

Cop killed

FROM PAGE 1
SM Manzur Quader, officer-in-charge of the police station.
Matin's daughter Sheuli Akhter said ASI Fakhru Islam and Arif of the police station reached near their house by a motorbike in the afternoon when her father was bringing fodder in a bag to feed their cattle.
The two cops in plainclothes intercepted Matin and wanted to check the bag. Suddenly they started chasing him saying that the bag contained drug.
Sheuli alleged as her father jumped into the pond, constable Arif also got in there and beat him up.
Locals pulled Matin out of the pond and took him to the upazila health complex where doctors declared him dead. His body was taken to his house. Police later went to Matin's house and took away his body.
Matin's family members said he used to run a betel leaf shop near the bridge of Panam City in Sonargaon.
According to local ward councillor Zaida Akhter Moni, the man owned a betel leaf shop and his wife rears cattle at home.
Law enforcers recovered Arif's body from the pond.

Be vocal

FROM PAGE 1
the city's Ashkona.
Hasina said she always wants to keep unharmed the dignity and honour of Islam. "It's my desire that our religion would always hold its place as the best religion of the world.... I request all, including fathers, mothers and teachers, to remain alert so that no youth could be derailed."
Islam, she said, is the religion of peace and there is no place for militancy and terrorism in it. "I feel pain and sorrow when I see some derailed men killing innocent people in cold blood.... Are they doing anything good for Islam? Instead, they are undermining it before others."
The premier said the religion which always teaches about peace, tolerance and rights of other religions is facing a disgraceful situation for some derailed people.
Hasina reiterated her firm stance of not allowing any terrorist and militant activities on the country's soil.
She said the government gave special attention to security of hajj pilgrims.
Besides, the government was very much aware of those overstaying in Saudi Arabia after going there on hajj visa.
Chaired by Religious Affairs Minister Motiur Rahman, the programme was addressed, among others, by Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon.
Some 1,01,758 Bangladeshis are expected to perform Hajj this year. The hajj flights will be operated from Dhaka to Jeddah from August 4 to September 5.
The state-run Biman Bangladesh Airlines is expected to carry half of the pilgrims while Saudi Arabian Airlines would ferry the rest.
The return hajj flights would start on September 17 and continue till October 15.
A 292-member Bangladesh hajj team, composed of physicians, pharmacists, nurses/brothers and assistants, would go to Saudi Arabia to provide healthcare services to pilgrims.

China's elevated
FROM PAGE 1
Powered by electricity, the bus is able to carry up to 300 passengers in its 72ft long and 25ft wide body.
A video of a mini-model of the vehicle caused great excitement when it was released in May.
The trial run was conducted on a 300m-long controlled track in the north-eastern city of Qinhuangdao.
The vehicle is expected to reach speeds of up to 60km per hour, running on rails laid along ordinary roads. Up to four TEBs can be linked together.
"The biggest advantage is that the bus will save lots of road space," the project's chief engineer, Song Youzhou, told state-media agency Xinhua earlier this year.
"The TEB has the same functions as the subway, while its cost of construction is less than one fifth of the subway," another engineer Bai Zhiming told news outlet CCTV.
One TEB could replace 40 conventional buses, according to the firm.
However, it is unclear when the vehicle will be widely used in Chinese cities.
It is not a new idea, but it was not seriously considered until a mini-model of it was launched at the 19th China Beijing International High-Tech Expo in May.
A month later, developers announced that the TEB would be ready for a test-run in August.
Thousands took to micro-blogging site Weibo to express their amazement and incredulity.
"I saw images of this not long ago and now it's actually happening?" asked one user. "This is truly build at 'Chinese speed'".
"I swear I just saw ideas of this in pictures. Now it's appeared in real life," said another.

Summer vacation

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among the guardians and the school authorities, particularly those of English medium and missionary schools.
Besides, they found themselves in an uncomfortable situation after the government high-ups warned about further militant attacks. Some schools reportedly received threats as well.
Contacted, the authorities of some of the schools said they have temporarily kept their classes shut for increasing security on the campus. The schools also keep the parents updated about the likely date of their reopening through text messages and emails.
"A number of schools, which have foreign teachers, are assessing their security systems following the terror attacks, and that is one of the reasons behind the delay in reopening," GM Nizam Uddin, secretary general of Bangladesh English Medium School Association, told The Daily Star yesterday.
He said some schools are observing the situation while vacation in a few others is yet to end.
They are likely to resume classes in the first week of this month.
Several schools have already increased their security systems. Again, some are installing additional CCTV cameras, increasing the number of guards, using metal detectors and other security equipment on the campus, said Nizam, who is also the managing director of Cardiff International School Dhaka.
Vacations in Scholastica, one of the premier English-medium schools in the city, began in mid-June. It was scheduled to reopen on July 24 but it did not.
In emails sent to guardians on Tuesday, the school authorities said they were expecting to hold a Parent Orientation Program on the campus on August 16-20 and resume classes after that.
The email talked about the security measures taken by the school, a guardian told this correspondent.
Contacted, Zia Hashan, coordinator, communication, Scholastica Limited, said they have tightened security measures on the campus and hope to resume classes in mid-August.
Over 6,000 students study at five branches of the school in Uttara, Mirpur, Dhanmondi and Gulshan areas, he said.
Sunnysdale School in the city's Dhanmondi area was supposed to resume classes on July 31, but the school authorities on July 28 sent text messages to the guardians, saying as per parents' request, the school would remain closed until further notice.
However, the school had an orientation programme of senior section students on July 28, said guardians.
The school is giving homework to its students through emails, said Sumina, mother of a standard-VIII student at the school.
Contacted, Yasmeen Habib, vice principal of the school, said they had reopened the school on July 28. Parents came and saw the security measure on the campus on that day.
"Although the parents were happy, they wanted the school authorities to have more security and we are working on it," she said, adding that they expected to resume classes on August 7.
Sunbeams School reopened and held an orientation programme for students on July 16. However, it was closed again.
Later, the school authorities informed guardians through emails that the classes would begin from July 24 but that did not happen as well, said Ali Reza, father of a student of a junior section at the Dhanmondi branch.

The school authorities then sent another email to the guardians, saying they could not bring children back to classes until they ensure proper security, he said.
Mastermind School was supposed to reopen on July 24 but has changed the date twice, said guardians.
"We don't know when the school will reopen. We're a bit concerned," said Sajia, mother of grade-2 student at its Dhanmondi branch.
However, an official of the school, wishing not to be named, said classes are likely to resume on August 7.
Frustrated with the delay in reopening SFX Greenherald International School, another English-medium school, a guardian in a Facebook post said: "Really upsetting! My children's school is closed for an indefinite period following the recent spate of Islamist militant attacks. Where the country is heading to?"
Sources said the school might reopen on August 16.
Talking to this correspondent, several guardians said closing down schools' activity for security reasons is not a solution to the current crisis.
"Security can also be beefed up keeping the schools open. Otherwise, it will be difficult for the students to complete the syllabus later," said a mother of a fifth grader.
"Also, there will be a huge pressure on the students once the schools open," she added.
Education ministry data show, there are some 160 English-medium schools in the capital and they have over 65,000 students.
However, the real number of the schools and the students would be much higher, according to officials concerned.

Five militant

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several top Huji leaders now in prison, the officials claimed.
According to them, Al Ansar, formed about two years ago, follows the ideology of global terror outfit al-Qaeda.
The five are Rashidul Alam alias Rashed alias Babu, 25, Abdullah Al Mamun Mia, 30, Raisul Islam Hawlader alias Russel, 25, Abu Bakar Monir, 23, and Abdul Malek, 35.
Of them, Rashidul is a coordinator of Al Ansar, Commander Mufti Mahmud Khan, director of Rab's Media Wing, said at a press briefing at the Rab-2 headquarters.
Rashidul had translated and published several jihadi books, said the Rab official.
On information, a Rab-2 team detained the five from a house near Shikder Medical College and Hospital at Hazaribagh around noon and recovered many jihadi books and manuals from their possession, he said.
Rashidul rented the house in May, identifying himself as a muezzin at a mosque.
During primary interrogation, the detainees admitted they had been trained at militant training camps in Bogra and Chittagong, and that the group was recruiting members and providing them with training.
The detainees were promoting their ideologies in the guise of rickshaw-pullers and drivers, said the Rab official.
They used to arrange financing on their own for carrying out their activities. Rab is now trying to find out whether they had any financier, said Mahmud.
14 SHIBIR MEN HELD
Police arrested 14 activists of Islami Chharta Shibir, student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, from the capital's Hazaribagh and seized some anti-government leaflets from them.
They were detained from a mess during an anti-militancy drive, said Inspector Moniruzzaman of Hazaribagh Police Station.

Militants

FROM PAGE 2
Commenting on the arms of militants, he said, the AK 22, a semi automatic firearm was one of the most coveted arms among militants as those were hard to get and expensive in Bangladesh, he said.
"They (militants) have been seen to value the AK 22s almost more than their own lives," he said.
Giving an example, he said, "At Kalyanpur, the militants could have used the only semi automatic they possessed to shoot at law enforcers during the gunfight. But they let one of them flee the scene with the AK 22 instead."
He added that similar incidents were seen during raids at militant dens in the recent past. He also said that most of the arms used by militants were made in small lathes in a certain place of a neighbouring country and smuggled through the border.
MILITANCY TO COPE WITH HEARTBREAK?
Meanwhile, the police official also said that roughly 80 percent of militants left home after they had a relationship breakup.
After going through messages found on a mobile phone belonging to one of the militants at Kalyanpur, investigators are thinking he may have left home because of relationship problems, the official said.
He added that one of the Holey Artisan militant Nibras Islam also went through a relationship breakup a few months before he left home to become a militant.

SP Babul

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He, however, could not confirm until last evening whether his son-in-law joined work.
The Daily Star called Babul on his mobile phone several times but he did not receive the call.
Contacted, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said he was unaware of the matter and advised to communicate with the police.
Asked if Babul went to the police headquarters yesterday, Deputy Inspector General (media) AKM Shahidur Rahman said he too was not aware of it.
The SP has not resumed work since his wife Mahmuda Khanam Mitu was brutally killed in Chittagong on June 5, his family members said.
Babul was promoted to the rank of SP on April 5 when he was posted in Chittagong. He was attached to the police headquarters on June 2.
Meanwhile, Mosharrar said they still cannot believe Babul could be involved in the killing of Mitu.
"I still cannot believe he can kill my daughter," he added.

Test for ANC as S Africa votes in local polls

REUTERS, Johannesburg
South Africans voted in local elections yesterday that could see the ruling African National Congress (ANC) and its scandal-hit leader lose control of the capital and other key cities for the first time since the end of apartheid.
Many queuing in the winter cold said they were worried about President Jacob Zuma's performance and the state of Africa's most industrialised economy, where one in four is unemployed the central bank expects zero growth this year.
Analysts say the ANC is facing the toughest electoral challenge in its history - a narrow win in key cities would still be a significant blow for a movement which embodied South Africa's liberation struggle. Its next major test comes in national elections in 2019.

Nepal elects

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He is now tasked with rebuilding the country after a devastating earthquake and resolving simmering unrest over the new national charter adopted last September.
"I pledge that I will unite everyone in the country," he said in an address to parliament before the vote.
"I have a responsibility to solve this problem. I feel that I have been put forward as a candidate to work as a bridge between (communities)," he said.
Dahal, head of the Maoist party, ran unopposed and secured 363 out of 573 votes to become the Himalayan nation's premier for a second time.
He has served as prime minister once before, after the Maoists won elections in 2008, but only lasted nine months in office before resigning.
Dahal, whose Maoists are the third-largest force in parliament, pulled out of a coalition led by K P Sharma Oli -- the former prime minister -- three weeks ago and secured the support of the biggest party, the Nepali Congress.
He also won the backing of the United Democratic Madhesi Front (UDMF) -- an alliance of protesting parties -- paving the way for warmer ties between the new government and demonstrators from the Madhesi ethnic minority.
Oli, who heads the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist Leninist), faced fierce criticism over his handling of a months-long border blockade by demonstrators who say the constitution left them marginalised.
More than 50 people died in clashes between police and protesters demanding revisions to federal state borders set out in the new charter.
Commentators say Dahal is likely to be more sympathetic to protesters' concerns following the Madhesi parties' decision to back his candidacy.
"Prachanda is likely to address the long-pending issues raised by Madhesi parties... but he will have to bring (his former coalition partner) UML on board in order to amend the constitution," said Guna Raj Luitel, editor of Nepali daily Nagarik.
Any changes to the constitution must be passed in parliament by a two-thirds majority, making Oli's UML, which holds 182 out of 595 seats, an important source of support.
'POWER GAMES'
The new charter, the first drawn up by elected representatives, was meant to bolster Nepal's transformation from a Hindu monarchy to a democratic republic after decades of political instability.
But continuing discussions between the government and protesters have failed to break the deadlock.
Prachanda will also have to mend ties with powerful neighbour India, which made no secret of its disapproval of the constitution.
Kathmandu in turn accused New Delhi of supporting the border blockade, which sparked crippling shortages of vital supplies across landlocked Nepal.
Meanwhile, some four million Nepalis are still living in tents or huts after an earthquake that killed nearly 9,000 people in 2015.
Stung by criticism over delays, the government has vowed to kickstart the rebuilding of schools and hospitals and speed up distribution of a \$2,000 payout to homeless households.
So far, some 42,000 families have received the first \$500 instalment of the payout, fewer than eight percent of those left homeless by the disaster.
Nepalis frustrated by the slow pace of reconstruction said they had few hopes for the new government.
"So many who lost their homes in the earthquake are still in shelters. But (politicians) are always busy playing power games," said Nabin Shrestha, who drives a three-wheeler for a living.
Prachanda will be the eighth prime minister to lead Nepal since 2008, when he became premier for the first time and overthrew a 240-year-old feudal monarchy.

Café attack throws

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will manage his medical expenses," Shishir told The Daily Star.
His seven-year-old son Shanto, who is studying in the first grade, was diagnosed with kidney problem around nine months ago.
Doctors at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University at the time told him that the child would fully recover if he was treated properly for three years, Shishir said.
Shanto's treatment, until now, cost him Tk 1.5 lakh.
The family needs Tk 25,000 only for the treatment every two months.
Shishir, now jobless, used to get around Tk 25,000 a month before the café attack that left 22 people, mostly foreigners, killed.
During the overnight standoff, he was among the staff locked in inside a bathroom by the militants. One of the attackers at the time told them, "We will meet in heaven," Shishir said.
"I don't know if they [militants] went to heaven but they ruined our lives."
Shishir had a small business of fish farming at his village in Agailjhara of Barishal. After the business failed, he came to Dhaka with a loan burden of more than Tk 4 lakh.
He started seeing good days after joining work at the Holey restaurant one and a half years ago and began to pay back his loan.
With the job he could even withstand the additional pressure when Shanto's illness was detected, Shishir said.
Months after the militant attack at the café brought him again to the streets.
He now sells toothbrushes on footpaths. Some 30 to 50 brushes are sold a day, from which he profits only Tk 100 to 150.
Managing three meals a day has become difficult and paying for his son's treatment unthinkable, Shishir said.
He went to at least 100 restaurants, after the fateful incident, looking for a job but they refused him saying their business was down.
This correspondent yesterday visited his tin-shed room in Bhatara, which he shares with his cousin for Tk 5,500 as monthly rent.
His wife Smrity Boiragi and Shanto came here from the village several days after the attack for his son's medical checkup on July 11.
Smrity said she could not sleep well since her husband lost his job.
"Earlier, people used to lend me money ahead of my son's visit to the hospital as they knew my husband had a good job. But things are different now."

Many of Shishir's colleagues left Dhaka following their shocking experience on the night of July 1.
But a landless Shishir stayed back. He believes the situation will improve and he will get a good job.
Until then how to carry on with life seems a big question to him.

IS sent foot soldiers

FROM PAGE 1
November 2015 Paris attack by the IS.
As part of the report, Rukmini Callimachi, reporter of the Times, conducted a jailhouse interview with a former IS militant from Germany, named Harry Sarfo.
Sarfo described what he had been told by the IS's external operations branch about the group's design to build an infrastructure in Bangladesh.
For Asian recruits, the group was looking specifically for militants who had emerged from al-Qaeda's network in the region, Sarfo said to the Times.
"People especially from Bangladesh, Malaysia and Indonesia -- they have people who used to work for al-Qaeda, and once they joined the Islamic State, they are asking them questions about their experiences and if they have contacts," he said to the American daily newspaper.
The revelation comes on the back of IS's claim last month of having "covert units" in Bangladesh, as well as in Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Lebanon, Algeria, Tunisia and France.
A Bangladeshi-Canadian named Tamim Ahmed Chowdhury, who identifies himself as Shaykh Abu Ibrahim Al-Hanif, has been appointed as the leader of the IS's operations in Bangladesh, said issue 14 of Dabiq, the Salafi jihadist militant group's online magazine.
In 2016, local members of the terrorist outfit carried out 11 operations in Bangladesh that claimed 37 lives, according to an infographic from the IS.
One of the operations was the July 1 attack by five gunmen on an upscale restaurant in the capital's diplomatic zone that left 22 dead, 17 of whom were foreigners.
Last week, during a special drive by the joint forces in Dhaka's Kalyanpur neighbourhood, nine militants who pledged allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, leader of the IS, were killed.
Believing he was answering a holy call, Sarfo left his home in a working-class German city last year and drove for four straight days to reach the territory controlled by the IS in Syria, reported the Times.
He barely had time to settle in before members of the IS's secret service, wearing masks over their faces, came to inform him and his German friend that they no longer wanted Europeans to come to Syria, the report said.
Where they were really needed was back home, to help carry out the group's plan of waging terrorism across the globe.
Sarfo's account, along with those of other captured recruits, has further pulled back the curtain on the group's

SC orders Brac
FROM PAGE 2
The SC scrapped the HC verdict on the grounds that Brac is not a charitable organisation and is liable to pay the income tax under the Income Tax Ordinance 1984, he added.
Meanwhile, Brac in a press statement said it respects the SC ruling and that it would decide the next course of action upon receiving the full text of the judgment.
"Our social development programmes across the country and millions of people who benefit from them will not be adversely affected by the outcome of this ruling," it said in the press release.
M Asaduzzaman, a counsel of Brac, said the NGO had already paid Tk 200 crore to the income tax department.
DAG Rashed told The Daily Star that the deputy commissioner of taxes in Dhaka assessed Brac's income tax at Tk 404.20 crore for the period and issued notices demanding the money from the NGO.
Brac appealed to the appellate commissioner of the tax department, challenging the notices. The appellate commissioner upheld the deputy commissioner's notices but suggested some modifications.
The NGO then appealed against the appellate commissioner's decision to the appellate tribunal under the tax department. The appellate tribunal's decision also went against Brac, Rashed said.
Later, Brac filed the income tax reference applications with the HC, challenging the appellate tribunal's orders and the notices issued by the deputy commissioner of taxes.
The SC in September last year allowed the commissioner of taxes to move appeals before it to challenge the HC verdict, the DAG said, adding that Brac had paid Tk 68.06 crore in the tax years and then paid some due income tax after last year's SC order.

IS sent foot soldiers

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machinery for projecting violence beyond its borders, the Times said.
What they describe is a multilevel secret service under the overall command of the IS's most senior Syrian operative, spokesman and propaganda chief, Abu Muhammad al-Adnani, the report said.
Below him is a tier of lieutenants empowered to plan attacks in different regions of the world, including a "secret service for European affairs," a "secret service for Asian affairs" and a "secret service for Arab affairs", according to Sarfo.
Over a thousand
FROM PAGE 2
alone, at least 83 primary schools, 10 high schools and one madrasa have been affected by the floods this year and a number of institutions in char (shoal) areas have been washed away completely.
According to Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) operated by Bangladesh Water Development Board, the water levels of the rivers Brahmaputra, Surma, Kushiyara, and Teesta have been falling while that of the Ganges and the Padma have been unchanged. And therefore, the flood situation in the northern and north-eastern districts will improve soon.
In the meantime, water levels in the Balu, Turag, Lakhya and Buriganga will continue to rise over the next 24 hours, worsening the situation around the capital, said FFWC.
Students hit the hardest by the floods this year are the ones living on the chars of the Jamuna and the Teesta where levels of water have been above the danger mark for nearly two weeks.
The situation in Tangail, Munshiganj, Manikganj, Rajbari and Faridpur districts are still worsening, with no sign of respite to the students of the area in sight.
In Tangail, as of yesterday, 420 schools in the district have been inundated. Among them 290 are primary schools and 130 high schools, said Mohammad Mokhlesur Rahman, additional deputy commissioner (education) in Tangail.
Our correspondent from Faridpur reports, nearly 60 educational institutions in the district have been affected by the flood.
Our Jamalpur correspondent, quoting district education officer, said the floods have damaged over 400 educational institutions in the district.
Our correspondents from Tangail, Kurigram, Bogra and Jamalpur contributed to this report.

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