



**UNRELENTING PASSION**

Who are the young girls in under-16 women's football team?

SEE WIDE ANGLE

**SERVE THE MOST VULNERABLE**

Says Guterres, after the UN Security Council backed him as UN chief

PAGE 9



# Leash on NGOs

Just-passed bill makes any 'derogatory' comments by foreign-funded NGOs on constitution, constitutional bodies a criminal offence; NGOs, legal experts decry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A provision in a just-passed bill contradicts people's democratic rights, as this makes it an offence for foreign-funded NGOs to make "inimical" and "derogatory" remarks on the constitution and constitutional bodies, say legal experts and NGO activists.

Strongly criticising the provision, they say it would pose a major threat to free speech and tarnish the country's image globally.

The Jatiya Sangsad on Wednesday passed "The Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Bill 2016", introducing the punitive provision.

If any foreign-funded NGO engages in anti-state activities and finances extremism and terror activities, those would be considered as offences under the provision, and the NGO and its officials concerned would be tried under the country's existing laws.

The new provision empowers the NGO Affairs Bureau to cancel or withhold the registration of a foreign-funded NGO or ban its activities for committing the offence.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, NGO activists said they would sit in a day or two and decide on their next course of action.

Rights activist Khushi Kabir, also coordi-

**"In a democratic state, I have the right to raise questions about democratic institutions. I have the right to make a comment which may even be wrong."**

Rights activist  
**KHUSHI KABIR**

Referring to the provision of a just-passed bill concerning foreign funded NGOs

nator of Nijera Kori, said this is an ominous sign for the entire nation.

"In a democratic state, I have the right to raise questions about democratic institutions. I have the right to make a comment which may even be wrong."

"My democratic rights will be curbed if I cannot comment on or criticise [the constitutional bodies]," she said.

"I think a dangerous precedent has been set which will hurt democracy in the long run," said the rights activist.

Khushi Kabir said that if criticism of a

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



School children go around vehicles stuck in jam on Asad Avenue. Congestion and apparent on the part of traffic police near schools lead to tailbacks that take hours to clean up. The photo was taken at 7:30am on Wednesday. More photos on page 2. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

# MORNING JAM sets day's tune

Strict traffic management in early hours can make the day tolerable

**"The most difficult task is to control cars. The owners act as if they are VIPs. They don't hesitate to park their cars, and pick and drop their children wherever they wish."**

A COMMUNITY POLICE MEMBER IN MOHAMMADPUR AREA

**"To save time, I often jaywalk across the Mirpur Road [near Asad Avenue] and take another vehicle to go to my office."**

JIBAN AHMED WHO WORKS AT AN OFFICE AT BANGLA MOTOR

**"During the school hours, we have to take traffic policemen from other spots and deploy them on the streets near some prominent schools to control the situation there."**

SHAFIQUR RAHMAN, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF MOHAMMADPUR ZONE (DMP-TRAFFIC)

**"The number of city dwellers and private vehicles are rapidly increasing. Such low number of roads is one of the major reasons behind the tailbacks."**

URBAN TRANSPORT EXPERT PROF SHAMSUL HOQUE

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN and PANKAG KARMAKAR

When the clock strikes 7:15am on weekdays, the early morning calm of the capital's Asad Avenue disappears and private cars, rickshaws and public transports start to cram the city street.

Within a few minutes, the avenue becomes

extremely noisy and jam-packed with vehicles.

And then starts the seemingly never-ending nightmare of the morning jam, causing school-goers and city dwellers to suffer.

It happens almost every day on Mohammadpur's Asad Avenue which has four schools -- Mohammadpur Preparatory Higher

Secondary School, YWCA Junior Girls' High School, Green Herald School and College, and St Joseph Higher Secondary School -- on it.

It's the same picture in Dhanmondi, which also has several schools, according to The Daily Star correspondents and photographers who

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



# Khadiza's condition unchanged

Protests continue in Sylhet

STAR REPORT

As Khadiza's condition remained critical at a hospital in the capital, demonstrators took to the streets in Sylhet for the third straight day yesterday demanding exemplary punishment for her attacker Badrul.

Her expatriate father and brother sought the prime minister's intervention in this regard. The two arrived home in the morning.

"I hope the world would be free of men like Badrul," Khadiza's father Mashuk Miah told reporters in front of the hospital.

Meanwhile, a female student was allegedly threatened with consequences if she continued the movement.

Neurosurgeon Rezaus Sattar at Square Hospital, who carried out surgeries on the college girl, said the patient was in coma when she was brought to the hospital. Following admission, she was placed on ventilation.

"We will stop administering sleep-inducing drug on Friday [today] morning. By 4:00pm, we would have an idea of how much of her brain is functioning," he told The Daily Star.



SEE PAGE 12 COL 5

# Culprit will be punished

PM tells JS about Khadiza's attacker

BSS, Sangsad Bhaban

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed her resolve to take stern action against the attacker of college girl Khadiza Begum Nargis in Sylhet.

"A section of the press and a vested quarter are out to highlight the incident from a political point of view. But we are not granting indulgence to the culprit and he must be

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

# Mirpur set for cricket's triumph

AL-AMIN

When the first One-Day International gets underway at 2.30pm today, the brave England cricketers are set to be adored with deep gratitude in the form of a lush green carpet and an expected packed, passionate audience at the home of Bangladesh cricket in Mirpur.

Every series has its importance. But England's series in Bangladesh, which includes three ODIs and two Tests has got special significance in Bangladesh's cricketing existence in the aftermath of a terror attack on Dhaka's Holey Artisan Bakery on July 1 that claimed 22 lives and made headlines across the world.

The atrocity by fundamentalists understandably threw the series into uncertainty on security fears but it was thankfully revived after frantic activities from the Bangladesh government and more

SEE PAGE 12 COL 2



The Academy Ground of Mirpur's Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium turned into a mock war zone yesterday morning with helicopters humming over the grass as the 1 Para Commando Battalion of the Bangladesh Army conducted an evacuation drill ahead of today's first ODI between Bangladesh and England.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

# Focus on free trade zone

Dhaka, Beijing working out a system for Chinese investment ahead of Xi's visit

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON

Dhaka and Beijing may agree to carry out a feasibility study for a free trade zone in Bangladesh to facilitate Chinese investment during President Xi Jinping's visit here later this month.

China may also sign a host of agreements on energy, telecommunications and cheap loans for various public sector projects.

The Prime Minister's Office, the foreign ministry, the finance ministry and the Chinese embassy in Dhaka are now finalising several agreements to be signed.

The Chinese president may come to Dhaka on October 13 or 14, leading a 200-strong entourage, which includes several ministers and a large business team, a finance ministry official told The Daily Star.

About 20 memoranda of understanding, including several on investment, are likely to be signed. The foreign ministry has held preparatory meetings with line ministries to discuss those, the official said.

The investment-related MoUs are: strengthening investment on industrial production-capacity cooperation, joint feasibility study on free trade zone and framework agreement for developing cooperation on production capacity.

The World Bank defines free trade zones as "small, fenced-in, duty-free areas, offering warehousing, storage, and distribution facilities for trade, transshipment, and