



## CHANDERPAUL CALLS TIME

The West Indies batsman retires from all forms of cricket

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## E-PROCUREMENT

Govt prepares to fully implement the system by December this year

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## CHINA PRESIDENT IN IRAN

Vows closer ties after talks with his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani

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# Gas crisis hits city

Users suffer as supply erratic; low pressure in large parts of city; Titas blames rise in demand during winter

HELEMUL ALAM

Tahmina Afaz is a schoolteacher and lives at Ulan in the capital's West Rampura. She doesn't start for work until 7:30am, but since winter began, she has been waking up long before sunrise.

"If I get up any later than 5:00am, I cannot finish cooking for my family before I go to work. The gas supply falls after sunrise, so much so that sometimes I cannot even turn the stove on," she says.

"For instance," Tahmina continues, "I couldn't cook anything on Thursday as there was no gas supply from early Thursday to early Friday. We had to depend on the food made on Wednesday."

"I have four-year-old twins and a 13-year-old child. They are not getting fresh meals due to the crisis," she adds.

The area has been plagued by such gas crisis for the past one and a half years, particularly during the winter, says Asif Ahmed Porag, another resident of Ulan.

While many of the sufferers, who can afford, buy gas cylinders, kerosene stoves, electric rice-cookers and induction cooktops, the rest have either to wait for hours for the gas supply to reach a "workable level" or to use

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Supply remains off for several hours in many areas

People forced to use kerosene stoves, induction cooktops

Some CNG stations remain shut for 5-10 hours a day



A woman cooks on a kerosene stove at her house in Rampura as she cannot use the gas burners due to an inadequate gas supply, a crisis that has plagued many areas in the capital since the winter set in. The photo was taken around noon yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

**TOP QUOTE**

"Nowadays not only a section of people are trying to grab land in the name of the ruling party, but also the government is making attempts to take away the land of religious minorities."

GEN SECY OF BANGLADESH HINDU-BOUDDHA-CHRISTIAN OIKYA PARISHAD  
**RANA DASGUPTA**  
AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN CAPITAL

## 5 companies to run city buses

3,000 new buses to hit the road by next year; Annisul reveals DNCC plan for overhaul of public transport system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To improve the public transport system in the capital, the Dhaka North City Corporation will facilitate the introduction of 3,000 new buses to be run by only five operators.

"The new buses will hit the city streets by next year," DNCC Mayor Annisul Huq said at a views-exchange meeting with editors of national dailies at a city hotel yesterday.

The new vehicles, to be purchased by the operators likely on bank loans, will include 1,000 air-conditioned ones.

Annisul said currently, buses owned by 190 private operators ply different routes in the capital but most of the vehicles are rundown, offering a poor service to the passengers.

There is an "illegal syndicate" of operators that controls the entire transport sector in the capital and it would be quite difficult to get rid of it, he said.

He, however, claimed that the bus owners had already agreed to lower the number of operators to five and launch the fleet of new vehicles.

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## Strike to go on until cases withdrawn

Threaten Ctg doctors; patients suffer for third day at private clinics

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Physicians demonstrating in Chittagong for the withdrawal of cases filed against their colleagues now demand that a panel comprising specialists be formed to investigate the allegations of negligence brought against the accused doctors.

On the third day yesterday of their work stoppage at private clinics, chambers and diagnostic centres, Bangladesh Medical Association, Chittagong, held a press conference at Chittagong Press Club. Protesters there reiterated that they would continue the strike until the cases filed on Tuesday are withdrawn.

However, when asked if doctors should remain above the law, they said cases could

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## Gazipur factory fire kills 5

Factory's legality in question



STAR REPORT

At least five persons, including a woman, were killed in a fire which might have originated from boiler explosions at a factory of Pubail under Tongi in Gazipur yesterday.

Two of them were so badly burnt that their identities could not be known immediately.

The three others are Siddiqa Jebunnesa, 40, a primary school teacher who was passing by the factory when the blaze started, and workers Mohammad Selim, 45, son of Abdul Mannan of nearby Basugaon village, and Kawsar Hossain, 40,

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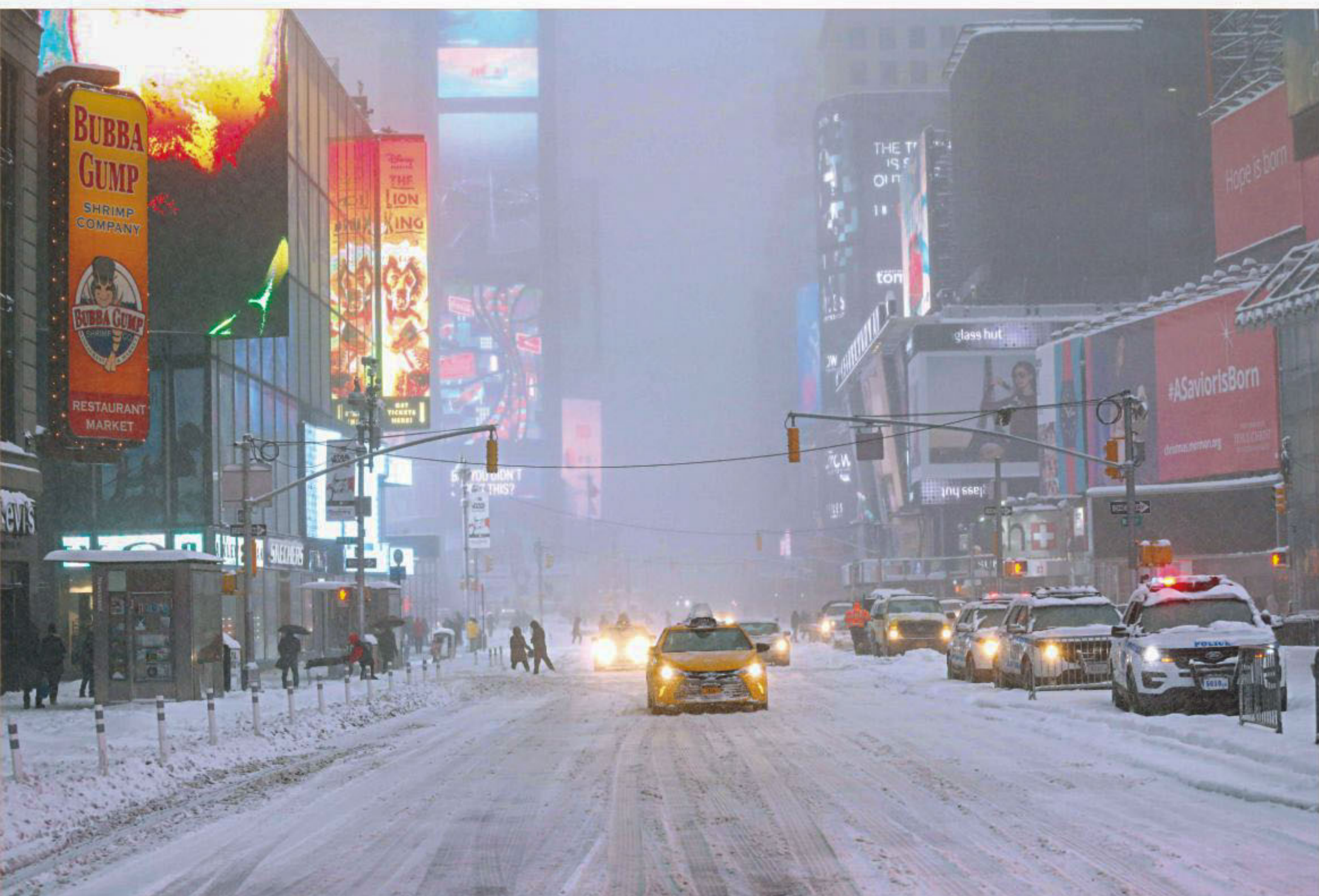
## MK Alamgir's rejoinder, our reply

Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir, chairman of the Farmers Bank, has sent a rejoinder to a news analysis titled "Bangladesh Bank vs MK Alamgir" published in The Daily Star on January 20, 2016. Following is the full text of the rejoinder sent in his personal letterhead pad and signed by Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir, also chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on Public Accounts:

Dear Editor,

As an avid reader of the Daily Star I have read with interest your news analysis titled 'Bangladesh Bank VS MK Alamgir' as was published on Jan 20, 2016. In my assessment there are three incorrectness in your

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A general view of Times Square while snow falls in New York yesterday. A deadly blizzard with bone-chilling winds and potentially record-breaking snowfall slammed the eastern US yesterday. Officials urged millions in the storm's path to seek shelter -- warning the worst is yet to come. US news reports said at least eight people had died by late Friday from causes related to the monster snowstorm, which is expected to last until early Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

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