STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion arrested six members of a gang of smugglers along with 5.4 lakh Yaba pills in Narayanganj in the last two

They are Manjur Alam, 49, the ringleader, Gias Uddin, 31, Md Selim, 25, Mohiuddin, 25, Abdul Mannan, 55, and Jahangir Alam, 37.

Acting on a tip-off, Rab halted a car in Siddhirganj on Sunday and found five lakh Yaba tablets in it, said Commander Mufti

Mahmud Khan, Rab legal and media wing director, at a press briefing at Rab-2 headquarters in the capital's Agargaon yesterday.

At that time, Mohiuddin and the car driver Selim were held, he said.

Based on their information, the other three were arrested along with 40,000 pills in Shimrail yesterday, he added.

During primary interrogation, the arrestees confessed to smuggling and selling the contraband drugs for over two years, the Rab official said.

### BRTA to get more legal teeth

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

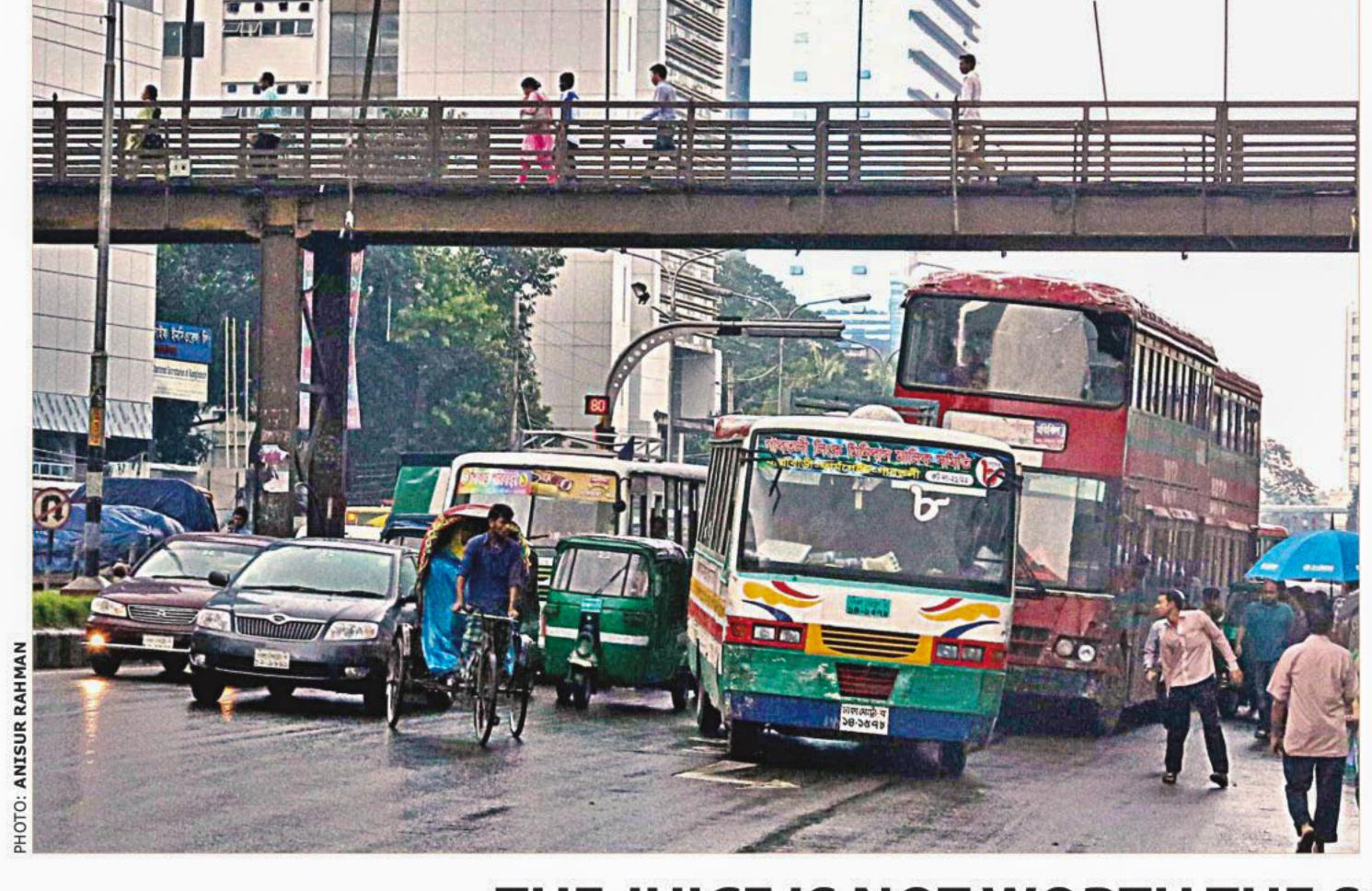
The cabinet vesterday approved the draft Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) Act-2015 to make the organisation legally stronger.

BRTA's legal base is not strong enough because road transport activities are run as per the Motor Vehicles Ordinance-1983, said Cabinet Secretary M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan.

The proposed law will replace the ordinance.

Musharraf said the law would bring order in the motor vehicles and road transport system, making it technology based,

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1







## THE JUICE IS NOT WORTH THE SQUEEZE

Clockwise from left, due to a vehement and incessant media campaign, the government got increasingly proactive to put up signs on roads about where buses may pick up passengers and where they cannot, but all that efforts are clearly going in vain, as evident in this photo, where a bus driver suddenly swings to the left to illegally pick up a passenger risking a grave accident and the lives of his passengers on board at Bangla Motor in the capital. Some ways down the road where the authorities created a designated spot for buses to stop, none is waiting there and a bus is seen whizzing by without a care for its duty to stop there. But they do stop, just where there is a giant sign says no bus can stop there. Why this keeps on going, despite the government's sworn words that it is doing everything to stop this, is anybody's guess.

2nd Edition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 46 dengue cases were reported in the capital in the last 24 hours as of 6:00pm yesterday, bringing this year's total to 1,507.

The period before saw 62 cases as per the Directorate General of Health Services' Communicable Disease Control (CDC) unit.

Four have already died in the peak season, August and September, CDC Deputy Director Dr Raushan Alam Khan Chowdhury told The Daily Star yesterday.

Last year there were 375 cases with no fatalities reported. Medical experts blame the surge on intermittent rainfall and high temperatures in the rapidly urbanised Dhaka.

World Health Organization says there is no vaccine or specific medication for dengue fever but early detection and proper

medical care can keep case-fatality rates below 1 percent.

Mosquito species like Aedes aegypti albopictus transmit dengue virus to human through bites and breed in freshwater standing still. Experts suggest cleaning households and surroundings, and disposing empty bottles, containers and waste.

"We are in the process of engaging the mayors, ward councillors and NGOs to hold public rallies (to raise awareness) shortly after the Eid-ul-Azha," said Dr Raushan.

Dhaka South City Corporation has a board meeting today where CDC would seek cooperation from ward councillors, he said, adding that their plans include holding rallies in the 57 ward councils.

Prof Dr Be-Nazir Ahmed, chairman of Rabies in Asia Foundation's Bangladesh SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

# 46 more cases in 24hrs Rain wreaks havoc on Eid cattle traders

Cold blamed for deaths of 5 bulls Sunday, yesterday; sales stay quite low; panic makes some sell their cattle for cheaper than desired out of fear of total loss

HELEMUL ALAM

Intermittent showers since Saturday is not only causing immense suffering to thousands of cattle traders seeking better sales in the capital marking Eidul-Azha but also causing many of their animals to fall sick.

Deaths of at least five bulls which caught cold amid heavy rains were reported in two cattle markets, one in East End Club playground in Gendaria and another in Shonir Akhra, on Sunday and early yesterday.

This is prompting some traders to let go of sacrificial animals at prices

"lower than their expectations". Meanwhile, the market owners say sales were low yesterday although Eid

was only three days away. on the sale value) till 11:30am yesterday," said Anowar Hossain, one of the members of the East End Club cattle market committee. He said only six cattle were sold on Sunday.

Traders are hoping for a better turnout of customers from today.

নির্দিষ্ট স্থানে অথবা মাটিতে পুঁতে ফেলুন

On the animals falling sick, a veterinarian, Azmath Ali, told The Daily Star that animals reared with care become weak during journeys when food or water is not provided adequately.

Sudden weather changes lead to

colds and fever, causing heart attacks, and the animals die within a short time after falling sick since their immune system is not as strong as that of humans, he said. He suggested letting the animals

drink lots of water once they reach the markets to avoid dehydration.

Another veterinarian, Mohammad Ashraful Haque, at the East End Club field said around 30 bulls fell sick there on Sunday due to the inclement weather.

One Hatem Ali said one of his 16 "We did not get any hasil (an bulls died within two hours of falling amount the owners charge customers sick at the Dhupkhola market around midnight on Sunday after he failed to find a veterinarian at that hour and that it was probably for the mud and damp environment.

> The frustrated trader said he had bought the animal in Kushtia six months ago for Tk 70,000.

"I have been involved in the business for over four decades...I have never faced such a situation," he said, adding, "My two nephews also fell sick due to the heavy rain on Sunday."

Another trader, Mohammad Salahuddin, at the Sadeque Hossain Khoka playground market said he sold his bull to a butcher for Tk 35,000, half of what he paid for it five days back in Faridpur, after realising on Sunday that the animal had high fever.

He said he could not keep his cattle dry despite erecting a roof made of polythene sheets.

The condition was worse for traders at the Shanir Akhra market with one, Saidul Islam, saying some 70 percent of the market had gone under kneedeep water for several hours due to heavy rains on Sunday.

Two of his 35 bulls had already caught a cold, he added.

Another trader, Sulna Khan, whose son lost one of his 14 bulls there on Sunday evening, said it was bought five days ago in Faridpur for Tk 50,000.

বস্তায় ভরে নিকটস্থ ডাস্টবিনে ফেলুন



Aspirants demonstrate against the question paper leak of the medical college admission test, at the capital's Central Shaheed Minar yesterday. They demand a rerun of the exam, held Friday, and will stage protest today as well, but the High Court yesterday rejected their writ petition in this regard, clearing the way for admission of the selected candidates. PHOTO: STAR

ABANDONED NEWBORN FOUND BY STREET DOG

## Survivor's condition stable at DMCH

9-member medical board treating her

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The condition of the abandoned newborn rescued on September 15 is

The one-day-old baby girl was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital after locals found her wrapped in a polythene bag on Old Airport runway in the capital. Kids heard the baby's cries after a stray dog began pulling on the bag and informed the locals.

Tofazzal Hossain Khan, associate professor of DMCH's neonatal department, yesterday said the baby is taking food and moving her limbs. However, he said there is still the possibility of the baby getting infection

from the dog bite, adding that the baby was given two anti-rabies doses and two more would be given. The baby may need operation, said Tofazzal, adding that a nine-

member medical board was formed to treat her. Tania Begum, who had rushed the baby to the hospital, said she has

been visiting the newborn twice a day.

Shikder Shamim Hossain, officer-in-charge of Kafrul Police Station, said a general diary has been filed in this regard.

He said they are yet to discover who abandoned the baby.

# CITY DESK

eleven

Four people were killed and 11 others injured in road accidents in three districts yesterday and on Sunday.

Road crashes

In Gazipur, three people were killed and four others injured when two trucks collided head-on on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Mawna area of Sreepur upazila on Sunday night. Two of the deceased were truck driver

Yakub Ali, 48, of Tangail and Ziaur Rahman Roni, 32, of Chuadanga Sadar. In Dinajpur, Al Amin, 6, son of Md

Babu was killed when a truck hit him while he was playing on the road in front of his house in Puro Rajkanda village of Akkelpur upazila in Joypurhat on Sunday.

In Dinajpur, seven people were injured as a bus hit the roadside trees after it skidded off the Dinajpur-Bogra highway in Shimultoli village.



আপনার এলাকার ভ্যান সার্ভিসের