


# NEWS IN brief

## 20 injured in N'ganj boiler blast

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj  
 Around 20 people were injured when a boiler went off at a rice mill at Gobindapur village in Sonargaon upazila of Narayanganj yesterday.  
 Eight of the injured were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital while others were admitted to local hospitals, said police.  
 Witnesses said the explosion occurred with a big bang at Gausia Auto Rice Mill while the workers were putting husks into it around 11:30am.

## Iftexhar Uddin new CU VC

CU CORRESPONDENT  
  
 Prof Iftexhar Uddin Chowdhury was appointed the Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University for four years.  
 President Abdul Hamid, also CU Chancellor, made the order of his appointment on Tuesday, said CU Deputy Registrar Md Forhad.  
 Prof Iftexhar who was serving as the CU Pro-VC from 2013, will take charge on June 16, he added.  
 He joined the sociology department of CU in 1982 and obtained his PhD from Tsukura University of Japan in 1988.

## Ctg Jamaat ameer re-arrested at jail gate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg  
 Police yesterday arrested Chittagong city unit of Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer ANM Shamsul Islam from Chittagong Central Jail gate after he was released on bail in a case filed over subversive activities.  
 He is accused in several other cases, said police.  
 Earlier on May 12, 2014, police arrested him with 21 other Jamaat leaders and activists and recovered bomb-making materials from the party's Chittagong city office.  
 On July 16 of the year, he was arrested again from the jail gate after getting released from jail.

## Decomposed bodies of 2 robbers found in Ashulia

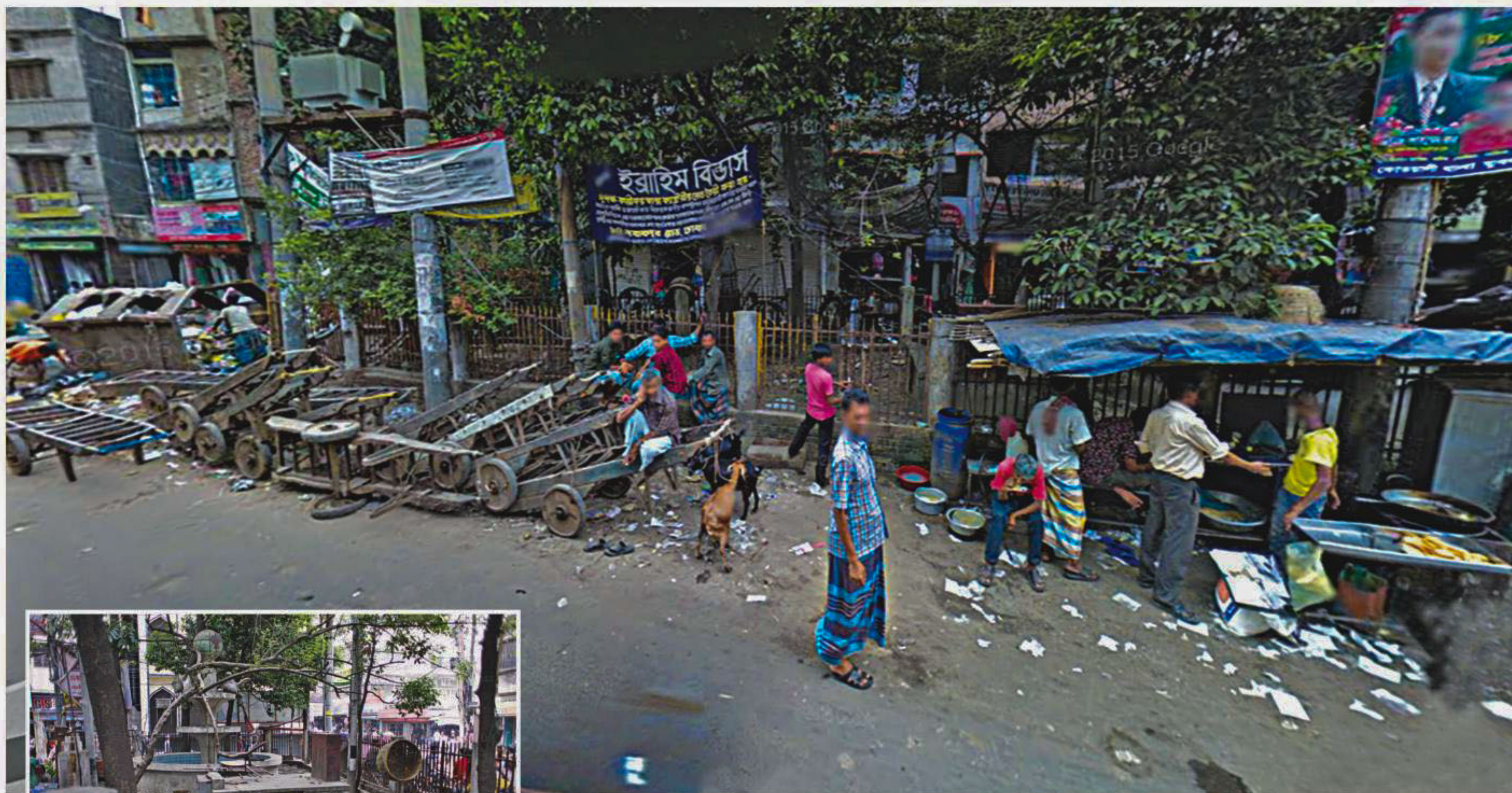
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar  
 Police recovered the decomposed bodies of two robbers from a house in Kurgaon village of Ashulia, outside the capital, yesterday.  
 Belayet Hossain Shawpon, 32, and Rassel Rana, 34, of Gopalganj were accused in several cases filed over robbery and mugging, said police.  
 Police suspected that they were killed two or three days back. The bodies were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for an autopsy.

## Safety restored at NBL tower

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 days away, he said, "I don't want to talk about it over the phone."  
 Earlier, when asked who the other two members were of the three-member probe committee he is heading to look into the incident, he said, "Go know it from Dhaka North City Corporation."  
 The shore protection system of the 50-foot deep pit on CR Dutta road near Sonargaon hotel intersection collapsed on May 27 triggering fears that Sundarban Hotel might cave in too, as the hotel's foundation soil subsided following the collapse.  
 Later, all four sides of the pit subsided gradually over the next few days forcing the authorities to launch an all-out effort to fill the hole and shut the adjoining CR Dutta and Panthapath roads to traffic to prevent collapse of surrounding structures.  
 National Bank obtained Rajuk's approval in December 2013 for the 12-storey building comprised of two towers and three basement floors on a 64-katha plot and hired Korean architectural firm Heerim, Korean construction firm Donga, and local MS Construction.

## Boy killed by stray bullet in Ctg

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 of Chittagong Metropolitan Police, quoted witnesses as saying.  
 However, Delwar claimed that he had no rivalry with anyone, said Paritos. "We are investigating the matter."  
 They suspect that local miscreants are involved in it, he said.  
 The victim's uncle Suman Miah filed a case with Panchlaih Police Station accusing some unnamed miscreants.



The triangular Bangshal Park, earlier known as Lady Bagan, is surrounded by discarded stuff, makeshift shops, pushcarts and a garbage container making it nearly impossible for anyone to recognise it as an open space which was frequented by local residents decades ago. Inset, it has a fountain, though out of order now, inside it but the park is shut to the public. However, the good thing is even after encroachment and neglect, the tiny park still survives. The photos were taken this week.

# Neglect pushes historic place of rest into oblivion



**DISAPPEARING DHAKA PARKS**

**BANGSHAL**  
 EST: BRITISH ERA  
 SIZE: 0.03 ACRES  
 WARD: 71 (OLD)

How many parks does Dhaka city need? According to rules, it should be 92, one for each ward. But we have only 54, with several of them having ceased to exist and many threatened. At least 10 parks have been replaced with a community centre, kitchen market, mosque, rickshaw garage or truck parking lot, mostly by the city corporation itself. This is the picture when an urban expert, Prof Nazrul Islam, says every 10,000 city residents need an open space of four acres -- park or playground -- for healthy development of children and prevention of diseases related to physical activities. The Daily Star reports how and why we are squeezing our breathing spaces in our metropolis where 15 million people cram in. The 12th report of the series is published today.

HELEMUL ALAM  
 Covering only 0.03 acres, the tiny triangular space at the intersection of Bangshal and Kazi Alauddin roads looks shabby and hardly makes it possible for anyone to believe that it was once a park frequented by visitors.  
 Previously known as "Lady Bagan" -- because women in the British period would take rest on its benches in the afternoon -- the park lost around half its land to the expansion of the roads on its two sides in 1970s, locals alleged.  
 There were some nine benches and many trees inside the park where people could relax and children would play different games -- even football -- in 1970s,

said Siraj Uddin, 50, who has been living in the area since his boyhood.  
 Now there are only 20 small trees, he said.  
 After the Liberation War in 1971, a gardener was appointed by the then municipality to look after the flower garden inside the park, said Abdus Salam, a man in his 70s, of Bangshal.  
 The park even used to have a library inside it with several thousand books for the visitors, he added.  
 Now people hardly visit the park due to the discarded objects dumped in and around the small space by nearby shopkeepers and a dustbin kept on its south end destroying the environment of the park totally.

Moreover, small traders are also making the park inaccessible by setting up makeshift shops adjoining the fence on all sides, locals said.  
 Former Dhaka city mayor late Mohammad Hanif had developed the park and set up a fountain inside it, which was inaugurated on November 5, 1998.  
 But the fountain went out of order just three years later due to a lack of maintenance, said locals.  
 After the development work, the park was also locked permanently and an iron fence was erected around it.  
 Mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation Sayeed Khokon, also son of Hanif, said he would take up a plan to develop the park and make the fountain functional.



## Bangladesh re-elected to UNESCAP's

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 the Bangladesh mission in Bangkok received yesterday.  
 Based in Incheon, Korea, APCICT works to strengthen efforts of ESCAP's member countries to use ICT in their socio-economic development through building human and institutional capacity.  
 CAPSA, based in Bogor, Indonesia, aims

to strengthen South-South Dialogue and intra-regional learning on poverty, food security and sustainable agriculture.  
 The vision of CSAM, based in Beijing, China, is to achieve production gains, improved rural livelihood and poverty alleviation through sustainable agricultural mechanisation for a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable Asia and the Pacific.

## Political impasse

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 percent of whom are women, he said, however, adding that working conditions there need a lot of improvement.  
 After some truly horrific factory disasters, a remarkable coalition of government, industry, labour, and civil society came together to fix the failures in worker safety and labour rights that led to those tragedies, he said.  
 International brands have played a leading role in improving factory safety in Bangladesh, and have been instrumental in pulling national industry and government in the right direction, Richard E Hoagland said.  
 "But a lot more needs to be done, particularly on labour rights -- for all the progress, we have still not seen the change in attitudes, enforcement, and incentives that the garment sector needs to succeed," he said.

## Taqi's father charged

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 On last December 8, city AL General Secretary Khokan Saha filed the case with the Chief Judicial Magistrate Court against Rabbi for calling Shamim's wife Lipi Osman a "daughter of Razakar" at a rally of Taqi Mancha in the town on last December 5.  
 Rabbi, a cultural activist, had formed the Taqi Mancha after the killing of his son Tanwir Muhammed Taqi in 2013. Taqi was found dead on March 8, 2013.

## Students protest dorm fee hike

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 be increased for the 5,000 students of the women's college.  
 Enayet Hossain, principal of the college, said increase in electricity and other maintenance charges forced the authorities to increase the hostel fees.

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