



## DEAN POTTER DIES

The extreme sports legend found dead, after attempting an aerial descent

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## NO MORE BATTING POWERPLAY?

The ICC's cricket committee suggests new rules for all formats of the game

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## WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

# LIFE

style



## ELECTRONIC SIGNALS IN CITY

# Costly trial ends in traffic chaos

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

The appalling traffic congestion that Dhaka dwellers suffered on Saturday and Sunday was the result of a trial of new electronic traffic signal system installed for the second time, wasting crores in taxpayers' money.

In the last 11 years, the government spent Tk 37 crore on the traffic signal system in the capital.

In 2004, Tk 14 crore was spent for installing a signal system. The money went down the drain as it became ineffective within days. And traffic police had to control vehicular movement with hand signals at intersections in the capital.

The government initiated a fresh project in 2013 for installing countdown timers alongside the set of lights at intersections for Tk 23 crore.

Last year, trials of the timers were conducted twice at two points; congestion increased and there was chaos, prompting the city corporations to delay implementation of the new system.

But the latest trial was by far the worst. On Friday, traffic police began the trial from Kakoli intersection to Shahbagh. The following day, there was nagging traffic congestion on the thoroughfare and it quickly trickled down to other streets. The picture was the same on Sunday.

Traffic police were forced to stop the trial yesterday morning.

According to sources in the two Dhaka city corporations, the project to install the traffic signals was taken only for financial benefits of some local companies and a section of officials of the corporations.

They said the new system was installed when the lifespan of the existing system is to expire in 2024. Under the new scheme, countdown timers and solar panels had been installed at 70 locations, with 30 more to go.

"This is nothing but a mockery... I don't understand the purpose of installing countdown clocks when none follows the traffic

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A set of traffic lights with time remaining counter.



The Phulbari-Gulistan link road has long been occupied by hawkers. They sit right on the road blocking vehicles under the Mayor Hanif Flyover and triggering traffic congestion in the busy Gulistan area. The obstruction also has impact on the traffic situation in other parts of the capital. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## CONFESSION ON N'GANJ 7-MURDER

# Maj Arif tells of Zia's role

RASHIDUL HASAN and EMRAN HOSSAIN

On April 29 last year, two days after the gruesome seven-murder in Narayanganj, Rab Additional Director General (operations) Col Ziaul Ahsan gave former Rab-11 commanding officer Tareque Sayeed Mohammad an assignment: killing Nur Hossain by the end of the day.

Nur Hossain is the main accused in the seven-murder case and he allegedly paid Rab men Tk 6 crore to kill Narayanganj city councillor Nazrul Islam, one of the seven.

Col Zia, second-in-command of the

elite force, called the now sacked Tareque and Maj Arif Hossain to his Rab headquarters office and gave the order.

When Arif spoke of his fear of severe consequences of another murder on top of the seven-murder, Zia told Tareque, "CO [commanding officer], you have to do this."

Nur Hossain, however, later fled the country and is now in an Indian jail for entering the country without valid papers.

The Daily Star learned about Zia's order to kill Nur Hossain from Arif's confessional statement. The seven-

murder charge sheet contains confessional statements of a number of accused.

The charge sheet, a copy of which has been obtained by this newspaper, does not explain why Zia gave the order to kill Nur Hossain.

Contacted last night, Zia said the confessional statements were contradictory and baseless.

One could say anything in a confessional statement and that it was the investigating officer's job to verify it, he added.

"In the charge sheet, am I an

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## Man 'kills wife, takes his own life' in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth allegedly committed suicide after killing his wife at his apartment in the capital's Hazaribagh last night.

Relatives of Md Russel, 27, found him hanging from a ceiling fan while his wife Sadia Akhter Iffat, 18, was lying dead in a bed, with her throat slit.

Russel supplied chemicals to tanneries in the area.

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## NEWS ANALYSIS

# A day to salute our media

INAM AHMED

We stand proud of our media and the hard work, courage and doggedness newsmen have shown in covering two important events the results of which were splashed in yesterday's newspapers.

One of them is the conviction of the officer-in-charge of Khilgaon Police Station who had found a prey in an innocent university student Abdul Kadar. The police officer with his force got hold of the boy who was returning late in the night to the dorm after a dinner and, with the motive of squeezing money from him, had tortured him and pressed

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**TOP QUOTE**

"The law enforcers, to whom we turn for security, have now become a cause for alarm."

PROFESSOR EMERITUS  
**SERAJUL ISLAM CHOUDHURY**  
AT A CHHATRA UNION PROGRAMME PROTESTING SEXUAL ASSAULT ON WOMEN DURING PAHELA BAISHAKH CELEBRATIONS



A rescued Myanmar migrant carries a child who needs medical attention in Langsa yesterday. Nearly 3,000 migrants, Myanmar Rohingya and Bangladeshis, have swum to shore or been rescued off Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand over the past week, around half of whom have arrived in Indonesia's western province of Aceh. More on page 2. PHOTO: AFP

## MYANMAR COAST Fishermen rescue seven Bangladeshis

STAR REPORT

Seven Bangladeshi nationals were rescued yesterday off the Myanmar coast after they were thrown from a fishing trawler packed with migrants heading to Malaysia, a coast guard officer said.

Lt Dickson Chowdhury, in-charge of the Coast Guard's St Martin Station, said the seven men had been pulled from the Bay of Bengal by fishermen

# Myanmar acknowledges 'concern' over exodus

'Muslim boatpeople' deserve human rights: Suu Kyi's spokesperson; Indonesia turns away boat as Asian migrant crisis escalates

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar yesterday acknowledged international "concerns" about waves of boatpeople, many of whom are fleeing from persecution, but denied it is solely to blame as thousands languish in dire straits at sea.

The comments came as fresh details emerged from migrants of brutal fighting with metal bars and knives that left at least 100 dead as food and water dwindled on their rickety vessel as it drifted in

Indonesian waters.

Southeast Asia is gripped by an escalating migrant boat crisis that has seen nearly 3,000 migrants swim to shore or be rescued off Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand over the past week.

Others have been turned back to sea, sparking international outrage and fears that time is running out to rescue thousands still believed to be trapped with scarce supplies on the unwanted boats.

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# Emotional reunion in Shillong

Wife meets Salahuddin; the BNP leader says he wants to return home soon

RASHIDUL HASAN and PRABIR BARUA CHOWDHURY

BNP leader Salahuddin Ahmed, who is undergoing treatment at a Shillong hospital in the Indian state of Meghalaya, had a reunion with his wife Hasina Ahmed yesterday evening after over two months.

An emotional moment arose when Hasina finally saw her husband from outside the window of the prison cell. The couple touched each other's hands through the window with tears rolling down Hasina's cheeks.

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PHOTO: COLLECTED BY BANGLAR CHOKH

## 3 brothers die for a mobile

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

A mobile phone turned out to be the reason of three brothers' tragic deaths in Khagrachhari.

Deceased Pradip Shashi Chakma, 42; Hebutu Chakma, 30, and Ubuntu Chakma, 26, were residents of Monartek village under Mohalchhari upazila in the district.

The incident took place around 11:20pm on Sunday when Ubuntu went to the tiny toilet built on a ring well surrounded by corrugated iron sheets. But

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## HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS



Syed A K Anwaruzzaman

On behalf of S M Group of Companies Ltd. Our heartiest Congratulations to our beloved Chairman **Syed A K Anwaruzzaman**, CIP on taking responsibility of Office of the Managing Director of M/S Shamol Bangla Media Ltd. (Banglavision)

All Members and Staff of **SM Group of Companies Ltd.**

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