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## PRICE OF CARELESSNESS

The stretch of road between Malibagh intersection and Mouchak in the capital was submerged by sewer water yesterday. Workers at the site of the under-construction Moghbazar-Mouchak flyover accidentally damaged the sewer system there, causing immense suffering for commuters. However, the authorities concerned seem to turn a blind eye at this.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



## Yunus ranked 5th among influential global thinkers

STAR REPORT

Nobel peace laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus, founder of Grameen Bank that pioneered social business, has been ranked fifth among global influential thinkers in the Global Thought Leader 2014 survey carried out by the Zurich-based Gottlieb Duttweiler Institute for Economic and Social Studies and MIT Sloan School researcher Peter Gloor.

According to a press release issued by the Yunus Centre yesterday, the top 100 most influential thinkers in the world have been identified through a systematic analysis of the English-speaking infosphere.

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## 8 construction workers buried under debris in Malaysia

Body of one found, victims believed to be Bangladeshis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least one construction worker was killed and another feared dead after scaffolding fell on them in Malaysia's Petaling Jaya Wednesday afternoon.

Six more workers were pulled out alive from the debris. Four of them were sent to Putrajaya Hospital and the other two to a private clinic, Malaysian daily The Star reported quoting government officials.

All the eight victims are believed to be Bangladeshis, but Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala

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PRAYER TIMING December 25		
Fajr	5:25	6:00
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	3:45	4:00
Maghrib	5:24	5:27
Esha	7:00	7:30

## 10 killed as truck hits 3-wheeler

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Ten people, including six women and children, were killed and four others injured in a road accident in Madhupur upazila yesterday.

According to police, a Tangail-bound truck from Madhupur rammed into a three-wheeler (locally known as human haulier) coming from the opposite direction around 12:15pm at Ashura on Tangail-Mymensingh road, killing three on the spot.

Seven more succumbed to their injuries on the way to the Madhupur Upazila Health Complex and Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, said Mojibur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Madhupur Police Station.

All the victims were the passengers of the three-wheeler, he said, adding, police seized the truck but the driver and the helper fled.

After the accident, angry locals blocked the road at Ashura for an hour. They left the spot after police assured them that the culprit would be

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## Farmland shrinking

7 lakh bighas of land lost a year since 2003

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 2,096 bighas of farmland and water bodies were lost to non-agricultural uses a day in the decade since 2003, a study revealed yesterday.

Almost 80 percent of the lost lands were converted into homesteads, a team led by Abul Barkat, economics professor at Dhaka University, found.

The second largest chunk, 17.4 percent, was eaten up for the construction of

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## OIL SPILL IN SUNDARBANS

## UN team's final report by Dec 31

STAR REPORT

The United Nations team inspecting the oil spill in the Sundarbans will submit their report to the government on December 31.

"The team will stay in the Sundarbans to assess the impact of the spillage until next Sunday and submit the report at the end of this month," Emilia Wahlstrom, the team leader, told reporters at a briefing in Andharmanik area of Chandpai Range in the Sundarbans yesterday.

Emilia informed that the UN experts are investigating the effects of oil spill in six groups. "We're on a UN-Bangladesh joint mission for the Sundarbans oil spill response," she said.

The team consists of 25 experts from home and abroad

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## Ekhlas Uddin no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted children's author Ekhlas Uddin Ahmed, who became hugely popular among children for creating

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2



The wreckage of a bailey bridge at Kiting Char in Manikganj's Singair upazila. It collapsed after a stone-laden truck tried to cross the already-dilapidated bridge, killing the driver and his assistant. Road communication between the upazila and Dhaka was snapped following the incident.

PHOTO: STAR

## Bangladeshis must leave or turn Hindu

Says India's Bajrang Dal; VHP differs

TNN, Meerut

Balraj Dungar, convenor of the Bajrang Dal for Meerut, said on Tuesday that Bangladeshis living in India must either leave the country or convert to Hinduism.

"Our first demand is that they must leave the country, as they are abusing our resources. However, if they wish to live here, they must convert to Hinduism and adapt to the ways of our life," he said.

Commenting on the recent instances of 'ghar wapsi' (scheme to convert non-Hindus to Hindus) in Uttar Pradesh, Dungar said, "We had been involved in 'ghar wapsi' campaigns

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## Driving backwards for 11 years

ODDITYCENTRAL.COM

Indian taxi driver Harpreet Dev is well-known in his hometown of Bhatinda, Punjab, for his amazing reverse driving skills. The 30-year-old has been driving his cab in reverse for the past 11 years.

Harpreet is so used to it now that he says he doesn't trust himself to drive forwards anymore! He even has a special government license that allows him to drive backwards in any state in the northern part of India.

Harpreet's passion for reverse driving started in 2003, when his faithful Fiat Padmini got stuck in

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## Anger erupts after US cop kills 'armed' black teen

AFP, Berkeley

Officials scrambled to head off renewed anger yesterday after an armed black teenager was shot dead by a white officer in a St Louis suburb, insisting the use of force was justified.

The killing took place late Tuesday at a gas station in Berkeley, near Ferguson, Missouri -- ground zero of a new protest movement over police killing of black suspects -- and triggered immediate protests.

Nationwide protests were sparked after unarmed black teenager Michael Brown was shot dead by a white officer in Ferguson, a mostly African American town with a mostly white police force.

After several weeks, demonstrations gained momentum in reaction to several other killings of black suspects by police, including that of Eric Garner, who died in a

chokehold in New York last July.

Separate grand juries in St Louis and New York failed to indict officers in either the Brown and Garner cases, sparking allegations the justice system is weighted against black victims of police abuse.

But officials in Ferguson's neighboring suburb Berkeley said Tuesday's shooting should not be compared to the previous cases, and said the officer was acting in self-defense.

"You couldn't even compare this with Ferguson or the Garner case in New York," Berkeley Mayor Theodore Hoskins said.

"Everybody don't die the same. Some people die because the policeman initiated it, some people die because they initiated it, And at this point, our review indicates that the police did not initiate this."

He told reporters most city officials and

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with Prof Rashid-e-Mahub of the National Committee on Health Rights Movement that upazila health complexes lack adequate facilities and fail to provide required services to patients?



TOTAL VOTES: 191

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the idea of introducing toll at the capital's entry points to collect revenue for paying the public servants increased salary would be justified?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net



রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ

রাজউক ভবন, ঢাকা

বিষয়: উত্তরা এপার্টমেন্ট প্রকল্পে ফ্ল্যাট বরাদ্দ (১ম পর্যায়) প্রাপকদের ২য় কিস্তির অর্থ এবং (২য় পর্যায়ে) প্রাপকগণের ১ম কিস্তির অর্থ জমা দেয়ার সময়সীমা বৃদ্ধিকরণ সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি।

রাজউক উত্তরা এপার্টমেন্ট প্রকল্পে ১৬২০ বর্গফুট আয়তনের 'এ' ক্যাটাগরীর ফ্ল্যাট বরাদ্দ (১ম পর্যায়-মার্চ, ২০১৩ মাসে জারিকৃত) প্রাপকগণের ২য় কিস্তির অর্থ (দেশীয় এবং বৈদেশিক মুদ্রায়) জমা দেয়ার সময়সীমা সুদবিহীনভাবে ৩১.১২.২০১৪ এর পরিবর্তে আগামী ৩১.০৩.২০১৫ তারিখ পর্যন্ত বর্ধিত করা হলো এবং (২য় পর্যায়-মার্চ, ২০১৪ মাসে জারিকৃত) প্রাপকগণের ১ম কিস্তির অর্থ (দেশীয় এবং বৈদেশিক মুদ্রায়) জমা দেয়ার সময়সীমা একই সঙ্গে সুদবিহীনভাবে আগামী ৩১.০৩.২০১৫ তারিখ পর্যন্ত বর্ধিত করা হলো।

উত্তরা এপার্টমেন্ট প্রকল্পে যে সকল আবেদনকারী ফ্ল্যাট বরাদ্দ পেয়েছেন তাদের বরাদ্দ সংক্রান্ত প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যাদি রাজউক ওয়েবসাইট [www.rajukdhaka.gov.bd](http://www.rajukdhaka.gov.bd) হতে সংগ্রহ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

সচিব

রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ

রাজউক ভবন, ঢাকা

জিডি-৫০১২