



In a desperate rush to secure more passengers, buses graze past each other at Shahbagh intersection whenever the traffic lights go green. *Left*, a biker pushing his way through buses amid risks of accident and a woman trying to cross the street at the intersection. *Bottom right*, a taxi making a U-turn using the gap meant for pedestrians, and a traffic policeman trying to control the chaos. The photos were taken yesterday. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

TOTAL CHAOS at Shahbagh intersection

Nobody cares for traffic rules; drivers' recklessness puts pedestrians' lives at risk

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and JAMIL MAHMUD
Reckless driving of buses at Shahbagh and Matsya Bhaban intersections continued yesterday even after the horrific deaths of two schoolgirls in the areas on Saturday.

Traffic police appeared to be helpless in controlling the chaos. Buses were seen stopping abruptly, violating traffic rules, in the middle of the streets to pick up and drop off passengers, while passengers were getting on and off moving buses, risking their lives.

Although there are three foot bridges at Shahbagh intersection alone, only a small number of people were seen using those. Many were seen crossing the streets through moving traffic.

Traffic sergeants and constables, on the other hand, were ignoring this standing nearby at the two busy intersections.

Sixty-year-old Abul Kalam had mistakenly got on a Farmgate-bound bus from Gulistan. He was supposed to go to Science Laboratory area. When he told the conductor about this, the conductor pushed him out of the bus in the middle of the road at Shahbagh.

"I could have been killed as the bus was still moving, albeit slowly," Kalam told The Daily Star. He had two heavy bags with him.

Within a span of eight hours on Saturday, schoolgirls Sabiha Akhter Sonali and Khadija Sultana Mitu died in separate accidents in front of the High Court and at

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



FARMERS BANK under scanner

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

Bangladesh Bank detected irregularities in sanctioning loans of Tk 400 crore in three branches of the newly-established Farmers Bank.

The central bank had warned the lender's directors, including its Chairman

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2
SEE DETAILS ON B1

NEWS ANALYSIS

Is making profit BPC's only job?

SHARIER KHAN

For around 15 years, Bangladesh had to struggle with import of oil because the price continued to climb from just \$25 in 1998 a barrel to \$145 in 2008. The country's oil importing agency Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) counted staggering losses from 1999 till mid 2014.

High prices made the oil producing countries richer by trillions of dollars. But things began to change when the USA started producing shale oil to largely meet its demands instead of depending on imports only.

The cost of producing shale oil is very high as it is located in very deep geological locations. To discourage America's shale oil production, the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

FREEDOM FIGHTERS

Cabinet's no to retirement age extension

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday rejected a proposal to raise the retirement age of freedom fighters in public service to 65 years from 60.

The decision came at the weekly cabinet meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

A senior minister told The Daily Star that the proposal was turned down because many government officials, including some secretaries, resorted to

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Biggest ever yaba haul

28 lakh pills seized; 3 held



Rab members display 28 lakh pieces of yaba tablets worth around Tk 113 crore. The contraband was seized from three smugglers during separate drives in Chittagong and Dhaka over the last three days. PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion arrested three drugs smugglers with the biggest ever haul of yaba pills in separate drives in Chittagong and Dhaka since Saturday.

Among the arrestees, Ali Ahmed, of Satkania in Chittagong, has been identified as kingpin of a yaba syndicate.

Rab Director General Benazir Ahmed briefed the media on the drives yesterday at the Rab headquarters in the capital.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

অভিনন্দন



নারায়ণগঞ্জের তারাব পৌরসভার নব নির্বাচিত মেয়র জনাব হাছিনা গাজী 'কে' যমুনা ব্যাংক পরিবারের পক্ষ থেকে আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন।

বিশিষ্ট শিল্পপতি, সামাজিক ও রাজনৈতিক ব্যক্তিত্ব জনাব হাছিনা গাজী দেশের স্বনামধন্য গাজী গ্রুপ, রিপাবলিক ইন্স্যুরেন্স কোং লিঃ ও দেশ টেলিভিশনের একজন পরিচালক এবং যমুনা ব্যাংকের একজন স্পন্সর শেয়ার হোল্ডার।

তাঁর সুযোগ্য নেতৃত্বে তারাব পৌরসভাবাসীর সকল আশা-আকাঙ্ক্ষা পূর্ণতা পাক। আমরা তাঁর সুস্বাস্থ্য ও দীর্ঘায়ু কামনা করি।

JAMUNABANK

Non-refined steel can never be earthquake resistant !



Majority of construction steel in Bangladesh are made from non-refined steel full of impurities.

Structures made using non-refined steel are highly vulnerable to natural disasters like earthquake.

In ordinary steel, impurities are spread in an uncontrolled manner, not visible through the naked eye. When the wave of earthquake force (Cyclic Loading) hits the structure, entire force gets concentrated in the weak point containing impurities. The impact first develops a crack that eventually collapses the structure.

World class AKS is produced after 100% refinement by Bangladesh's first Electric Arc Furnace using TMT technology. Only AKS TMT Bar can ensure maximum protection to your structure.

100% REFINED STEEL



BUET Certified First Ever Earthquake Resistant Steel in Bangladesh