#### President for developing communications in haor areas UNB, Mithamoin

Mentioning that communications infrastructure is a pre-requisite to development, President Abdul Hamid has underscored the need for developing communications in the haor areas to realise their full potential.

President Hamid made the observation while visiting the re-excavation activities in Haturia River and excavation activities in Kalni River on the second day of his three-day visit to Mithamoin upazila in Kishoreganj.

President said several steps have been taken for developing river routes apart from establishing road connectivity for the development of the haor



Bangladesh Chhatra Federation brings out a procession on the Dhaka University campus yesterday, demanding that the route of proposed metro rail through the university area be changed to protect academic atmosphere from crowds, noise and insecurity. The authorities of Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit Development Project, however, claim DU environment will not be affected. PHOTO: STAR

## DU students seek PM's help to change metro rail route

DU CORRESPONDENT

The students of Dhaka University yesterday urged the prime minister to change the proposed route of metro rail, saying if the route runs through the campus, it would hamper the academic atmosphere by creating crowds, noise, and insecurity.

In an open letter to the PM, they said the rail would be defilement of the Raju sculpture, memorials and graves of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam and three leaders, and Dhaka Gate.

The letter was read out at a press conference at Madhur Canteen.

A student-teacher-citizen solidarity rally will be held on January 20.

Demanding an alternative route, Bangladesh Chhatra Federation brought out a procession and said students would resist the move.

The authorities of Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit Development Project claimed on Wednesday that the rail would not hamper the university environment.

In a statement, they said sound pollution would be kept "under control" on the campus through the use of noise barriers and a "Mass Spring System".

The construction of the rail would begin towards the end of the next month, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said recently.

## Stop setting up SEZ PSC, EC to get equal

2nd Edition

Speakers urge govt to leave the plan for sake of workers in Habiganj tea estates

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Speakers at a meeting in Sylhet yesterday called upon the government to stop setting up a special economic zone (SEZ) in Chandpur tea garden area in Habiganj's Chunarughat upazila.

Organised by Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) and bangla daily The Prothom Alo, the meeting was held in Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industry hall room, titled "Contribution of

Sylhet in the miracle of Bangladesh econ-

Salah Uddin Ali Ahmed, president of SCCI, presided over the programme while Dr Forash Uddin, former governor of Bangladesh Bank, presented the keynote speech.

Sultana Kamal, executive director of Ain C Salish Kendra, told this correspondent that we urged the government to cancel the setting up of SEZ in arable lands in tea garden area.

SEE PAGE 5 COL

# status

Says Ashraf BSS, Dhaka

The Public Service Commission and Election Commission will get equal status, Public Administration Minister and Awami League General

Islam said yesterday. They are constitutional bodies, and no discrimination should exist between them, he told an opinion sharing meeting at the PSC Secretariat in the capital's

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## Road crashes kill six Station, skipped off the road on

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Six people were killed and 13 others injured in road accidents in five districts yesterday.

In Thakurgaon, a Ranishankoilbound coach collided head-on with a truck on Baliadangi-Ranishakoil road at Kumorganj village in Ranishankoil upazila, leaving bus passenger Yunus Ali,45, dead on the spot and seven others injured.

The injured were rushed to Upazila Health Complex where the truck's helper Anwar Hossain, 35, died.

The deceased were from Rajshahi. In Savar, three policemen and two prisoners were injured when a Dhaka-bound prison van, carrying the latter from Ashulia Police

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Dhaka-Aricha highway in Dairy Gate area in Savar. The injured policemen were prison

van driver Md Aslam and constables Md Joynal and Md Nur Islam. The injured, including the two

prisoners, were taken to Enam Medical College Hospital. In Comilla, a bus collided with a

CNG-run auto-rickshaw on Comilla-Noakhali highway at Sribinas in Sadar Dakkhin upazila, leaving a woman dead on the spot and five others, including a child, injured; reports

The injured were taken to Comilla Sadar hospital, where the child died.

The identities of the deceased could

not be ascertained immediately. In Jhenaidah, three persons were

injured as a human hauler turned turtle at Nagarbathan Bazar in Sadar upazila; reports UNB. The trio were taken to Jhenaidah

General Hospital where attending doctors declared Abul Kashem, 35, of Komarpur village in Mujibnagar upazila, dead around 10:30am. In Satkhira, a schoolboy named Raj

Hossain, 9, was crushed under the wheels of a speeding lorry at Vetkhali village in Shyamnagar upazila while he was returning home from school; reports UNB.

Deceased Raj was son of Delwar Hossain of the village.

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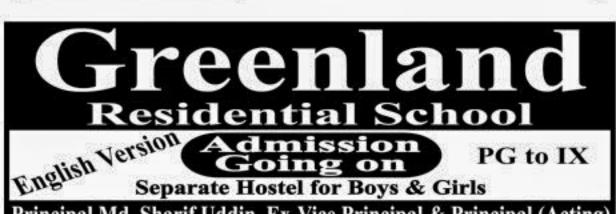
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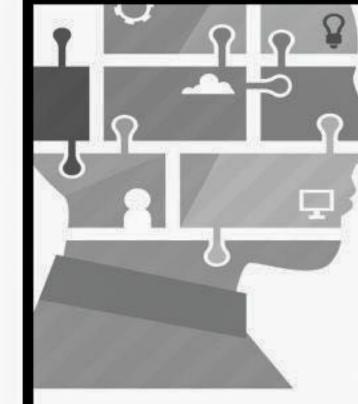
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