



# The Daily Star

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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

STYLE



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Your Right to Know

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## CRIME IN JAIL



A prisoner must pay Tk 30,000 a month in total to big thugs or face torture



ADDITIONAL MEAL: Tk 14,000 a month



SLEEPING SPACE, FOOD: Tk 16,000 a month



MEETING FAMILY: Tk 300 to Tk 1,500



SMUGGLING MONEY: Guards keep Tk 200 per Tk 1,000 supplied to prisoners

● 30 PERCENT PRISONERS SO POOR THAT THEY CANNOT PAY FOR PACKAGE ● SOME JAIL OFFICIALS CREATE ARTIFICIAL SPACE CRISIS

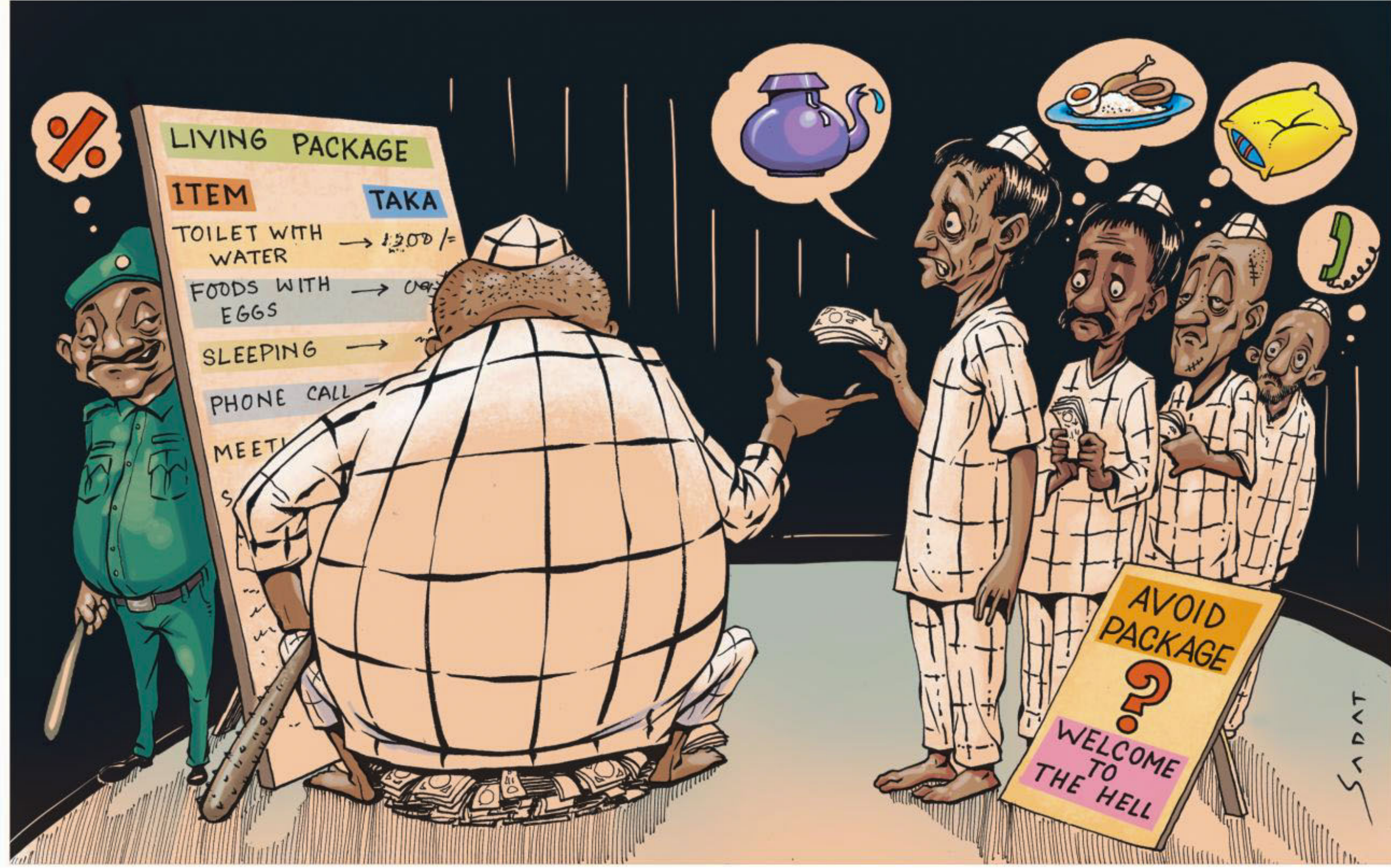
# NOTHING free in prison

Stay in Dhaka jail more expensive than living in Dhaka

SHARIFUL ISLAM

A prisoner in Dhaka Central Jail has to spend around Tk 30,000 a month for food and other services which the state is supposed to provide for free. The amount is more than some families living in the capital spend a month. A major portion of the inmates' money goes to the convicts who are given the charge by the jail authority to look after other prisoners. Those in charge take more than Tk 16,000 a month from each prisoner for the minimum required space to sleep without trouble, the food served by the jail authorities and enough water for bathing and toilet use. The rest Tk 14,000 is spent on additional food like eggs, fish and meat alongside those served by the jail authorities, as it is almost impossible to keep the jail food down. The Tk 30,000 takes care of just the basic necessities. Everything else is extra. Like, a prisoner has to spend Tk 300 to Tk 1,500 to see his or her family, in which one is allowed to talk to family members in a room through a window. The jail staff at the gate charge Tk 200 for sending every Tk 1,000 to an inmate. So, actually a prisoner gets Tk 800 for every Tk 1,000 his or her family sends. Each prisoner has to manage the amount to enjoy the minimum rights he or she is entitled to enjoy inside the jail as per the Bangladesh Jail Code. Horrific sufferings await those who are unable to manage the amount.

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# Evidence of rape found, finally

CID confirms after DNA tests, shortens list of suspects

SHARIFUL ISLAM and RAFIUL ISLAM

Sohagi Jahan Tonu was raped before she was murdered.

This was revealed by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) last night, almost two months after the killing of the 19-year-old college student.

The latest findings expose the flaws in the inquest and first autopsy reports which did not find any evidence of rape.

"In DNA tests, we have found evidence of rape," Abdul Kahar Akand, special superin-



Sohagi Jahan Tonu

tendent of CID, told The Daily Star around 10:45pm.

Samples including pieces of Tonu's clothes and her four teeth were tested at the CID laboratory in Dhaka.

"Examining Tonu's clothes, we have found four DNA samples of four separate persons," Nazmul Karim Khan, superintendent of CID in Comilla-Noakhali Division, told The Daily Star.

"Of the four DNA samples, three are spermatozoa of three separate males," he said.

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# Met Aslam, but no secret plot

Safadi tells BBC; organisers in India surprised at terming Safadi an Israeli spy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Israeli politician Mendi N Safadi yesterday said he met BNP leader Aslam Chowdhury in India but had no "secret meeting" with the Bangladeshi opposition leader.

"Everybody knows about the situation in Bangladesh and the condition of minorities there. We have talked about those issues at a public programme.

"Nothing could be funnier than the claims that we were conspiring to stage a military coup in Bangladesh or hatching a plot against the government," Safadi told BBC Bangla Service over the phone from Israel.

It is illogical that some people would hatch a conspiracy against a government at

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# HUMILIATION OF N'GANJ TEACHER Govt opens probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the wake of severe criticism on social media, the education ministry has launched a probe into the incident of public humiliation of a headmaster in Narayanganj for his alleged derogatory comments on religion.

Shyamal Kanti Bhakta, headmaster of Piyar Sattar Latif High School in Bandar area, was beaten up by a mob and made to do sit-ups holding his ears in the presence of local Jatiya Party lawmaker AKM Selim Osman on Friday.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, the victim said the locals were provoked by false allegations that he had made disparaging statements about religion.

Shyamal, a member of the Hindu community, was rescued by law enforcers. He is now receiving treatment at a local hospital under police protection.

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TOP QUOTE

"Insulting him in public was a condemnable act. It is very unfortunate, unacceptable and inhuman. We are very shocked."

EDUCATION MINISTER NURUL ISLAM NAHID ABOUT THE PUBLIC HUMILIATION OF A HEADMASTER IN NARAYANGANJ

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# All-out help in fighting terrorism

US team assures Bangladesh

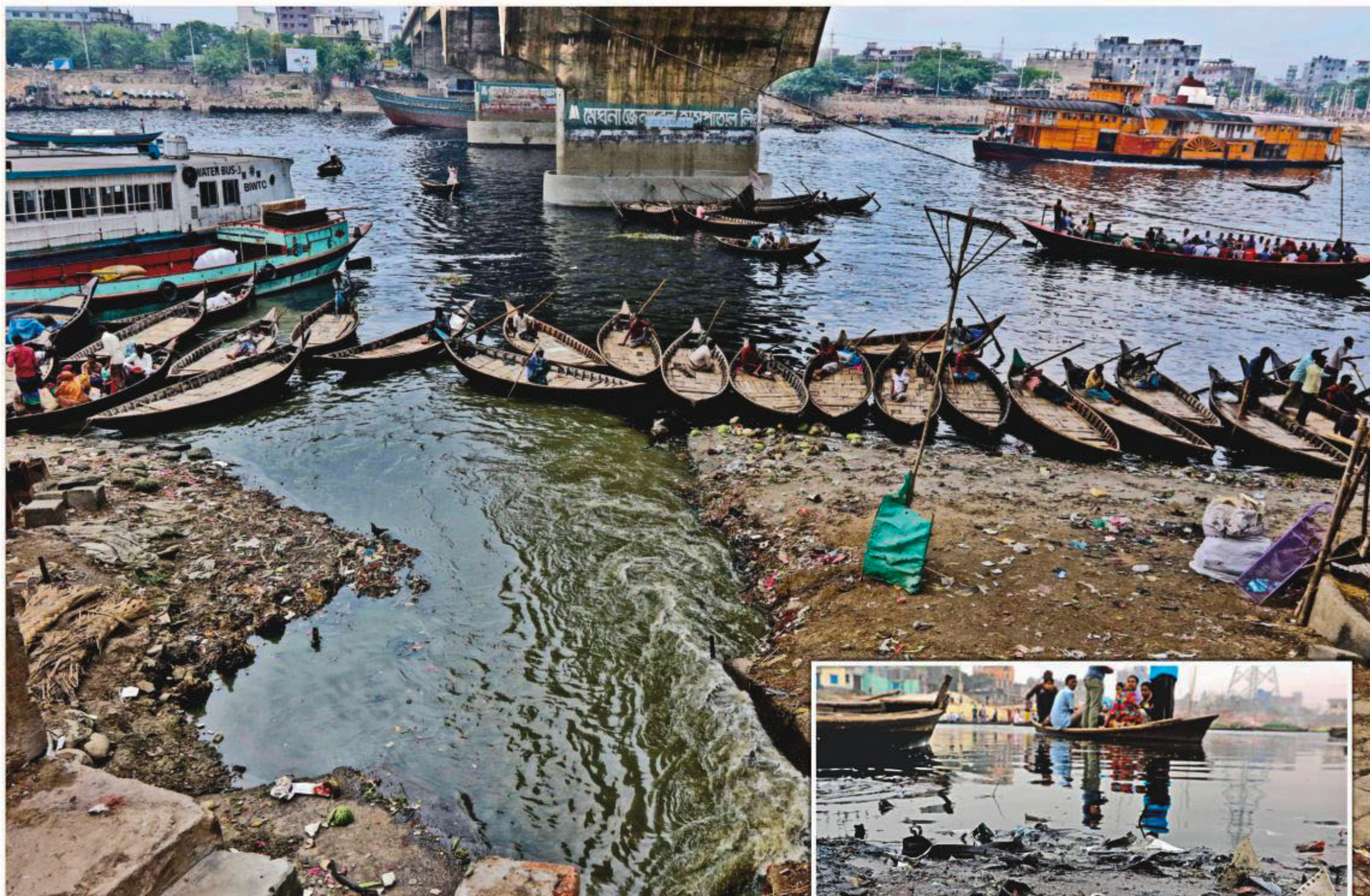
STAR REPORT

Washington yesterday reassured Dhaka about extending all-out assistance in countering violent extremism and terrorism before it took root in Bangladesh.

While conveying the US message, diplomats of the country now on a visit to Bangladesh, said they consider Bangladesh an important country since it, being a moderate Muslim country, could be a key player in dealing with the problem of violent extremism.

"The message is we bring assistance and we want to coordinate with your government to find out what your government needs and what your civil society and others need and to make sure we are offering the right kinds of assistance," US Ambassador in Dhaka Marcia Bernicat said after emerging from a

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Mindless dumping of industrial waste and garbage, inset, in the Buriganga goes on and efforts to revive the lifeline of the capital went in vain. The DSCC mayor now intends to take up a big plan to restore the river to its former glory.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# Plan to revive battered Buriganga

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With all the previous efforts to save Buriganga river going in vain, Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sayeed Khokon yesterday came up with a plan to revive the river.

At a press conference at the Sonargaon Hotel, he announced his plan to evict encroachers, stop pollution and bring back clean water flow with the possible funding of the World Bank.

"We are in the process of getting a fund from the bank," he said, adding that under the initiative they would develop the riverfront, making it a centre for amusement, and protect the historical structures and develop the sanitation process by setting up an effluent treatment plant (ETP) to reduce the pollution.

At the press conference, convened to evaluate the one-year performance of the mayor, Khokon highlighted the ongoing development work of the DSCC and its future plans.

Speaking on the occasion, former food and disaster management minister Abdur Razzak said they had made a commitment to the city dwellers to turn the Buriganga into a beautiful river.

The DSCC mayor had taken an initiative in this regard and the proposal was with the Economic Relations Division (ERD), he informed.

Dhaka dwellers are all too familiar with the sorry state of the river. Dark murky reeking water; the constant plying of

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