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A driver and his help try to get their minibus free from a pool of mud near Joykali Mandir in the capital. Trenches were dug in the street for the construction of the Jatrabari flyover and in many places they were not covered properly. Without any warning signs, many motorists and vehicles get stuck in the soft soil and mud every day. The photo was shot last week.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Roads left in bad shape

Utility agencies dig up for dev work, DCC forgets to repair

HELEMUL ALAM

Mohammad Khokon was driving a bus from Narayanganj to Dhaka on Sunday morning. While crossing the Joykali Mandir area, its wheel got caught in a pothole on the road.

The road stretching from Joykali Mandir to Rajdhani Super Market was thick with wet clay as it was dug up recently by Titas Gas to relocate the gas supply lines and make way for the construction of Gulistan-Jatrabari flyover.

The trenches in the road were filled up poorly and Khokon did not notice the pothole. It took the bus around 12 hours to come out of the trap.

This has become a common sight in the area since June 12, when the Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Ltd started reinstalling its supply lines along the two sides of the road from the middle.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

Nagorik Oikya reveals its political aim  
Eyes next JS polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Both Awami League and BNP have failed to fulfil people's aspirations, and it is time to form a "third political party" with honest, patriotic and visionary people, Nagorik Oikya, a recently formed citizens' organisation, said yesterday.

Its leaders said they will travel across the country before Eid-ul-Fitr to find honest and capable candidates in all 300 constituencies for the next polls and drum up public support for the third political party.

"If we can have in the next parliament at least 50

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



## Top US Navy official due on Friday

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

US Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus will arrive in Dhaka on Friday on a three-day official visit to strengthen the defence relationship between the two countries.

"Secretary Mabus's visit to Bangladesh is intended

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

## Deaths of newborn babies a big concern

83,000 die each year, experts tell

The Daily Star-Save the Children roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Neonatal death still remains a great challenge for the nation although the rate has dropped to 27 from 41 babies per thousand over the last decade, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

On an average, around 83,000 babies die a year.

The speakers urged authorities concerned to incorporate a fully-fledged paediatric section to the undergraduate curriculum for doctors and train nurses the manuals to reduce infant death rate.

The roundtable on "Newborn Survival in Bangladesh, a decade of change and future implications" was jointly organised by The Daily Star and Save the Children at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

Physician Abid Hossain Mollah of

Dhaka Medical College Hospital maintained that paediatrics was one of the most neglected areas in the undergraduate medical curriculum. Students even pass exams without studying paediatrics sincerely.

Of their 52 weeks of internship, medical students spend only four weeks at the paediatric department which is certainly inadequate. As a result these doctors remain shaky about treating neonatal and post-natal complexities, added Abid Hossain.

Mohammad Shahidullah, pro-vice chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, said two basic precautions -- having a delivery kit and keeping the baby dry and wrapped -- can reduce

## GRAMEEN BANK MD Ershad for Yunus-led search body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday urged the government to form a search committee led by Dr Muhammad Yunus to find Grameen Bank's managing

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

**The Daily Star**

**Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL**

Do you agree with Mizanur Rahman, chairman of National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh that the human rights situation of the country has improved significantly?

Yes (11.7%)  
No (86.1%)  
No Comments (2.2%)  
TOTAL VOTES: 915

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you agree with the government that the Human Rights Watch report on rights violation is part of an international conspiracy?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)  
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**PRAYER TIMING July 8**

Asan Jamaat  
Fajr 4-10 4-45  
Zohr 12-45 1-15  
Asr 5-00 5-15  
Maghrib 6-55 7-00  
Esha 8-17 8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

সবাই মিলে দিব কর দেশ হবে স্বনির্ভর

মূল্য সংযোজন কর (ভ্যাট) বিষয়ে সম্মানিত ক্রেতাদের জন্য সাধারণ জ্ঞাতব্য

- পণ্য ও সেবা ক্রয়কালে মূল্য সংযোজন কর (মুসক) পরিশোধ করুন, দেশের অর্থনৈতিক উন্নয়নে গর্বিত অংশীদার হউন।
- পণ্য ও সেবা ক্রয়কালে মুসক চালানপত্র (মুসক-১১/মুসক-১১ক) পণ্য ও সেবা বিক্রেতার নিকট থেকে চেয়ে নিন এবং আপনার দেয়া রাজস্ব সরকারি কোষাগারে জমা নিশ্চিত করুন।
- মুসক চালানপত্রে মুসক নিবন্ধন নম্বর লিপিবদ্ধ আছে কিনা দেখে নিন।
- চালানপত্রে দ্বিমুখী কার্বন ব্যবহার করা হয়েছে কিনা দেখে নিন।
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- বিড়ি, সিগারেট, কোমল পানীয়, মিনারেল ওয়াটার, টয়লেট সাবান ইত্যাদি ক্রয়কালে এগুলোর গায়ে/মুখে স্ট্যাম্প/ব্যাডজেল সঠিক সাইজে যথাযথভাবে লাগানো আছে কিনা দেখে নিন।
- মূল্য সংযোজন কর ফাঁকি দেয়া বা ফাঁকি-কে সহায়তা করা শাস্তিযোগ্য অপরাধ।
- মুসক ফাঁকির সংবাদ নিকটস্থ মূল্য সংযোজন কর কার্যালয়কে অবহিত করুন।
- কর ফাঁকির তথ্য ও প্রমাণ মুসক কর্তৃপক্ষকে প্রদান করে পুরস্কার গ্রহণ করুন।

❖ মুসক সংক্রান্ত যে কোন তথ্যের জন্য নিচের টেলিফোন নম্বরসমূহে যোগাযোগ করুন:-

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রাজশাহী কমিশনারেট (৮৬১১০৫)	চট্টগ্রাম কমিশনারেট (৭২১৪৩২)
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জিডি-২৭৫৮

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