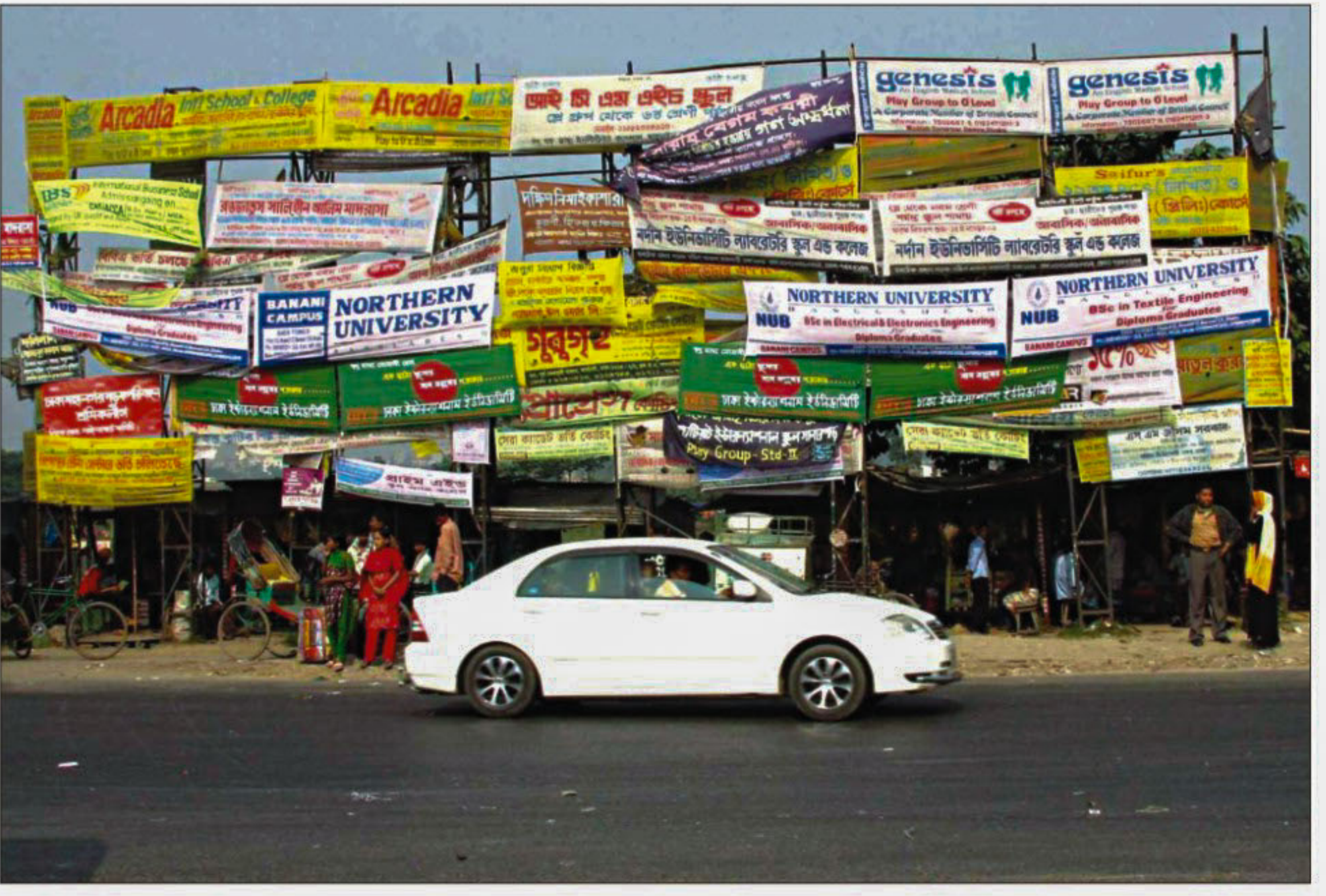


PHOTO: SHAFIQU ALAM

5 killed in Comilla road crash

UNB, Comilla
Five people were killed and 25 others injured in a head-on collision between a bus and a truck at Amjader Bazar on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway in Chouddagram upazila yesterday.
Two of the deceased were identified as bus driver Saiful Alam and its supervisor Nurunnabi.
The identities of three others, including the truck driver, could not be known immediately.
Quoting witnesses police said a Dhaka-bound bus of Star Line collided head-on with a truck at about 6:00am, killing five people on the spot.
Thirteen of the injured were rushed to the upazila

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'Arges' found in Sherpur again

5 arrested
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh
Rab recovered an 'Arges grenade' and arrested five people from Sreebordi upazila of Sherpur district early yesterday for their alleged attempt to implicate a BNP leader in a false case.
The arrestees are Reazul Karim Pakku, former village police Kamruzzaman alias Kamar Dafadar, Abdul Alim, Mohammad Manik and Mohammad Nanda.
Rab sources said a few days ago the gang led by Pakku kept the grenade over the ceiling of Sreebordi upazila unit BNP president Abdul Hakim's house at Satani to implicate him (Hakim) in a

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The Daily Star -HEALTH 21 ROUNDTABLE

Climate change to hit public health hard

Children to be worst affected; skin cancer, eye diseases to be most concern

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Climate change will have an adverse effect on public health -- particularly that of children -- agriculture and environment, health experts said yesterday.
They were speaking at a roundtable discussion titled "Climate change: The biggest health threat coming our way" jointly organised by The Daily Star and Health 21 at the conference room of the English Club.
Prof Pran Gopal Dutta, vice chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, said, "If temperature goes up from 5 to 8 degrees Celsius, children will

be affected the most and 10 percent of them will not be able to celebrate their fifth birthday."
Prof Md Lutfar Rahman of Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital said, "About 10 crore people will be affected by skin cancer and 4.5 crore by eye diseases by 2075 due to the impacts of climate change."
He underlined the necessity for proper health management in addressing the health risks.
The speakers stressed the need for an integrated inter-ministerial policy framework to tackle possible health hazards caused by climate change in a concerted manner with participation of private

sector players.
Direct impacts of climate change on health include malnutrition, waterborne diseases like diarrhoea, cholera, skin and eye diseases due to floods, and cardiovascular diseases following rise in temperature, and 4.5 crore by eye diseases by 2075 due to the impacts of climate change."
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No respite for Atir Khal

Developer continues to fill up the canal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While environmentalists cry loud for saving natural canals, a company continues to fill up century old Atir Khal in Waaspur, opposite to Basila, sealing the fate of this fantastic waterway.
Sensing that the project might come to a halt in the face of protests and media attention, the developer has set extra machinery on the site for filling the canal round the clock.
According to villagers, the developer is also planning to build a road below a bridge in Ghatarchar with a view to claiming that part of the canal as private property. If the road is built, the bridge will become redundant and the canal will cease to exist.
The Waaspur Garden City Cooperative Society officials said they have "managed" the deputy commissioner's office in Dhaka and land office in Kalatia for the project and have all necessary documents dating back to the British-era.
The age-old Atir Khal, which is about ten kilometres long, originates from the river Buriganga at Waaspur and winds its way through Looterchar, Ghatarchar, Emargaon, Ati Bazar, Panchdana, Balurchar, Bhangabari, and Nawabchar areas before meeting the river again at Kholamora.

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IN REMEMBRANCE



We fondly remember Late Aziz H. A. Sattar, the founding Managing Director of GMG Group of Industries, on his 17th death anniversary. He was a pioneer and a role model of industrialization in this country. His unfathomable depth of knowledge, vision, uphill struggle and firm determination inspire all of us. A doa mahfil has been arranged today January 31st after Zohr at GMG Industrial Corporation Ltd, 203/204, Tejgaon, I/A to pray for the salvation of the departed soul. All his relatives, friends and well-wishers are cordially requested to attend.

Family members all officers & employees of GMG Group