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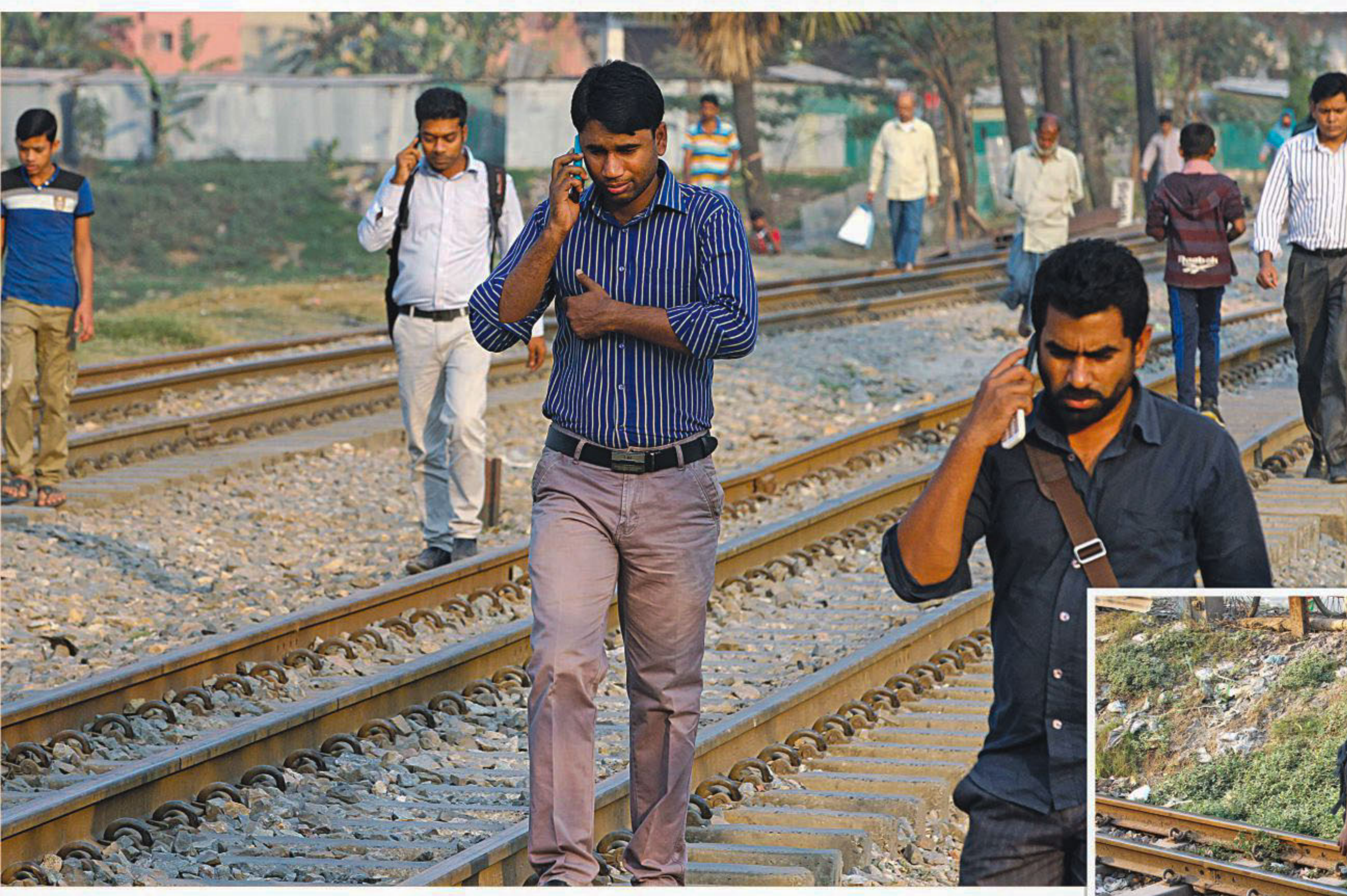
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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

**SHARIF'S ADMISSION**  
The Pakistan PM accepts Kargil was a 'backstab' for Vajpayee  
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**CATHERINE THE GREAT**  
After 'Anna Karenina,' Keira Knightley in talks to star as another Russian leader  
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## BLISSFULLY UNAWARE

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

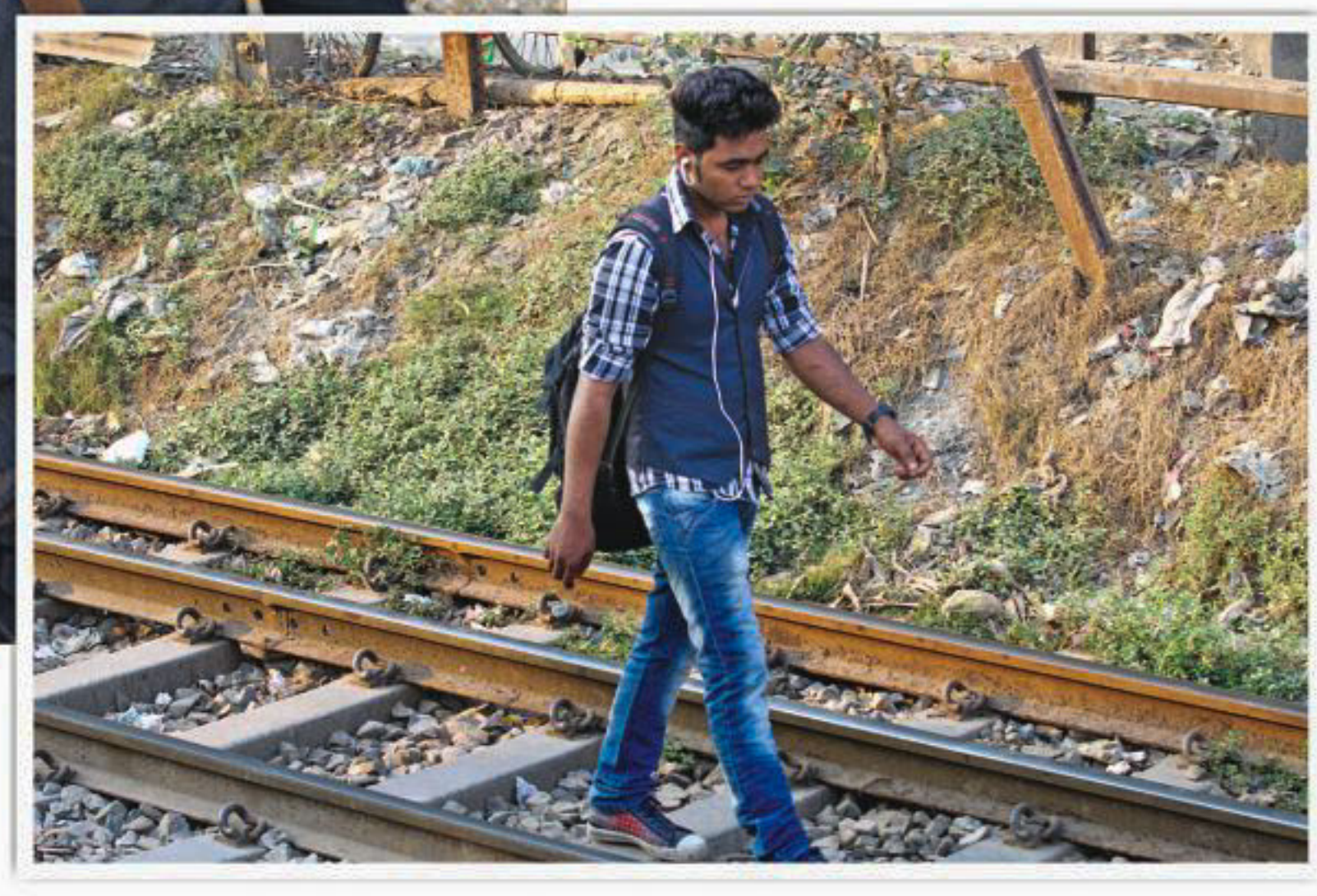
Despite the high risk of accidents due to talking on mobile phones or listening to music with earphones whilst walking on streets or along rail lines, pedestrians of Dhaka continue to ignore the danger.

This behaviour often causes accidents in which people lose limbs and in some cases their lives even, railway police and experts said, adding that walking along or on rail lines is actually illegal but people do not care.

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Just a day after a Buet student, who was "talking over the phone" while walking along the rail lines, was hit and killed by a train in the capital's Malibagh, people were seen doing the same at Tejgaon-FDC Level Crossing yesterday, ignoring the danger. Below, a youth with earphones on walks on the rail lines at the same place.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ



## MANPOWER DEAL WITH MALAYSIA Experts caution against anomalies

**PORIMOL PALMA and BELAL HOSSAIN BIPOB**  
The deal signed by Dhaka and Kuala Lumpur yesterday leaves a legacy of controversies and creates chances of corruption and labour exploitation like that during 2007-08, experts and industry insiders have said.  
The agreement for G2G Plus recruitment system has a provision for including a Malaysian private company to regulate the process, which may lead to monopoly in the agreed hiring of 1.5 million Bangladeshi workers over the next three years, they said.  
Apart from that, the minimum monthly wage has been set at Malaysian ringgit 800-900 (Tk 15,000-16,000), which is very low and is a result of poor negotiations by

Bangladesh, according to experts.  
At the same time, the deal has been signed at a time when Malaysian economy does not look that bright, with its businesses saying there will be oversupply of foreign workers.  
Nevertheless, after signing of the deal, Bangladesh's Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Nurul Islam and Malaysian Human Resources Minister Richard Riot Anak Jaem said it would ensure a "systematic and transparent" recruitment mechanism.  
"There will have no element of monopoly. The recruitment will be fair and transparent," Richard told reporters in Dhaka.  
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## Star editor faces 6 more lawsuits Magura court makes exception by not accepting case

**STAR REPORT**  
Six more lawsuits were filed against The Daily Star editor in six districts yesterday while a judicial magistrate in Magura didn't take a defamation case against Mahfuz Anam into cognisance.  
Sohrab Hossain Sabuj, joint secretary of district unit Bangladesh Chhatra League, went to the court of Judicial Magistrate Imtiazul Islam in Magura to file a defamation suit against the Star editor.  
The magistrate heard the complainant but didn't take the case into cognisance. He fixed March 8 for the next hearing.  
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<b>75 CASES SO FAR</b> FILED IN 50 DISTRICTS	Sedition	17	Defamation	58
	<b>TOTAL DEFAMATION CLAIM</b>		<b>TK 82,881.5 CRORE</b>	

**Withdraw all cases**  
35 noted citizens call for a halt to smear campaign  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirty-five eminent citizens yesterday condemned the recent barrage of cases against The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam and demanded immediate withdrawal of those.  
In a statement, they also called for an end to the smear campaign against Anam.  
They said the Star editor should have been commended for a rare display of professional values after he had regretted "publishing without verification a  
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## 'Attempt to crush independent media'

BBC report on Bangladesh

**BBC NEWS**  
It can seem a bit self-righteous when journalists write about the importance of freedom of the press, a bit like a chef celebrating the virtues of a fancy meal or a hairdresser extolling the importance of a new haircut.  
But the public's right to know what is really going on in their country really is the cornerstone of a free society.  
Without free access to information, backed up by journalists who are willing to dig down and get to the truth, all the other liberties celebrated in democracies are endangered.  
That's why the world should be worried by the concerted attacks on one of the leading newspaper editors in South Asia, Mahfuz Anam of Bangladesh's Daily Star.  
The Daily Star is the most popular English-language newspaper in Bangladesh.  
It was launched as Bangladesh returned to parliamentary democracy a quarter of a century ago, and has always had a reputation for journalistic integrity and liberal and progressive views - a kind of Bangladeshi New York Times.  
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## FAMILIES OF MURDERED KIDS All they want is justice

"How could anyone kill kids this way?  
Where shall I seek justice?"  
MINARA BEGUM  
MOTHER OF ONE OF THE FOUR KIDS MURDERED IN HABIGANJ

**MINTU DESHWARA, from Bahubal, Habiganj**  
Minara Begum could hardly speak to anyone since villagers dug her son's body out of a sand pile on Wednesday. Shell-shocked, she just shed tears silently, holding the boy's clothes tight.  
"How could anyone kill children this way? Where shall I seek justice?" murmured the mother of Ismail Miah.  
After being silent for a while, she muttered again, "They took my manik (gem)... my everything."  
Ten-year-old Ismail along with three cousins, aged between seven and 10, were found dead at a *Balu Mahal* (a place from where sand is extracted) in Sundrateki in Habiganj's Bahubal on Wednesday, five days after they had gone missing.  
Police and victims' relatives suspect that the murders could be a result of rivalry between two groups of local *panchayat* (village arbitration).  
The mothers of the other three ill-fated children were going through similar ordeals.  
Amina Khatun, mother of Tajel Miah, could not forget her last conversation with her son.  
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Risking their lives a man puts three school kids without helmets on the pillion saddle in High Court area of the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## WAR CRIMES TRIAL Prosecutor Ali suspended

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The law ministry yesterday suspended Prosecutor Mohammad Ali of the International Crimes Tribunal allegedly for breaching discipline and code of conduct, and for serious professional misconduct.  
"He [Mohammad Ali] has been suspended from the prosecution, and a probe has been ordered over the allegations brought against him," Law Minister Anisul Huq told The Daily Star last night.  
He also said his ministry will issue a show cause notice against Ali within a day or two, seeking his explanation over the allegations.  
A source at the ministry said Chief Prosecutor Ghulam Arief Tipoo was asked to take necessary steps for a probe into the allegations and submit a report to the ministry.  
The source, however, could not say anything about the deadline for turning in the report.  
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