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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

Star Showbiz



JUST FOR SHOW

The port city spent Tk 1.5 crore for automated traffic signals in vain

PAGE 3

WHO KILLED LADEN?

Two former US Navy Seals contradict each other to take the credit

PAGE 8

United, they now choose to fight

Bhashantek people join hands to keep vigil against organised crimes

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and JAMIL MAHMUD

They were repeatedly tortured by crime rings. They sought protection from police but their cries fell on deaf ears every time. The state did not punish the culprits; neither did it do anything to make them feel safe.

Having lost faith in the law enforcement agencies, the people in the capital's Bhashantek slum now have taken up the matter into their own hands.

They have teamed up to form a vigilante force -- Lathi-Banshi Bahini (Stick-Whistle Force) -- to guard the area at night.



Equipped with sticks, flashlights and whistles, they split in eight to nine groups, each consisting 25 to 30 men, and patrol the 40-acre area from dusk to dawn to prevent criminal activities.

HOW IT BEGAN

The move came following two grisly incidents this year.

In the first, a gang led by local thug Mamun forced nine members of a family in a room, including six women, undressed them all and assaulted them for about 15 hours on February 11. Two other male members of the family were beaten up outside the room.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2 PHOTOS ON PAGE 2

Myanmar profits off Rohingya exodus

Naval boats 'escort' asylum seekers out to larger human trafficking ships

AP, Myin Hlut

The small wooden boats leave the shores of western Myanmar nearly every day, overloaded with desperate Rohingya Muslims who are part of one of the largest boat exoduses in Asia since the Vietnam War.

Helping them on their way: Myanmar's own security forces, who are profiting off

the mass departure of one of the world's most persecuted minorities by extracting payments from those fleeing.

A report to be released by the Bangkok-based advocacy group Fortify Rights, and reporting by The Associated Press, indicate the practice is far more widespread and organised than previously thought, with

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Shakib shines in series win

BISHWAJIT ROY from Khulna

He is called a game changer. When opponents tend to study the Bangladesh national team, Shakib Al Hasan is the first name they discuss, for his ability, talent and perseverance can alone change a game in a jiffy. So when the left-hander sported another match-winning performance in the second Test against Zimbabwe in Khulna yesterday which the Tigers won by 162 runs and thereby confirmed the series, it was not much of a surprise.

Such has been the player's level of consistency that people naturally expect him to perform. Yesterday though, his consistent performance received a comparison; one which outlines a path to potential greatness.

The 27-year-old reached new heights yesterday when he became only the third player in Test history, after the greats Ian Botham and Imran Khan to score a century and claim 10 wickets in a match.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1 MORE IN STAR SPORT

Superb SHAKIB CENTURY+ 10 WICKETS

Shakib Al Hasan becomes the third player after Ian Botham and Imran Khan to score a century and take ten wickets in a Test match on the fifth and final day at Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



Firefighters try to douse the blaze at a factory in Old Dhaka yesterday. Story on page 2

BNP cancels today's rally

Party says DMP silent on plea for permission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP has cancelled its today's rally at Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital as the Dhaka Metropolitan Police remained silent on giving it the permission, a party leader has said.

"We were at the DMP office for an hour since 7:00pm but they did not talk to us about the permission," Barkat Ullah Bulu, BNP joint secretary general, told The Daily Star around 10:30pm yesterday.

BNP acting secretary

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

CARDIFF INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL DHAKA Leading through Innovation

From Playgroup - A Level

We worry about what a child will become tomorrow, yet we forget that he is someone today.

- Stacia Tauscher

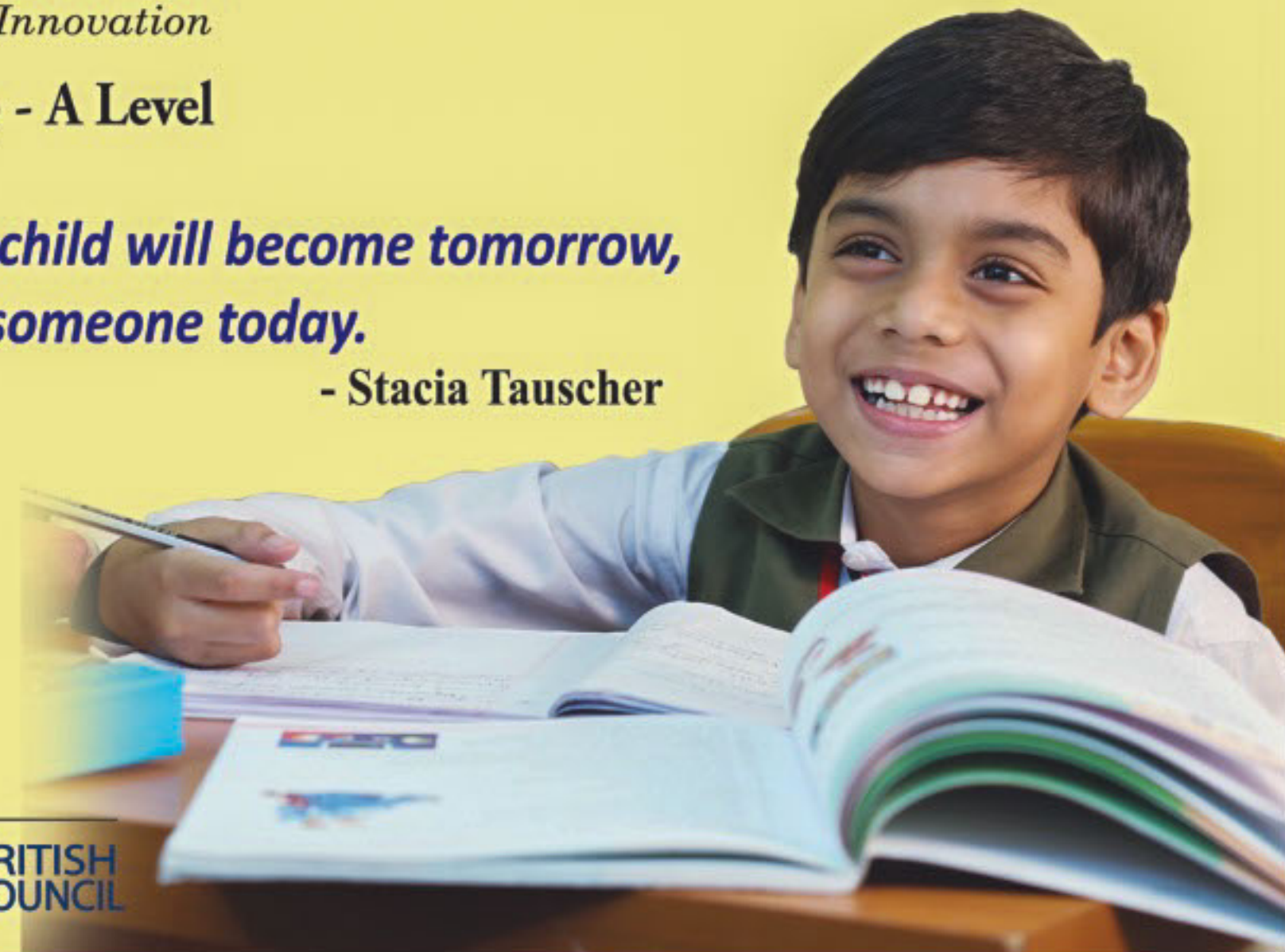
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