#### Boy playing football fatally run over by bus

CITY DESK

A seven-year-old boy was killed as a bus ran him over on Netrakona-Mohanganj road in Kadom Deuli area of Barhatta upazila in Netrakona yesterday.

The deceased was Nadim Miah son of Manik Miah of Kadom Deuli village.

Quoting family members, police said Nadim along with other children was playing football in a field near the road. Suddenly the ball went out of the field and fell on the road. When Nadim went there to collect the ball a bus ran him over killing him on the spot.

In Sunamganj, a traffic sergeant and his co-rider were injured as a truck rammed their motorbike at Batertala in Jagannathpur municipality area yesterday.

They were admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.



A half of the road in Sylhet city's Sobhanighat has remained dug up for more than a month, putting the vehicles and pedestrians at risk of falling into the ditch any moment. The city corporation has started digging the road for drainage and water pipeline works. The local ward councillor said the work would restart soon after the contractors entrusted with it get back from leave. The photo was taken on Monday.

#### No entry to Hajj camp without pass: minister

UNB, Dhaka

Religious Affairs Minister Motiur Rahaman yesterday said the government introduced a pass system for entering the Hajj camp in Dhaka as part of security of pilgrims.

The minister came up with the remark while talking to reporters at the secretariat over the overall Hajj arrangement.

He said some 1,01,778 Hajj pilgrims will go to Saudi Arabia this year to perform Hajj.

Around 1,40,000 people registered their names to perform Hajj under private arrangement against arrangement for only 91,778 pilgrims.

However, only 5,200 people showed their interest to go to Saudi Arabia through government management although there is an arrangement for 10,000 people. The minister also noted that about 40,000 registered aspirants who will not be able to perform Hajj this year will be given priority in 2017.

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# 1st phase removal starts Sunday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) will hold from July 24 to August 31 the first phase of a drive to clear residential areas of Uttara, Gulshan, Banani, Baridhara and Dhanmondi in the capital of illegal and commercial establishments. Three Rajuk teams, along with law enforcing agencies

and utility service providers, are ready to demolish and close the illegal structures, including guesthouses, restaurants, hotels and bars, said Rajuk Member (development control) Md Asmaul Hossain. The drive will also be against illegal structures in car

parks, ramps on footpaths and even those running structures on plots not authorised as commercial ones, he said, adding that they were yet to finalise the number of commercial structures present. "We did not send separate notices to owners of illegal structures as we published a notice for the masses in different newspapers," he said. On July 17, Housing and Public Works Minister

Dhanmondi, Lalbagh and Mirpur and would take till January next year if needed to clear the areas. The cabinet had decided on a six-month timeframe on April 4 to shift the establishments to designated areas. It said non-compliance would result in gas, water and electric-

Mosharraf Hossain at a meeting said they had so far identi-

fied 1,626 illegal structures in Gulshan, Baridhara, Uttara,

ity supplies being cut off and cancellation of trade licences. "We had taken a decision to go slow earlier on humanitarian grounds but now decided to speed up our drive," he told the meeting of the ministry's departments at its conference room in Bangladesh Secretariat. Educational institutions, clinics and hospitals would be granted more time to move than others, he said. Mosharraf said they already demolished 333 ramps for encroaching on public space and cleared unauthorised establishments from 236 car parks of buildings in Uttara, Gulshan, Baridhara and Dhanmondi.

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ILLEGAL ESTABLISHMENTS IN DHAKA | CNG-RUN AUTO-RICKSHAW

# Exorbitant fares still charged in port city

SHAHADAT HOSSAIN, Ctg

Although the authorities concerned have made it mandatory for the auto-rickshaws to use fare meters since February 1, most of the CNG-run auto-rickshaws in the port city are operating without using them, ignoring the government's directives.

The drivers are still charging passengers based on contracts and at times demanding exorbitant fare, alleged Md Mozammel Huq Chowdhury, president of Chittagong Regional Committee of the Passengers' Welfare Association. The passengers have to face constant and unnecessary haggling due to that, he said, adding, the Chittagong Metropolitan Police should take strict action against this.

"The drivers do not want to go by meters and also charge additional fares," alleged Anwar Hossain, a businessman of Bibirhat

However, Md Mizan, an auto-rickshaw driver, claimed that it was the passengers who do not want to travel long distance using meters.

Moreover, the owners have increased the daily deposit money, he said. "I used to pay Tk 600, now it's Tk 700."

Haider Azam Chowdhury, president of Chittagong District and Chittagong City CNG-run Auto-rickshaw Malik Chalok Oikya Parishad, said they have also urged

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the CMP to take action against drivers for not using the meters.

"The daily deposit has to be reduced to its original amount of Tk 600, to ensure the proper implementation of the metering system," said Md Harunur Rashid, general secretary of Chattagram Auto-rickshaw Auto-tempo Sramik Union. Some of the owners are charging Tk 600,

some Tk 700 or Tk 800 as daily deposit, he claimed. Haider Azam Chowdhury, however, claimed that the owners in Chittagong city are taking Tk 700 as daily deposit from the drivers, even though the government increased it to Tk 900. Masud-ul-Hasan, additional commis-

sioner (traffic) of CMP, said they have been conducting drives regarding this issue and planning to strengthen it from Sunday.

"We could not properly implement the rules as there were many unregistered autorickshaws plying the street before. We have resolved that issue following a High Court order and the plying has stopped since Eid," he said. "We have also held a meeting with the owners of the CNG-run auto-rickshaws on Wednesday to inform them about the upcoming drive," he further said.

There are about 13,000 registered CNGrun auto-rickshaws in Chittagong city, according to CMP traffic division sources.

# NEWS<sub>IN</sub> brief

### **Islamic Foundation for continuing** anti-terror khutba

BSS, Dhaka

Islamic Foundation yesterday called for delivering khutba (sermons) during Juma prayers today in all mosques in view of the current perspectives.

Khutbas were read out in all mosques last Friday giving priority to militancy issues. In a statement yesterday, the foundation requested to read relevant verses from the holy Quran with Bangla interpretations.

## Anti-drug body launched at JU

IU CORRESPONDENT

An anti-drug organisation titled "Anti-drug conscious student's organisation" has been launched at Jahangirnagar University yesterday, said Jebunnessa, a teacher of the university, and a founder of this organisation, at a press conference.

#### **IUB** inter-school debate starts

CITY DESK

A three-day inter-school debate tournament titled "Ascension 16" has started at Independent University,

Bangladesh (IUB) in the capital's Bashundhara yesterday. IUB organised the national-level tournament where 60 teams from 30 different English and Bangla medium schools from and outside Dhaka have participated, said a press release.

# 3 high officials to

Germany for pre-shipment inspection of the digital camera and its equipment before the actual import. According to the letter, the company supplying the

items would bear their travel cost. Contacted by phone, Nurul Islam, the joint secretary, said they were going to Germany for the shipment purpose.

"Talk to the DG [director general] for details," he said and hung up. The Daily Star could not reach the DG. However, he told the BBC that they had to sign some papers before the

He said the body of the camera would cost about Tk 35 lakh and that representatives of Buet and Dhaka University were involved in the approval process.

Now they will inspect whether the right things are being delivered, he said. Asked about their expertise, he said: "There is no such expert in Bangladesh. After working two years, we're confident about our capacities."

## Bangladesh no place

FROM PAGE 3

shipment.

Md Jahangir Harun, Prime Minister's Security Advisor Maj Gen (retd) Tarique Ahmed Siddique, and chiefs of naval and air staff were present, among others.

She said everyone, particularly those responsible for security, should be given modern training to enhance their capacity to tackle any situation.

"PGR members have to build up themselves as a timebefitting force in terms of competence and strategy to keep them abreast with the changing global situation, said Hasina. Terming the PGR as a brilliant force, she said in the passage of time the force brightened its image with its own credit.

The premier said a barrack with modern amenities was constructed for soldiers on the Gono Bhaban premises, which resolved their longstanding housing problem. A separate housing arrangement plan for the families of the PGR is on the cards, she added.

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