

Karwan Bazar

FROM PAGE 16
in the area throughout business hours, say local traders.
Rickshaw vans, garbage and stockpiles of grocery goods, vagabonds and drug addicts also keep the place occupied round the clock, they add.
The car park, earmarked in Rajuk's master plan and located on the eastside of the kitchen market, was once free from two-decade-long illegal occupation by the joint forces in January 2007.
Earlier in 1985, maintenance of the kitchen market was assigned to the then undivided Dhaka city corporation during the Ershad regime. The Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) also entrusted the city corporation with its car park's development and maintenance, according to official sources.
The perennial traffic congestion in the vital commercial hub began as one of the former mayors leased out a thoroughfare to the wholesale traders. Another former mayor leased out a designated children's park to wholesale traders.
The authorities however could not evict 16 shops on the western side of the parking area since the strip of car park was earlier leased out to traders.
Mayor Annisul Huq said, "I have not yet thought of what exactly we are going to do about the car park."
He said he would first attempt to free all of 23-bigha-land and build a modern commercial hub.

EC, AL join

FROM PAGE 16
The BNP would place its case before the international community to portray the ruling party's oppression on BNP men if it was found that AL men obstructed BNP candidates.
Following BNP's claim, EC's Secretary Sirazul said action would be taken, if the EC found any specific and particular allegations. Three elements are important: who committed the irregularities, when it happened, and where it happened, the secretary said.
AL BRIEFING
Many leaders of other political parties want to join the ruling party or make themselves inactive ahead of the UP polls to show their confidence in the government, said AL Joint General Secretary Mahbul Alam Hanif at a press briefing at the AL president's Dhanmondi office.
He refuted the BNP's allegations and said stern action would be taken against party men contesting the polls as AL rebels.
The AL yesterday declared the name of party-nominated chairman candidates for 672 UPs that would go to polls on March 31, the second phase.

Govt will hang notice

FROM PAGE 5
they were being recruited.
Representatives of Campaign for Popular Education (Campe), Save the Children, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (Blast) submitted recommendations in this connection to the minister.
Rasheda K Choudhury, executive director of Campe, said a recent survey revealed that the corporal punishment was still being meted out to the pupils at many schools.
Earlier, in January, 2011, the High Court declared corporal punishment for children at educational institutions illegal and unconstitutional.

DU Sufia Kamal Hall

FROM PAGE 4
stay at the hall. As many students, especially the freshers, are unable to bear the costs to live outside halls, we have to allot some additional seats for them on the basis of merit and need."
"I allow helpless junior students to use reading rooms, guestrooms and other spaces. But they have to lead a miserable life because of scarcity of washrooms and kitchens," she told The Daily Star.
Contacted, some students, seeking anonymity, said "some political leaders" on Friday night changed a student's seat illegally. When a house tutor opposed it, the leaders threatened her. On complaining, the hall provost removed the teacher from the charge of allotting seats and rooms.
"As the house tutor illegally allots seats and hinders some newcomers from being admitted, she has been stripped of her responsibility. But she can continue her other duties as a house tutor," said Nilufar Nahar.

Book lovers

FROM PAGE 5
the Syed Waliullah 2015 award for their contributions to Bangla literature and language.
Besides, Chittaranjan Saha Smriti Prize 2016 will be given to the publishers with the highest number of qualitative books published in 2015, Munier Chowdhury Smriti Prize 2016 for best qualitative and creative books of 2015, and Rokonzaman Khan Dadabhai Smriti Prize 2016 for best children's books and Artist Qayyum Chowdhury Smriti Prize 2016 to best attractive stall in the fair

Mother accuses stepson of killing her sons

UNB, Comilla
The mother of the two children killed in Dhulipara village of Comilla on Saturday has filed a case accusing her stepson of the murders.
The case was lodged with Sadar South Police Station Saturday night, said Inspector Mohammad Ayub of the police station.
The accused, Shafiul Alam Chhotan, 22, a private university

student, was on the run.
Police recovered the bodies of Joy, 7, and his younger brother Moni, 5, sons of Abul Kalam, from their home in Dhulipara on Saturday afternoon. Their family alleged that the children were murdered by their stepbrother Chhotan.
Yesterday, locals formed a human chain in the area demanding exemplary punishment of the killer.
The children were buried in their village after Johr prayers yesterday.

Indian man kills 14 of his family

Commits suicide later

AFP, Mumbai
A 35-year-old man killed 14 members of his family including six children with a butcher's knife before committing suicide in India, with police baffled yesterday about a motive for the attack.
The grisly murders occurred after Hasnin Anwar Warekar and his extended family gathered late on Saturday at a home north of India's financial capital of Mumbai for a family function, police officers said.
"The attacker, Hasnin Anwar Warekar, hung himself after slitting the throats of all other family members including his parents," Gajanan Laxman Kabdule, a police spokesman in Thane, some 32 kilometres from Mumbai, said.
The sole survivor of the attack -- Warekar's sister -- was taken to hospital after neighbours heard her screaming for help after midnight and alerted police.
Neighbours were forced to open a window to rescue the woman after the assailant allegedly locked all escape routes from the house before carrying out the attacks, according to local media reports.
"We still haven't been able to speak with the attacker's 21-year-old sister, the lone survivor of the attack, who is in deep trauma at a city hospital," Kabdule told AFP.
Warekar, who reportedly worked for a private firm in Mumbai, was able to carry out the attacks after lacing the food at the gathering with a sedative,

according to several local media reports.
But the Indian Express newspaper said he stabbed his victims after they went to bed, having all decided to spend the night at the house in Thane.
"Prima facie evidence suggests that the accused bolted all the doors of the house and murdered his family while they were asleep with a knife that we found near his body," Ashutosh Dumbre, joint commissioner of Thane police, was quoted saying.
Kabdule said he could not confirm whether the victims had been sedated, saying investigators were awaiting medical test results.
Footage showed men carrying bodies wrapped in sheets from the house to a waiting ambulance, as crowds and police gathered outside the white-walled home.
Kabdule said details of the attack "are still sketchy" along with the motive.
According to the Press Trust of India news agency, a property dispute was behind the killings, but Dumbre said initial investigations have so far found no trigger for such an "extreme step".
"In our inquiry so far, no one has yet been able to give the reason for this," Dumbre told the ABP news channel.
"He worked with a private company in Mumbai. There were no known financial troubles or disputes and now we are hoping that the lone survivor can tell us something about the trigger," he said.

Pakistan, US to hold strategic dialogue

PTI, Islamabad
Pakistan and the US will hold a ministerial-level strategic dialogue on key areas, including economy, security and counterterrorism, amid strong opposition by India as well as the US lawmakers on the proposed F-16 deal to Islamabad.
Advisor on foreign affairs Sartaj Aziz will lead the Pakistani delegation while secretary of state John Kerry will lead the US side for the 6th round of the strategic dialogue to be held in Washington, Radio Pakistan reported on Sunday.
The six segments of the strategic dialogue include cooperation in economy and finance; energy; education, science and technology; law enforcement and counterterrorism; security, strategic stability and non-proliferation and defence.
It will be the third annual meeting since the present government has

come to power.
Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's visit to the United States in October last year had given the necessary impetus to the dialogue mechanism, the report said.
The dialogue process began in 2010, but interrupted in 2011 when the US forces killed al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden in Abbottabad in a midnight raid. The process resumed in 2014 when Aziz and Kerry met in Washington in January.
The key meeting will take place soon after the US announced to sell eight F-16 fighter jets worth \$700 million to Pakistan, despite objection from India and mounting opposition from influential American lawmakers.
Kerry has strongly defended the Obama administration's decision, arguing that these fighter jets are a "critical" part of Pakistan's fight against terrorists.

Twin suicide

FROM PAGE 16
Facebook page.
At dawn yesterday, suicide bombers and gunmen attacked Iraqi security forces in Abu Ghraib, seizing positions in a grain silo and a cemetery, and killing at least 17 members of the security forces, officials said.
Security officials blamed Islamic State, and a news agency that supports the group said it had launched a "wide attack" in Abu Ghraib, 25 km (15 miles) from the center of Baghdad and next to the international airport.
Footage circulated online by the Amaq news agency appeared to show Islamic State fighters crouching behind dirt berms and launching the attack with automatic rifles, machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades. Reuters could not verify the video's authenticity.
Security forces had mostly regained control by yesterday evening but officials said there were still clashes.
Baghdad-based security analyst Jasim al-Bahadli said the assault suggested it was premature to declare that Islamic State was losing the initiative in Iraq.

Huge amount

FROM PAGE 16
storage will be available for the remainder soon.
The Lalmonirhat buffer warehouse was built 32 years ago when a total storage capacity of 12,000 tonnes with 9,000 available for urea fertiliser was adequate. Since that time no initiative has been taken to increase storage capacity, despite increased need.
"Requirements for fertilisers have multiplied," says Hanif. "The government has decided to build 13 new warehouses across the country this financial year, but Lalmonirhat is not on the priority list. The quality of rain affected, clotted fertiliser remains intact unless it is melted, so dealers and farmers need not worry."
Nonetheless fertiliser dealers and farmers in the district have demanded the government build a new warehouse for fertiliser storage, to ensure effective supply in this agriculture rich region.
Lalmonirhat sadar upazila agriculture officer Enamul Haque is likewise concerned by current practice. "Urea fertiliser should be stored with care before use in the field," he says. "Fertiliser stored in the open might be ruined."

Cyborgs

FROM PAGE 16
and injectable. Instead of invasive brain surgery, it enters the bloodstream via a catheter and then transmits data.
"DARPA has previously demonstrated direct brain control of a prosthetic limb by paralyzed patients fitted with penetrating electrode arrays implanted in the motor cortex during traditional open-brain surgery," said Doug Weber, the program manager for RE-NET.
"By reducing the need for invasive surgery, the stentrodode may pave the way for more practical implementations of those kinds of life-changing applications of brain-machine interfaces."
Last month, Darpa released its first look at the new technology.
Phillip Alvelda, the Neural Engineering System Design program manager, said the technology is aimed at overcoming the problems faced by current attempts at brain-computer communication.
While these devices can detect the electrical activity of the brain, they require the user to concentrate and undergo training to produce specific, easy to detect signals.
Alvelda said: "Today's best brain-computer interface systems are like two super computers trying to talk to each other using an old 300-baud modem.
"Imagine what will become possible when we upgrade our tools to really open the channel between the human brain and modern electronics."
The project could also open up new therapies for neural disorders and even develop devices that could help the blind and deaf.
Darpa added its digital auditory or visual information could be fed directly into the brain at high resolutions.
While this could help patients, it could also provide new ways for soldiers to receive information and communicate while on the battlefield.

Court decides

FROM PAGE 16
"Frustrated over post-midnight traffic", Rony fired random shots from his sports utility vehicle on New Eskaton Road on April 14 leaving a rickshaw-puller and an auto-rickshaw driver dead, according to the charge sheet.
Hearing a discharge petition filed by the defence, the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court yesterday set the date for passing the order.
During the hearing, Rony's lawyer Kazi Nozib Ullah Hiru told the court that his client had been implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass him.
"Rony was not in the vehicle during the time of occurrence. So, I appeal to the court to clear my client of the murder charge," he said.
However, Additional Public Prosecutor SM Zahid Hossain prayed to the court to frame charges against the accused since, he said, the charges brought against him were preliminarily proved.
Rony was present at the court on a wheelchair, as he has been suffering from spinal cord complications, court sources said.
Detectives on July 21 pressed murder charges against Rony for shooting the two persons dead.
The incident at first did not draw much attention. Media reports on Rony's involvement in it caused a huge public outcry.
On August 13 last year, a Dhaka court accepted the charges against the accused.

Women's unpaid

FROM PAGE 5
Speaking about discriminatory laws that deprive women of equal inheritance rights, Dr Pratima Pal Majumder, former senior researcher of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), said, "The inheritance law must be a state law, not a religious law."
Fouzia Moslem, vice president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, said, "Since women do not own lands or sell agriculture produce at the market, their contribution to agricultural work is not recognised."
Even though they do majority of the tasks in agriculture, they are not recognised as farmers and not given farmer's cards, she added.
Farah Kabir, country representative of ActionAid Bangladesh, said stereotyping of women in media must stop. "The programmes of foreign channels are totally contrary to women's rights," she said, referring to Hindi television serials.
Simeen Mahmud, lead researcher, Brac Institute of Governance and Development, Brac University; Sayema Haque Bidisha, associate professor of economics, Dhaka University; Afzal Hossain, managing partner of Mattra; and Banasree Mitra Niyogi, senior researcher of MJE, also spoke at the programme moderated by Abdul Qayyum, associate editor of Prothom Alo.

PM opens work

FROM PAGE 1
Conference Centre in the capital yesterday morning.
Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu and Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal addressed the function as the special guests, while Housing and Public Works Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain joined it from Mirsarai Economic Zone, Chittagong.
Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Abul Kalam Azad delivered the welcome address, while Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority Executive Chairman Paban Chowdhury also spoke.
Termining the present government an "investment and business-friendly" one, the premier said her government wanted to create an excellent atmosphere for investment.
"We don't want to do business, rather we want to create scope for the businesspeople as we want [rapid] development of the country."
She also called upon local and foreign entrepreneurs to come forward to invest in the country's economic zones.
"We don't want to keep any stone unturned ... whatever scopes exist, we want to exploit all," she said.
Extending her sincere thanks to those who come forward to establish economic zones in Bangladesh, Hasina assured investors of all kinds of support for setting up more such zones here so that Bangladesh becomes a higher middle income country by 2021.

Also, she talked about her government's plan to set up 100 economic zones across the country.
The PM urged all concerned to give proper focus on the environment issues while setting up mills and factories in the zones.
"You will have to remain alert so that industry wastes are not dumped in the river or farmlands ... you will have to set up ETP or STP, wherever they are necessary," she said.
Spelling out government's steps for increasing electricity and gas production, Hasina mentioned that the country already achieved the power generation capacity of 14,000 megawatts.
"We have now set a target of producing 24,000 MW by 2021 and 60,000 MW by 2041," she said.
Of the 10 economic zones, Mirsarai Economic Zone in Chittagong, Srihattya Economic Zone in Moulvibazar, Mongla Economic Zone in Bagerhat and Subrang Tourist Park in Cox's Bazar are being developed under public-private sector initiative.
The remaining six economic zones being developed under private initiatives are located at Palash in Narshingdi, Boddarbazar at Sonargaon in Narayanganj, Konabari in Gazipur, Meghnaghat in Narayanganj, Choto Shilmandi at Sonargaon in Narayanganj and Gazaria in Munshiganj.

Moscow initially surprised

FROM PAGE 16
Club yesterday, the Russian ambassador said there were three such coalitions to fight terrorism, including the Saudi-led one.
Bangladesh announced joining the coalition in December last year following Saudi Foreign Minister Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir's request to his Bangladesh counterpart AH Mahmood Ali.
Describing Russia's relations with the present government "excellent", the ambassador said, "This is guaranteed that the ties will be continued under any potential government in the coming 20, 30 or 100 years."
He said Moscow sees Dhaka as a reliable and time-tested partner in promoting multi-polar global architecture and fair economic and financial system.
He said Russia would continue to focus on energy sector cooperation with Bangladesh as a friend and a partner in its ambitious development goals.
"Russia remains Bangladesh's friend and partner in its development

drive."
Ambassador Nikolaev, who leaves Dhaka on March 10 completing his four-year diplomatic assignment in Bangladesh, said a strong energy sector is a major precondition to overall development of any modern state and Bangladesh is doing its best to achieve universal electrification by the year 2021.
He reassured that the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant would be 100 percent safe and suggested that journalists ask technologically sound and educated people about safety to get clear and understandable answers.
Referring to his discussion with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and other leaders in the past, the Russian ambassador expressed satisfaction over the support of the Awami League government and the representatives of the BNP for the project.
On trade, Nikolaev said Russia-Bangladesh trade relations show constant growth. The volume of bilateral trade in 2015 reached almost \$ 1 billion, he said, adding, "Evidently, there is great potential to increase it far beyond this level."

Hillary wins big

FROM PAGE 16
South Carolina was the first southern state to vote for a 2016 Democratic nominee, before the race broadens to 11 contests across the country.
"Tomorrow this campaign goes national," Clinton said to a loud roar as she thanked supporters in Columbia, South Carolina, where she emerged with a clearer path to the nomination.
"We are going to compete for every vote in every state. We are not taking anything, and we are not taking anyone, for granted."
US networks called the race for Clinton immediately after polls closed in the Palmetto State, where the majority of Democratic voters are African-American, a voting bloc that she and her husband, former president Bill Clinton, have successfully courted for decades.
Clinton also looked beyond her battle with Sanders, tweaking the man many now see as the likely Republican nominee: Donald Trump, whose campaign slogan is "Make America Great Again."
"Despite what you hear, we don't need to make America great again. America has never stopped being great," she said, reading off a teleprompter.
"But we do need to make America whole again," she added, laying out an argument against the divisive rhetoric favored by Trump, who has antagonized immigrants, Muslims and campaign rivals.
"I know it sometimes seems a little odd for someone running for president these days and in this time to say we need more love and kindness in America," she added. "But I am telling you from the bottom of my heart, we do."
REDEMPTION
With 99 percent of precincts reporting, Clinton stood at 73.5 percent compared to 26 percent for Sanders.
The comprehensive victory marks a moment of redemption for Clinton who in 2008 lost badly in the state to Barack Obama -- his win here serving as a turning point for his ultimately victorious campaign.
Exit polls in South Carolina showed African-Americans -- who represented 61 percent of all Democratic voters in the primary -- backed Clinton by a stunning 86 percent, more than had supported Obama eight years prior.
Clinton assiduously courted black voters, in part by praising Obama and promising to build on his legacy.
She also campaigned alongside black surrogates, and visited African-

American churches and historically black colleges.
"JUST BEGINNING"
Sanders a self-described democratic socialist seeking to launch a "political revolution" in America, was already looking past South Carolina.
Early Saturday he headed to Texas, where he addressed a crowd of 10,000 people, and then Minnesota, two states in play tomorrow when the Vermont senator needs to keep his head above water if he wants to challenge Clinton deeper into the nomination race.
Sanders swiftly offered Clinton his congratulations, but also insisted he was in it for the long haul.
"Let me be clear on one thing tonight. This campaign is just beginning," he said in a statement after results came in.
Speaking at a rally in Rochester, Minnesota, Sanders made no mention of his loss in South Carolina, instead touching on familiar campaign themes.
"When you have billionaires and Wall Street and corporate America pouring hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars into the political process, that is not democracy, that is oligarchy," he told the crowd.
As the Democrats voted, the Republican race churned on as Trump traded barbs with rival Marco Rubio, who in recent days has launched a fierce assault on the billionaire real estate mogul.
"I want to save the (Republican) party from a con artist," Rubio, seen by many as the man best-positioned to topple Trump, said at a stop in Kennesaw, Georgia.
Rubio accented Trump for "flying around on hair force one," and having "the worst spray tan in America."
"SUPER TUESDAY"
Among Democrats, Clinton leads in the national delegate count at this early stage, having now won three of the first four nomination contests.
Gloria Major, a grandmother and campaign volunteer who supported Clinton in 2008, was among the ecstatic crowd listening to her victory speech in Columbia.
"She has been in battles, she is one woman that can lead this country," Major, who is black, told AFP. "For years she has had our best interest at heart."
The 11 states that hold Democratic nominating contests tomorrow will send a whopping 18 percent of the delegates to July's nominating convention in Philadelphia.
Clinton is ahead in most, but Sanders has the edge in Massachusetts