



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE



## NEW VAT LAW

The regime to help boost revenue collection by 20pc: study

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## 'DISAPPOINTED'

Maldives president reacts to 'foreign meddling' in the honeymoon island's affairs

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# RISKY BILLBOARDS

# Safety totally unwatched

DCCs' jobs restricted to occasional drives only

TAWFIQUE ALI with HELEMUL ALAM

Several thousand risky billboards and signposts set up legally and illegally across the capital pose a constant death threat to the city dwellers, in the absence of an effective oversight by the city authorities to ensure public safety.

On Sunday, one such gigantic unipole billboard collapsed at Shapla Chattar in the city's commercial hub of Motijheel, injuring a student and damaging a rickshaw. Simply by a stroke of luck, no one was killed in the ever crowded roundabout.

All over the city, hundreds of similar billboards present a high risk of collapse as their entire weight is supported by a single pole.

"In theory, the City



Corporation is responsible for ensuring technical stability of such huge metal structures with its regulatory process. But in practice, there is no mechanism to do this," said a top official of Dhaka South City Corporation, wishing anonymity.

The city corporation's planning and the

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Pedestrians wade through waist-deep water on the Bandarban-Rangamati road. Army personnel, bottom, travel on a boat in a nearby area yesterday. Over the last few days, heavy rain and the onrush of water from upstream worsened the flood situation in Bandarban. The photos were taken at places around the Bandarban Army Hospital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# Flood tightens grip

5 killed in Cox's Bazar landslide

STAR REPORT

Five more people, including three women and a kid, were killed in a landslide triggered by heavy rains in Cox's Bazar town early yesterday, barely a month after five people died in landslides in the district.

Some three lakh people have been marooned by flood water following the rise in water of the Matamuhuri. People took shelter on roads and highways as many houses were

damaged in Chakaria, Pekua and Ramu upazilas.

In Bandarban, the overall flood situation remained unchanged yesterday. The flash flood has left some 40,000 people without shelter. The road links between the district and other parts of the country remain cut for the last three days.

Many victims said they were suffering from shortage of food and drinking water and were yet to receive relief supplies.

Hundreds of people living on hill slopes in Moulvibazar and Khagrachhari were passing their days in fear of landslides due to incessant rain.

Sources at Cox's Bazar deputy commissioner's office said at least four houses near the local radar station were buried under mud when the landslide occurred around 2:00am yesterday. A portion of the station's boundary wall also collapsed.

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# Time for faster devices

Discoverer of wonder particle sees weyltronics replace electronics

REAZ AHMAD

The discovery of an elusive particle theorised 85 years ago would eventually take the world to a new dawn of super fast electronics and computing.

"Mass-less Weyl fermions may potentially lead us to a new era in electronics once scientists work out the way to control and manipulate them ...," says Prof M Zahid Hasan, a Bangladeshi physicist at Princeton University.

who led an international team to the discovery of the particle.

If that is achieved, electronic devices would be faster, be more energy efficient, and produce less heat since they would be run by mass-less electrons.

As the Weyl fermions, unlike electrons, can go through obstacles and change course, computing, as we know it, could change.

It could be the "motherboard for future

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Prof M Zahid Hasan



Graduate  
Admission  
Fall 2015

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Application Deadline  
29 July, 2015, 5:00 pm

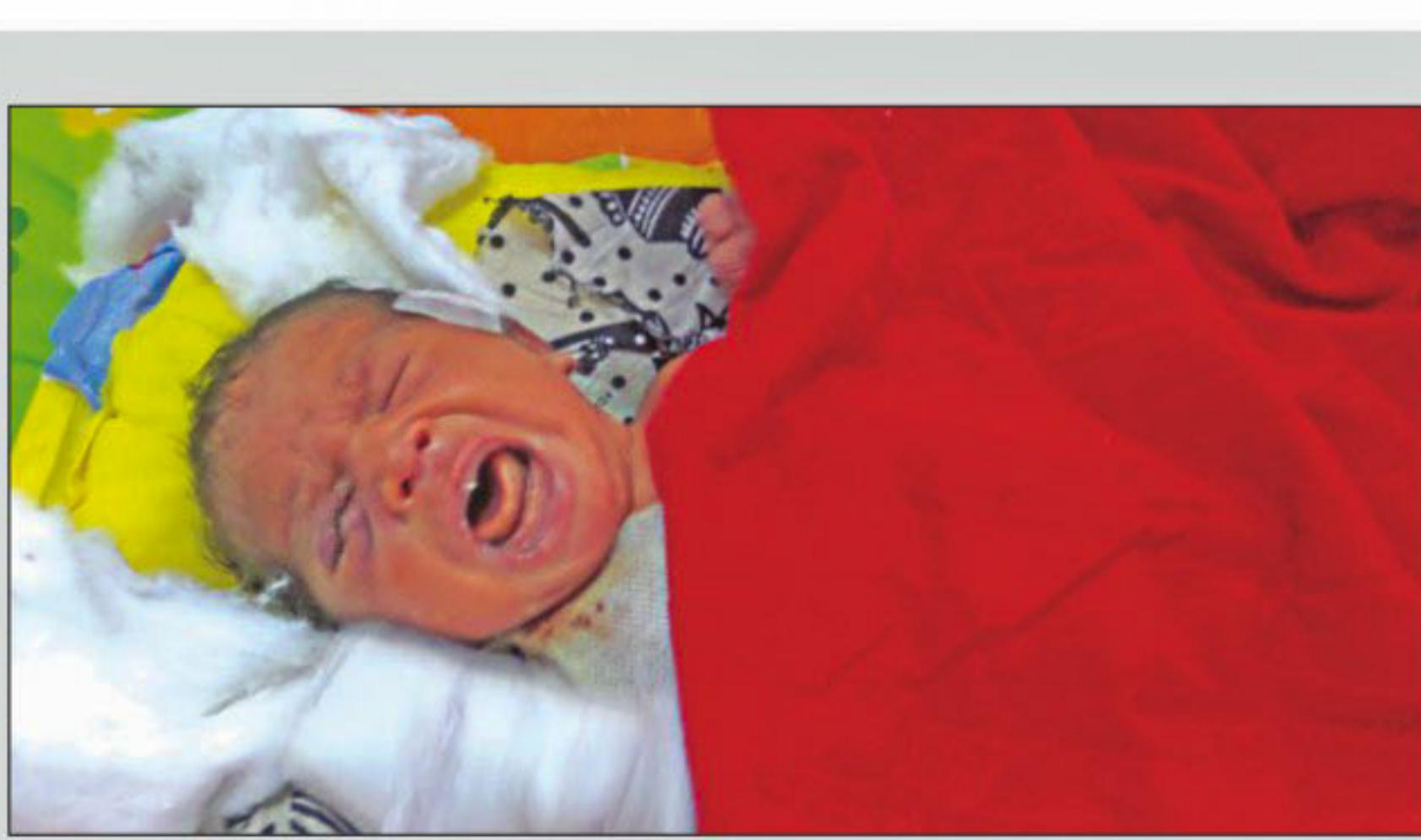
Admission Test  
31 July 2015  
Friday, 3:30 pm  
at NSU Campus

### Financial Aid

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For more details, please contact

NSU Admissions and Information Office  
Level 1, Bashundhara, Dhaka 1229  
Tel: 880 2 55668200, Ext. 5000, 5002, 5004, 1174, 1062  
E-mail: admissions@northsouth.edu, nurul.amin@northsouth.edu



The baby girl who suffered bullet wounds in her mother's womb. PHOTO: STAR

# Welcome to the cruel world

MOHAMMEL SHUVO

The atrocity this unborn baby faced beats wartime savagery. Before she was born, one bullet pierced her right shoulder and another critically injured her right eye, as if to tell her that even

mother's womb is no longer a safe place for the unborn.

Miraculously though, she survived after a two-hour caesarean operation on her mother at Magura General Hospital Thursday night. The 35-year-old

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Application form can be downloaded from NSU website and submitted with document of deposit Tk. 1500 at any of the following banks: Southeast Bank, UCBL, DBBL, NCCBL, IFIC Bank, Bashundhara branch, and One Bank, Jagannathpur branch, Dhaka. Printed forms are also available in the above mentioned banks.