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# 586 migrants rescued off Libya coast

Italian navy rescues 900 more; missions yet to confirm if any Bangladeshis among them

Nine migrants trying to reach Europe were drowned off Libya and hundreds more, mostly from sub-Saharan African countries and Bangladesh, were rescued off the port of Zawiya, west of Tripoli, the Red Crescent said yesterday.

Libyan authorities said they had rescued the migrants from four rickety boats, one of which sank.

Colonel Ayoub Qassem, spokesman for the Libyan navy, said a total of 586 migrants were rescued during the operations. They included 11 children and 60 women, and were mainly Bangladeshis and Sudanese, he told AFP.

Libyan Navy and Red Cross gave no details of the nationalities of the victims or those rescued.

The drowning deaths came just days after four migrants were killed in a boat fire off Libya and another 187 rescued.

Meanwhile, Italy's coast guard said more than 900 migrants were rescued in four separate operations in the Strait of Sicily on Saturday.

The coast guard has continued to pick up migrants in trouble in the stretch of water between the southern coast of Italy and North Africa.

Now into the second year of its worst migration crisis

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



Curious onlookers gather near a wreckage of a car that was hit by two buses near Khilkhet bus stop in the capital yesterday afternoon, killing three of a family. Inset, one of the buses lies on the street after locals pushed it from a side to rescue the car passengers.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

# 3 killed as 2 buses smash car

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three of a family, including two women, were killed as two buses rammed their car from behind one after another in the capital's Khilkhet area yesterday.

The dead are Delwar Hossain Mojumder, 58, of Chandpur, his sister Anwara Milon Begum, 45, and her daughter Lovely, 23, of Gazipur.

The victims were coming to Dhaka from Gazipur for treatment of Delwar, a retired government official, who was suffering from cardiac complications, said Shahidur Rahman, sub-inspector of Khilkhet Police Station.

Delwar came to his sister's house in Gazipur from his hometown Chandpur to consult a doctor in Dhaka. His sister and niece were taking him to the doctor, said Kudrat-e-Khuda, assistant commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Cantonment zone).

The accident occurred

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



# Actress Diti loses battle with cancer

FAHMIM FERDOUS

From a simple small town girl with dreams of becoming a singer, she became one of the biggest film stars of her era. And much like the action heroine roles that she made a name for herself with in the '90s, Parveen Sultana Diti was a fearless fighter for most of her life, until the battle

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

# One killed in UP polls violence

First phase of election tomorrow; AL-backed chairman candidates win in 10 municipalities

STAR REPORT

With elections due in 732 union parishads tomorrow, one man was killed and scores others were injured in pre-polls violence in different places of the country yesterday.

Candidates, vying for different posts in the lowest tier of the local government, wrapped up their campaigns 11:59pm last night.

Voting will begin at 8:00am and continue till 4:00pm tomorrow in the UPs that are going to polls tomorrow in the first of the six-phase elections. Restrictions on the movement of motorised vehicles will be in place for 24 hours since midnight tonight.

Some 1.8 lakh law enforcers were deployed across the country to maintain law and order during the polls, said Inspector General of Police (IGP) AKM Shahidul Hoque.

In the subsequent phases, elections are due in 643 UPs on March 31 and in 681 UPs on April 23. Around 2,200 UPs will go to polls in three more phases till June.

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# 'Khaleda out to stage another Aug 21 carnage'

Alleges PM at AL meeting

BSS, Dhaka

Blasting Khaleda Zia for her "ill motive" to hold "Hasina-free" polls in future, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday alleged that the BNP leader was hatching conspiracies to stage another August 21 carnage in the country.

"At Saturday's BNP council, Begum Zia has called for holding 'Hasina-free' polls ... it means she is orchestrating plots. She has no other path ...," the PM said.

Hasina, also the Awami League president, said this while delivering her introductory speech at an AL central working committee meeting at the Gono Bhaban.

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# Running across seven deserts

AP, Los Angeles

Long-distance runners are water-obsessed by necessity, but Mina Guli is on another level. She's trying to run more than 1,000 miles through seven deserts on seven continents in seven weeks to raise awareness of worldwide water shortages.

She has completed six of the runs, having jogged

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

# Titas MD removed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Naushad Islam was removed as the managing director (MD) of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Ltd yesterday.

He now has been

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



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PRAYER TIMING

MARCH 21					
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN	4-55	12-45	4-45	6-16	7-45
JAMAAT	5-30	1-15	5-00	6-20	8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



The Dhaka-Narayanganj-Demra (DND) canal is drying up in Shimrail area of Narayanganj as some influential locals dumped soil and dirt into it to make temporary dams, inset, for fish farming. The unscrupulous practice is not only obstructing the water flow but also posing a threat to the environment of the area. The photos were taken on Saturday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# CARGO VESSEL CAPSIZE

# Govt yet to start rescue operation in Shela

STAR REPORT

No rescue effort has been made in more than 24 hours after a coal-laden cargo vessel sank in the Shela river flowing through the Sundarbans, a Unesco-listed world heritage site in Bagerhat.

Only a red flag was hoisted yesterday at the spot near the Harintana forest station to caution other vessels plying the route.

With 1,235 tonnes of coal, MV Sea Horse

sank on Saturday afternoon while going to Nowpara, Jessore from Chittagong. The bottom of its hull cracked when it reached the Sundarbans' Chandpai range under Mongla upazila.

The movement of cargo vessels on the route has remained normal following the incident, the authorities said.

The forest department and the Bagerhat district administration, meanwhile, have

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

# HARASSING UNIV STUDENT

# Adabor SI sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent Ratan Kumar, a sub-inspector of Adabor Police Station, to jail in a case filed for alleged sexual harassment of a private university student.

He was on duty as a SI of Adabor Police Station in the city's Mohammadpur area when the incident occurred on January 31.

The police official was sent to jail after he surrendered before the court around 10:00am yesterday.

Judge Md Salehuddin Ahmed of the Fourth Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children

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## শোক সংবাদ



মেট্রোপলিটান মেডিকেল সেন্টার লিঃ, মহাখালী, ঢাকা - এর অন্যতম পরিচালক এবং জাতীয় ও আন্তর্জাতিক খ্যাতি সম্পন্ন বিশিষ্ট নিউরো সার্জন এমেরিটাস অধ্যাপক রশিদুদ্দিন আহমদ ১৯-০৩-২০১৬ ইং তারিখে ৭৯ বৎসর বয়সে চিকিৎসারত অবস্থায় মেট্রোপলিটান মেডিকেল সেন্টার লিঃ এ ইন্তেকাল করেন (ইল্লাল্লাহু ওয়াইন্না ইলাইহে রাজেউন)। মৃত্যু কালে তিনি স্ত্রী এবং এক ছেলে ও এক মেয়ে সহ অসংখ্য গুনহাযী ও আত্মীয় স্বজন রেখে গেছেন। আমরা তাঁহার রুহের মাগফেরাত কামনা করছি এবং শোকসন্তপ্ত পরিবারের প্রতি সম-বেদনা জ্ঞাপন করছি।

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ফোনঃ ৯৮৩০৭০, ৯৮৩০৫৩১, ৯৮৩০৪৮২