

**STRIKING A CHORD** 

in many markets, tested



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DREAMS COME TRUE

Physically challenged cricketers

from five countries begin battle

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"I'm giving you [ruling party] assurance that we won't pursue politics of vengeance."

BNP CHAIRPERSON KHALEDA ZIA, HER PARTY'S FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY



## **MIGRANT CRISIS**

EU grapples as boatpeople continue to cross the Mediterranean

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## DHAKA DELUGED

One hour's downpour stops traffic dead on its tracks, leaves people to deal with untold sufferings

STAR REPORT

Dhaka city people had a terrible day yesterday as heavy rains left most of the roads, lanes and bylanes inundated and vehicles stranded for hours in unprecedented traffic jams.

The city's transport system virtually came to a halt due to waterlogging, triggered by hardly over-an-hour rains that began shortly before noon.

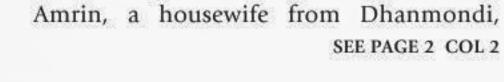
Many passengers had to walk miles after getting off buses stuck in nearly unending tailbacks in major thoroughfares, including Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Mirpur Road, Manik Mia Avenue and Pragati Sarani.

"It was 12:00pm when I got on the bus at Mirpur-14 and it was 2:45pm when I got down at the Suhrawardy hospital near Agargaon. I decided to walk," said Shahin, who was seen walking with his shoes in hands. Many bus passengers told our reporters that they had to

users and bikers had worse experience as they could not leave their vehicles. "I drove my motorbike through the alleys, which were under knee-deep water, with danger lurking,"

spend up to six hours to reach their destinations; private car

said a biker named Sharif, referring to uncovered manholes and potholes.









## 2 system flaws exposed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Just over an hour's heavy rain yesterday once again exposed the capital city's poor drainage system and lax management of traffic, bringing vehicles on all the major roads and streets to a standstill for hours.

Leading urban planners have said the city's choked drainage system causes inundation of streets and roads after heavy or even normal monsoon rain.

Traffic experts think the slackness of traffic police further worsened yesterday's gridlock triggered by sudden rain.

Professor Md Mujibur Rahman, an expert on the city's drainage, has said the loss of designated flood plains to developers and canals to land grabbers has virtually clogged the city's drainage channels.

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