



**FAIR WAGE METHOD**  
Retail giant H&M to introduce the system in 20 garment units in Bangladesh this year  
PAGE B1

**FEROZA FOREVER**  
A tribute to the Nazrul Geeti maestro on her first death anniversary  
PAGE 9

**AT LONG LAST**  
Refugee father photographed crying with children has reached Germany  
PAGE 8

## City canals in death throes

Vital arteries of Dhaka's storm drainage system either clogged or grabbed

**TAWFIQUE ALI**  
The last remaining canals in the capital are being choked to death with the authorities doing almost nothing to save them, making the city vulnerable to waterlogging even after a light or moderate rain.  
Indiscriminately grabbed and poorly maintained, some two dozen canals with a total length of 65km are failing to properly function as the city's storm drainage.  
The September 1 deluge was a pointer to the extremity of the situation. Life in the city grinded to a chaotic halt following a normal 42mm monsoon rainfall on the day.  
After this, experts have repeatedly underscored that there is no alternative to recovering the existing canals and peripheral floodplains from the grabbers' grip to save the city of over 15 million people.  
While the existing open canals have been either choked with solid waste or encroached upon by powerful land



Who would believe this used to be a canal? A notice put up by Dhaka Wasa reminds people that Khilgaon-Basabo canal once ran through here. Over the years, people have grabbed and filled up the water body near Khilgaon Level Crossing with the authorities doing little to stop them. *Bottom left*, Kutubkhali canal in Jatrabari is being encroached on from either side; and, *bottom right*, Manda canal near Mugdapara is clogged with waste. The photos were taken yesterday.



- City suffers waterlogging frequently due to sorry state of canals
- No move to restore illegally occupied, filled-up canals, floodplains
- Mindless dumping of solid waste into canals continues
- City corporations, Wasa unable to clean up clogged canals
- Influential people built structures blocking most of the canals

**TOP QUOTE**

**AL LEADER SURANJIT SENGUPTA**  
AT A DISCUSSION IN THE CAPITAL, REFERRING TO PUBLIC SERVANTS' PAY HIKE

"Your salaries have doubled; now we hope your service, not the bribes you take, will grow four times."

### BNP grapples with fear, frustration

Grassroots activists respond poorly to party's agitation

**RASHIDUL HASAN and PRABIR BARUA CHOWDHURY**

Disappointed at the poor turnout for Sunday's protest against power and gas tariff hike, top BNP leaders now wonder whether the party can wage a tough movement for a mid-term election.  
Out of the party's 75 organisational districts, only 10 to 12 staged demonstrations across the country. But the others, including the BNP city unit, did not take to the streets, sources at the BNP central office said.  
The Dhaka district unit even failed to stage any protest in front of the BNP central office at Nayapaltan.  
Some BNP grassroots leaders and activists blamed the law enforcers' tough stand against the protest for the poor turnout.  
This was the 20-party alliance's first protest programme since April 5 when the BNP-led opposition combine unofficially called off its over three-month-long indefinite blockade and frequent hartals. The alliance had launched the movement demanding a midterm polls under a non-partisan administration.  
Talking to The Daily Star on condition of anonymity, a BNP national standing committee member said the party high-ups were disheartened to

### No new pay commission in future

Muhith says salaries to rise in keeping with inflation

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

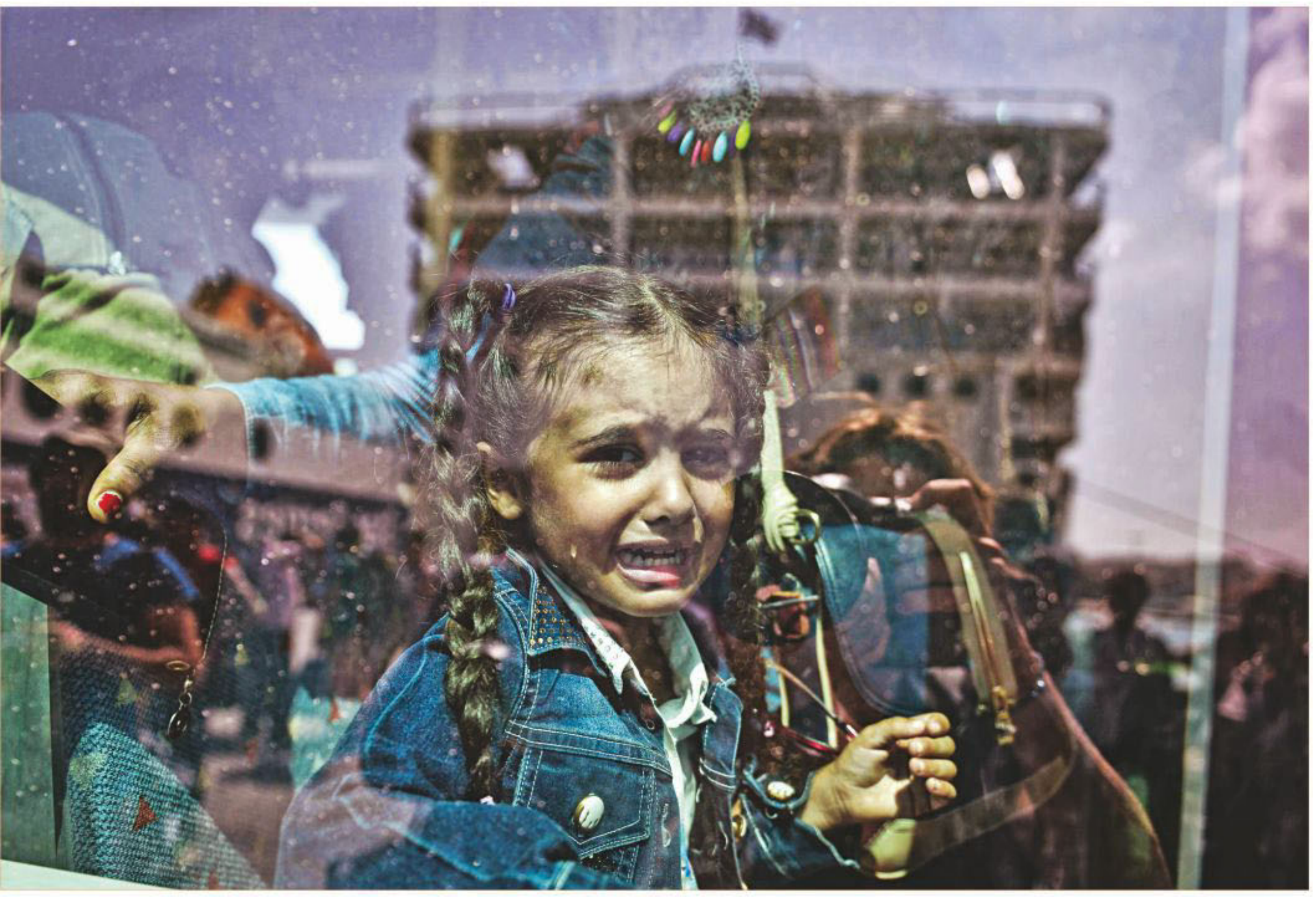
No new commission would be formed for increasing salaries of government staff, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said yesterday.  
"We are going to take a policy decision in this regard," Muhith told reporters at his secretariat office a day after the approval of the new pay scale by the cabinet.  
He said the Awami League's electoral pledge was to not make any pay commission, rather the salaries of civil servants would automatically increase.  
After the pay hikes for civil servants made this year, also in 2009, as well as the

### Kids must not take written test

PM suggests admission to class-I without test

**UNB, Dhaka**

Stressing that education is a basic right, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said children must be allowed to enrol in class-I without a written admission test.  
"When a child reaches the age appropriate for enrolling in class-I, he or she should have to be admitted, and there's no need to sit for test with printed papers because this is his or her right, not a matter of test," she said.  
The PM made the comments while addressing the inaugural function of the International Literacy Day 2015 at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city.  
She also directed the primary and mass education ministry to repair and improve the conditions of the primary schools so that children could get admitted to school in their respective areas.  
Underscoring the need for having area-based schools,



A refugee child cries as she sits on an overcrowded bus transporting refugees and migrants to the metro and train stations, after they disembarked from a government-chartered ferry in the port of Piraeus in Athens yesterday.

## Time for 'global response'

Top UN official says; UNHCR estimates 850,000 Mediterranean refugees by next year; Greek islands overwhelmed

**AGENCIES**  
The United Nations' top official in charge of migration said yesterday the crisis rocking Europe needs a "global response", insisting that countries worldwide must be asked to do their share.  
"We should have a European response as part of a global response," UN Special Representative for Migration and Development Peter Sutherland told reporters in Geneva, hinting at the need for an international conference "where every country is held up to the spotlight."  
Sutherland insisted geographical proximity to a crisis should not determine who takes in refugees, pointing out that during the Vietnam War, refugees were welcomed into countries around the globe.  
The same, he said, was true following the Hungarian revolution in 1956, when an international conference was held to help distribute the some 200,000 people who fled the Soviet crackdown.  
He called for "a much more proactive response by the international community."  
"We have to find a method, perhaps as we did in 1956 in the conference that took place then, to get specific commitments from every state in regard to taking refugees," he added.  
He also insisted on a system to evaluate who constitutes a refugee that is

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