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THE FLOATING SCHOOLS

of Chalan Beel

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, back from Chalan Beel

They don't go to schools, schools come to them.

Currently, some 2,000 underprivileged children are attending classes in 22 float-

ing schools that move across the Chalan

Beel in Pabna, Natore and

Sirajganj districts.
The schools are locally called "Noukay School".

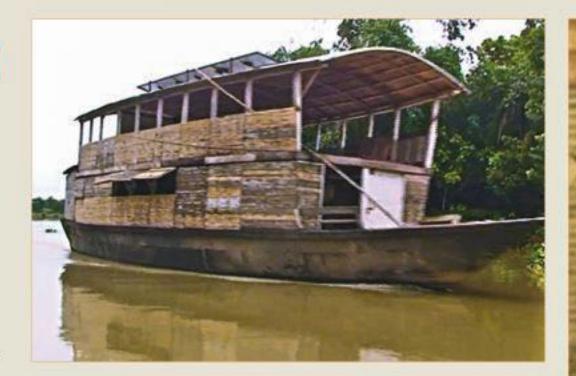
Recently, they have also started providing basic agricultural training to underprivileged women, and library facilities and computer training to those interested in the districts.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO WATCH VIDEO













Some underprivileged children attending a class inside a floating school locally known as "Noukay School" in Natore's Singra upazila. *Top left*, a floating school moving across Chalan Beel area to take students on board, *middle*, children heading for one such school, *middle*, and a signboard of the school, *bottom left*. The photos were taken in Natore and Pabna on July 20.

PHOTO: AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU

Man attacks Belgium cops

2 wounded; machetewielding assailant shot dead AFP, Brussels

A machete-wielding man shouting "Allahu akbar" (God is the greatest) wounded two police-women in southern Belgium yesterday before being shot dead by police, with Europe on edge after a wave of jihadist attacks.

The attack outside the main police station in the city of Charleroi, around 60 kilometres south of Brussels left one of the policewomen with "deep wounds to the face" while the other was slightly injured, Belga news agency

Charleroi police said the attacker was shot and killed, while the two vic-

tims were out of danger.

Belgium has been on
high security alert for
months since suicide

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

'Want to return, even risking harassment'

Says BNP leader Salahuddin in an interview with The Bally Star

SUBRATA ACHARJEE from Shillong

BNP leader Salahuddin Ahmed has said he wants to return home although it might put him at risk of harassment.

"Nowadays anyone in Bangladesh can be indicted in a case and can even be hanged. This might happen to me as well. But I am not afraid. At least my family members would be able to visit me if I land in jail at home," he told The Daily Star late last month at Sunrise Guest House in Shillong.

The 55-year-old politician has been at the guest house since June last year when a Shillong court granted him conditional bail in a case for trespassing.

He talked about various issues including politics in Bangladesh and his trial in the Shillong court.

Set up in a serene atmosphere, the guest house is a lavishly built twostorey building with a neatly furnished drawing room, four large bedrooms, plush bathrooms, a well-decorated library and a lush lawn at the front.

Apart from Salahuddin's two personal assistants, there are a manager, SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

DMP to issue tenants' ID

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) is planning to issue identification numbers to all tenants, single or married, living in the city.

Each tenant will receive a tenant ID

number that will enable the police to know the whereabouts of a particular tenant more efficiently, DMP Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia said at DMP's website re-launching programme held at the organisation's headquarters.

When a tenant moves in or out of a rental apartment or house, the house owner will use this ID number to inform the local police station. The police stations concerned will then update database

accordingly.

The DMP has so far received around 20 lakh tenant information forms, the DMP chief said, adding that ID numbers will be issued after scrutinising the information

provided in the forms.

If innocent citizens are harassed by any police members during the ongoing block raids in the city, the police authorities will take action upon investigation, assured the city police boss. "Of course we'll see to it

that people are not harassed."

The block raids are targeted against SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

'Refugee Olympian' who helped save 19 lives at sea

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

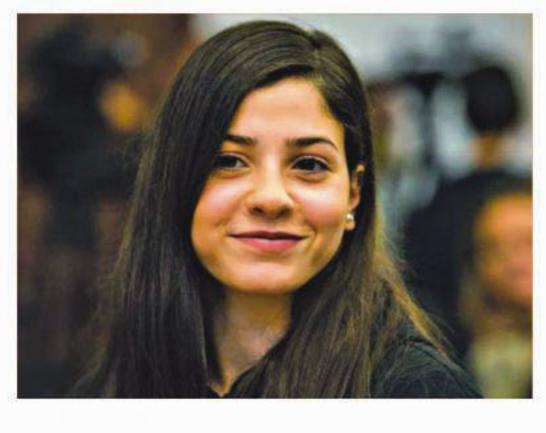
Almost every athlete at the 2016 Olympic Games will have an interesting backstory, but Yusra Mardini's is more extraordinary than most.

Mardini is in Rio to represent a team of 10 refus

Mardini is in Rio to represent a team of 10 refugee Olympic athletes.

While any other 18-year-old's biggest achievements may be confined to the A-level results they leave school with, Mardini's is almost incomprehensible.

She and her sister are responsible for helping to SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Six die as boat sinks in Padma

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Fire service divers yesterday recovered six bodies of missing passengers of an engine boat that capsized on Friday in the River Padma in Kalukhali upazila of Rajbari. The victims were identi-

fied as Rahmat Ali, 6, Raju, 6, Begum Khatun, 40, Farida Begum, 20, Halima Khatun, 50, and Dulal Uddin, 36 -all from Kalukhali upazila SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha AZAN 4-20 12-45 5-00 6-47 8-13 JAMAAT 4-55 1-15 5-15 6-50 8-43 SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



The ongoing expansion work of this culvert in DC Hall area of Chittagong city has narrowed down the road to such an extent that the authorities have to make it a one-way road. But vehicles continue to flout the rule, leading to a chaos in traffic movement. The construction has also added to the PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Syria rebels 'break Aleppo siege'

Key IS bastion Manbij falls to West-backed forces

AFP, Beirut

Syrian rebels yesterday claimed they broke a three-week government siege of second city of Aleppo, turning the tables on Russian-backed regime forces who are now on the defensive.

To the portheast a Western-backed alli-

To the northeast, a Western-backed alliance of Arab and Kurdish fighters scored a

major victory against the Islamic State group in the town of Manbij after a fierce two-month battle.

The developments have rocked the key northern province of Aleppo, a microcosm of Syria's chaotic multi-front war that has killed more than 280,000 people.

Rebel and regime forces have fought for SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

