SYLHET

# Safe food, iftar items demanded in Ramadan

DU CORRESPONDENT

All types of food including iftar items during Ramadan have to be free from adulteration, demanded some social and environmental organisations yesterday.

In this regard, they stressed effective implementation of the Safe Food Act, 2013 by the government. At a human chain before

the Faculty of Fine Arts of Dhaka University, Poribesh Bachao Andolon, Barsik, Jono Uddog, Green Mind Society, and Poribesh Unnayan Society made the demands.

The participants alleged that iftar items are fried in used and engine oil.

During the holy month of Ramadan, stale food items are ubiquitous, which can cause food poisoning, serious kidney and SEE PAGE 5 COL 4



Rows of trucks illegally parked on a busy road seriously hamper traffic flow near Sayedabad bus terminal in the capital. The photo was taken on Thursday.

**ANISUR RAHMAN** 

# Secularism waning in Bangladesh

Seminar in memory of late National Professor Salahuddin told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In Bangladesh, where the mainstream language is Bangla, Muslims call water "Pani", a Sanskrit term, and Hindus use the Arabic word "Jol", a professor from West Bengal said yesterday, dwelling on the mixed culture of the Bangalee and secular history of the Indian subcontinent.

Prof Emanuel Haque of Bidhan Nagar Government College gave a slew of other instances making his point in a paper he presented at the three-day seminar titled "Dharmaniropekkhota O Samuhik Samajbikash" (Secularism and Collective Social Development).

Other speakers observed that secularism was losing ground in Bangladesh.

Inaugurating the seminar at Bangla Academy, Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman said the word secularism was not clearly defined in Bangladesh's constitution -- it neither referred to a "religion-less state" nor "state neutrality towards different religions".

Such debate does not help create a peaceful society with co-existence of all religions, he said.

The seminar was organised jointly by Bangla Academy, School of Liberal Arts and Social Studies at the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), and Mahmuda Khatun Siddiqua, Abdul Ahad O Hamida Khanam Smriti Parishad in memory of late National Professor AF Salahuddin Ahmed.

Talking about the weakness of the current education

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SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

PROPOSED 8TH GOVT PAYSCALE

# Lower tier employees term it discriminatory

Vent disappointment about provision for doubling only officers' salaries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing deep grievance at the proposed 8th payscale at a press conference yesterday, government employees said virtually it would further deprive them financially let alone increase salaries compared to benefits offered to officers.

"It will just further widen the dis-

Seminar on prevention told

Due to high frequency of road accidents in

the country, around 15 to 20 persons die

every day, but it elicits little reaction from

the public, said speakers at a seminar on

They added that the civil society protests

when a celebrity or an important person

dies in a road accident, but it does not raise

Accidents organised the seminar at the

somehow affected by road crashes," said

National Unity for Prevention of Road

"Almost all families in the country are

prevention of road accidents yesterday.

its voice when ordinary people die.

Central Public Library in the capital.

little public reaction

crimination between employees and officers," said Md Hanif Bhuiyan, convener of Bangladesh Sarkari Karmachari Jatiya Oikya Forum that organised the press conference at the capital's The Daily Star Centre.

It is absolutely an erroneous statement disseminated in the public domain that the scale will double salaries of all public servants, he said.

"The new payscale will double the salaries of only officers while 90 percent of the class III and IV employees, who constitute 80 percent of all public servants, will have no benefit," he said.

He demanded that the government immediately reviews the scale by June 21 keeping Tk 16,000 instead of the SEE PAGE 4 COL 3, SEE PHOTO ONLINE

# Dhaka gifts Road crash deaths elicit 2 elephants to Cyprus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

former professor of Buet Abdur Rahim, also Cyprus yesterday. convener of the group. He said if the victim happens to be an influential person, the government or

get nothing. Ramesh Chandra Ghosh, managing director of Shyamoli Paribahan, urged Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) to issue driver's license to only those capable of driving.

different organisations provide support to

the family, but families of ordinary people

He also urged authorities to amend laws so that drivers who break traffic rules are banned from driving for life.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3

Bangladesh has sent two elephants as a gift to

Five-year-old Bano Rani and seven-year-old Sona Rani were flown to Cyprus on a cargo plane of Etihad Airways from Hazrat Shahjalal

International Airport in the afternoon, Faisal Talukder, veterinary surgeon of Dhaka's Central Veterinary Hospital, told The Daily Star yesterday. SEE PAGE 5 COL 3

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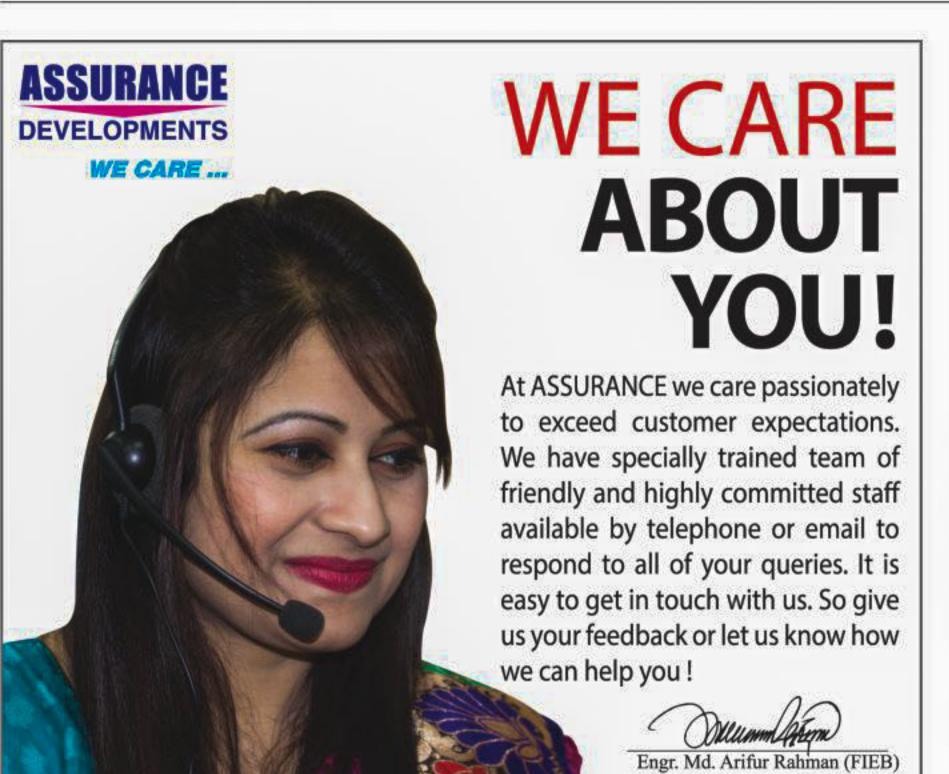
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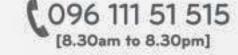
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