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# Single tenants in trouble

House owners in some city areas reluctant to rent flats to them, some others plan to get rid of bachelors after Gulshan attack

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

After the news that the Gulshan café attackers "used two flats in the capital as their dens" surfaced, suspicion and a sense of insecurity have gripped many landlords who rent out their flats to students, bachelors or single people.

Some homeowners have decided to vacate their flats rented by single people, and let those apartments to families, while some imposed restrictions on existing tenants, asking them not to bring any guests or come home late at night.

"I've decided to ask the existing bachelor tenants to leave my house soon. Once they leave, I'll search for some families," said Sarwar Uddin Shahin, owner of a six-storey building in Moghbazar.

The second and third floors of the building are rented to bachelors.

The current situation has caused problems to many who arrived in the city in pursuit of higher education and employment.

"It is already difficult for bachelors to find a place to live in. Now the current situation has made it more difficult for us to rent a flat," said Raunak Ibne Akthar, a private university student.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Vehicles stuck in long tailbacks at Paturia terminal yesterday amid disruption of ferry services on Paturia-Daulatdia route due to strong currents in the Padma and shortage of ferries in operation.

PHOTO: JAHANGIR ALAM

# FERRY SHORTAGE Long tailbacks at Paturia, Daulatdia

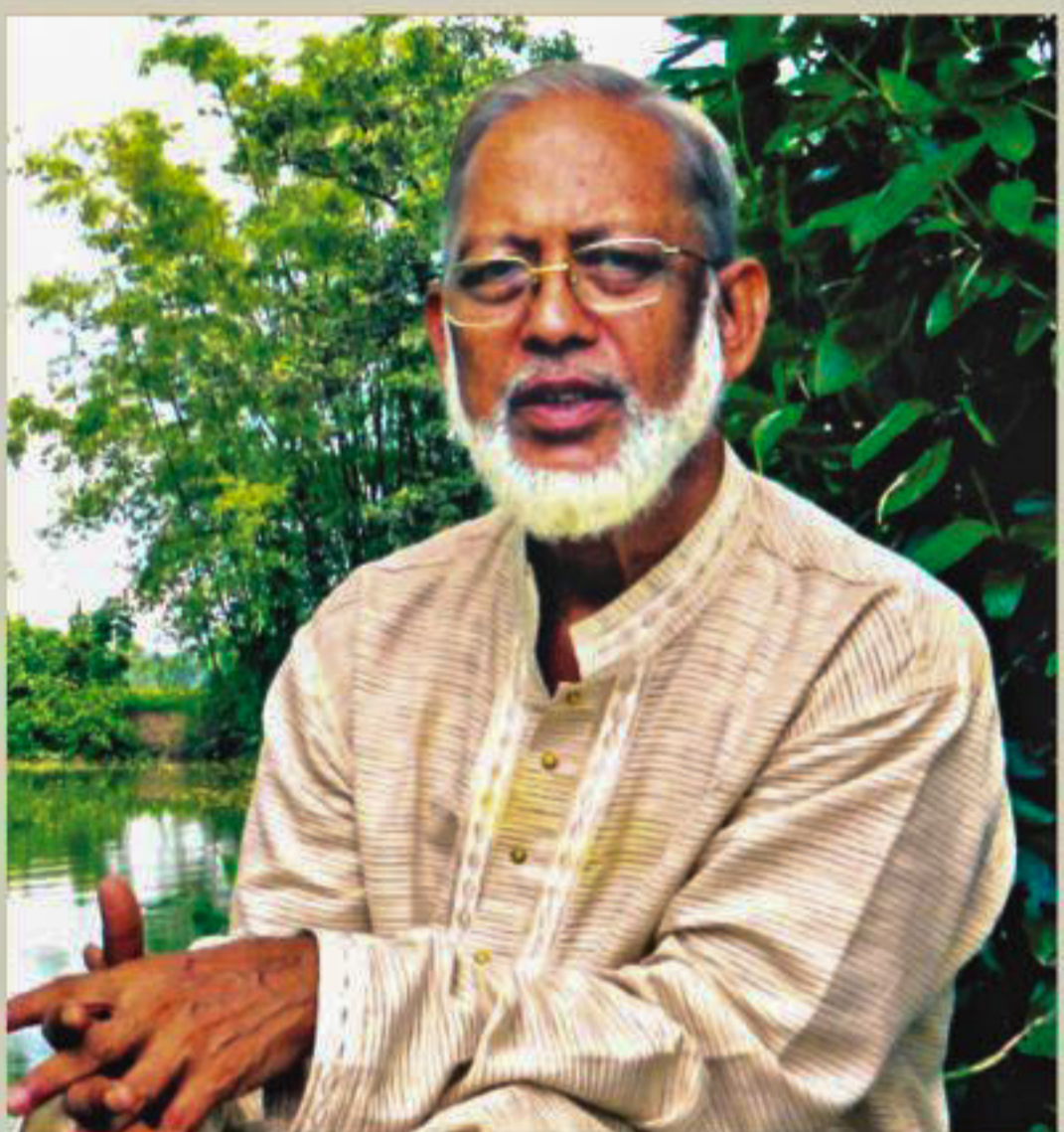
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Thousands of passengers from 17 south-western districts of the country are experiencing immense sufferings due to long tailbacks since Wednesday on the roads leading to ferry terminals on both sides of the Padma -- Paturia in Manikganj and Daulatdia in Rajbari.

Now it is taking around four to five hours for a person to cross the River Padma using these two terminals, as opposed to the usual one hour time, said passengers frequenting this route.

Strong currents in the River Padma are forcing the ferries to take twice as long for each trip while a shortage of ferries is worsening the situation on this route, said Mohiuddin Rasel, manager (commerce) at SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

# The man with 2,000 puthis



ANANTA YUSUF

Until a few decades ago, at a time when electricity and television were not so widespread in rural Bangladesh, *puthi*, a traditional form of handwritten book, used to be a major source of entertainment. Be it a feudal lord or a farmer, the mesmerising recitation of a rhythmic *puthi* could make one cry, laugh and dream about faraway lands.

Today *puthi* as a form of literature is facing extinction. But thankfully, former Chittagong University librarian Ishak Chowdhury, from a remote village in Patiya upazila, has devoted his life to collecting and researching *puthi*.

Impressively, Ishak has collected and preserved more than 2,000 *puthi* in his tin-shed house.

These *puthi* manuscripts cover topics as wide-ranging as literature, legends, astronomy, poetry, mathematics, occult sciences and medicine.

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"I have a dream to revive the cultural tradition of *puthi* in Bangladesh," says Ishak, "For that reason I have made an archive, which I have named the Abdus Sattar Chowdhury Puthi Shongroho Shala."

The oldest manuscript in the collection is about 300 hundred years old, called *Nakshi Sulemani*. Ishak explains that the beautiful illustrations in the manuscript reflect the Islamic style that was introduced as a result of the Muslim invasion of Bengal. The small-sized manuscript demonstrates the importance of the various names of Allah which work as a mantra to solve different life issues.

Ishak also has a large number of manuscripts of medieval legendary poets, including Alaol, Doulat Kazi and Sayed Sultan. These works are written on handmade cotton paper called *tulot*.

Particularly fascinating among the SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

# BNP demo today over Tarique's conviction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP will stage demonstrations across the country today protesting conviction of its Senior Vice-chairman Tarique Rahman in a money laundering case.

Rizvi Ahmed, senior joint secretary general of BNP, announced the programme at a press conference at the party's Nayapalton central office. He said BNP's front organisations will hold separate protest programmes from Monday.

"Tarique Rahman has been denied justice. The BNP will stage demonstrations in all cities and district headquarters on Saturday [today] protesting Tarique Rahman's conviction and punishment in a money-laundering case," Rizvi added.

The decision was made at a meeting of senior BNP leaders at the party chief's Gulshan office on Thursday SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

**SIBL**  
Social Islami Bank Limited  
PRAYER TIMING JULY 23  
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-15 12-45 5-00 6-54 8-15  
JAMAAT 4-50 1-15 5-15 6-58 8-45  
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# Trump promises safety for fearful Americans

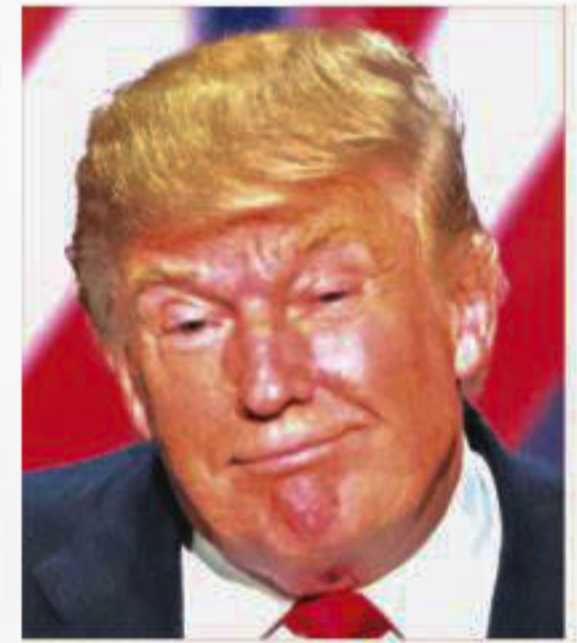
Storms into election showdown with Clinton, vows to clamp down on immigration

AFP, Cleveland

Donald Trump rallied Republicans by vowing he alone could fix a nation adrift in a dangerous world, storming into an election showdown with Hillary Clinton, the presumptive Democratic nominee determined to become America's first woman president.

The billionaire and former reality TV star electrified the Republican National Convention by delivering the speech of his life, promising to restore security, clamp down on immigration and put America first.

Nationwide polls suggest the New York mogul, who has never held elected office, is almost neck and neck Clinton, the former secretary of state mired in an SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



# Billionaire dad sends son for odd jobs



TNN, Kochi

In an effort to wean his son from a life of silver-spooned privilege, a Gujarati diamond merchant and proprietor of a Surat-based Rs 6,000 crore company with presence in 71 countries, persuaded his only son to go to Kochi incognito and survive on odd jobs for a month.

Dravya Dholakia, 21, doing an MBA in the US and on a holiday in India, arrived in Kochi on June 21 with three pairs of clothes and Rs SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

# Madrasa boy traceless for a week

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

An eleven-year-old boy, who went missing from a madrasa in Jamalpur over a week ago, is still traceless.

Noman Ahmed, son of Osman Gani of Pargachha village at Kazipur upazila in Sirajganj, got into Nazimuddin Nurani Hafizi Madrasa at Sarishabari upazila some six months ago. He used to stay there as well.

However, the boy went missing in the morning of July 15, said Abdul Latif, director of the madrasa.

Immediately, the madrasa authorities contacted his family and later mounted a search for him. But he could not be found anywhere. SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

# THE SWIFT HACK How NY Fed fumbled over BB fund heist

REUTERS, Dhaka/new York

Jupiter. That single word, by a stroke of luck, helped stop the Federal Reserve Bank of New York from paying nearly \$1 billion to the cyber-criminals behind a notorious bank heist earlier this year, according to sources familiar with the incident.

When hackers broke into the computers of Bangladesh's central bank in February and sent fake payment orders, the Fed was tricked into paying out \$101 million.

But the losses could have been much higher had the name Jupiter not formed part of the address of a Philippines bank where the hackers sought to send hundreds of millions of dollars more.

By chance, Jupiter was also the name of an oil tanker and SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

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