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# Compromise: green to go

Mayor declares plan to rehabilitate hawkers in 'open space' around Mohanagar Natya Mancha

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To the shock of many, Dhaka south mayor yesterday announced that they would rehabilitate an estimated 2,506 hawkers in the "open space" around Mohanagar Natya Mancha in front of the Bangabhaban, the President's residence/office.

Mayor Mohammad Sayeed Khokon of Dhaka South City Corporation at a press conference also said he had instructed the engineering department to prepare a layout of whatever "leftover" space of what has been known as Shaheed Matiur Park for the rehabilitation of the hawkers to be evicted from Gulistan, Paltan, and Baitul Mukarram areas.

Later, as this paper contacted him, the mayor said the rehabilitation would be temporary on what he termed "unused" space around the Mancha, an auditorium built by the city corporation on a portion of the park more than a decade ago.

He said the hawkers would be relocated to the rebuilt Bangabazar and elsewhere afterwards.

When pointed out that it is a violation of wetland and open space conservation law to occupy a park or an open space in urban area for other purposes than what they were meant for, the mayor said, "As per our documents, it is recorded merely as open space around Natyamancha and not as a park or a playground."

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Children playing cricket in Shaheed Matiur Park at Gulistan yesterday. DSCC Mayor Sayeed Khokon has said they would evict hawkers from Gulistan, Paltan and Baitul Mukarram areas and rehabilitate them on a portion of the park on a temporary basis. *Inset*, hawkers selling goods outside the park.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

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## Five killed in 'gunfights'

Law enforcers claim they were robbers

STAR REPORT

Five suspected robbers were killed in "gunfights" with law enforcers in Chittagong and Kushtia early yesterday.

Three of them were killed in an alleged exchange of fire with the Rapid Action Battalion in Mirsarai of Chittagong while the two others were killed as they along with a few others engaged in a "gunfight" with police in Mirpur of Kushtia.

The dead, though not identified yet, have been branded as robbers by law enforcers.

According to the Rab, a microbus carrying members of Rab-7 came under attack by robbers around 2:30am at Nizampur of Mirsarai on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway.

The law enforcers were patrolling the area in plain clothes at the time, reports our Chittagong correspondent quoting Rab officials as saying.

# Release all the information

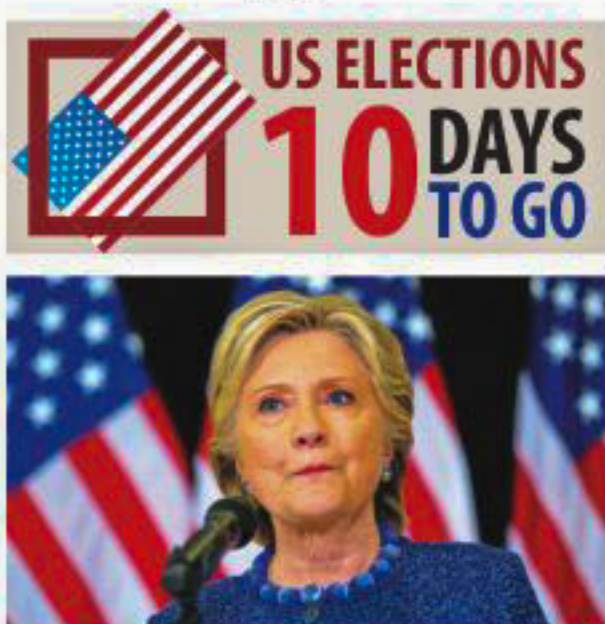
Defiant Clinton challenges FBI on reopening her email probe; Trump says scandal 'bigger than Watergate'

AGENCIES

Hillary Clinton embarks this week-end on the frenetic final 10 days of her White House campaign, determined to shake off renewed controversy over the FBI probe into her private emails.

The 69-year-old Democrat -- vying to become America's first female president -- is still the frontrunner to win the November 8 election over her Republican rival Donald Trump.

Clinton has a clear lead in the polls, and voting has already begun in 34 of 50 states to choose a successor to President Barack Obama, who will hit the campaign



trail again next week in defense of his onetime secretary of state.

But her momentum was threatened Friday by a renewed eruption in a scandal that has long dogged her in the race: investigations into her use of a private email server while at the State Department.

Trump gleefully seized on the news, which came as an October Surprise, that FBI agents are investigating a newly discovered group of mails sent to Clinton's private address, to see if they exposed any US secrets.

The probe had been thought finished in July,

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## Pressure mounts on Myanmar

Rights groups call for independent probe; US voices concern

AGENCIES

Allegations that Myanmar soldiers are killing, raping and torturing villagers in Rakhine, a restive region that is home to the persecuted Muslim Rohingya, must be independently investigated, rights groups said.

Northern Rakhine has been under a military lockdown since an attack on border guards three weeks ago left nine policeman dead.

The government has blamed the raids on Rohingya militants and a search for the culprits has seen more than 30 people killed

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## Japan looking for foreign farmers

THE JAPAN NEWS, Tokyo

The government is planning to allow foreign nationals to take jobs on farmland in Japan, as long as they work within government-designated strategic special zones, in an effort to address the serious labor shortage in the agricultural sector.

The government deems it necessary for the agricultural sector to secure new workers to turn it into a growth industry. It aims to submit a bill to the ordinary Diet session next year.

"There aren't enough workers, and even the farmers who want to have difficulty developing their business," said Hiroto Takahashi, mayor of Ogata, Akita Prefecture, during a meeting of the panel on government-designated strategic special zones on Oct. 4.

The village has been known as a center for cultivating rice, but the labour shortage in the area is becoming a pressing issue as an increasing number of local farmers are starting to produce vegetables and other items.

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## DUMPED FOR BREAKING LAWS

Illegal rickshaws and rickshaw-vans left to rot at an impound in Kanchpur, Narayanganj. Every day, police seize many such vehicles from the streets of the capital for breaking traffic rules, and leave them out in the open, making it easy for petty thieves to steal parts. *Bottom*, a rickshaw-puller taking his vehicle away from the impound after paying a fine, and rickshaws being loaded onto a truck to have them impounded. The photos were taken recently.



## 'Dhaka attack rifles made in Bengal'

TIMES OF INDIA, Kolkata

Assault rifles used in the Gulshan cafe attack in Dhaka on July 1 were made in Bengal with the help of Pakistani experts, one of the six terrorists arrested by Kolkata SIT in September in connection with the Khagragarh blast has told NIA sleuths.

The deadly terror attack had left 20 people, 17 of them foreigners, dead. The victims include Indian teen Tarishi Jain. The five terrorists were also killed.

According to the arrested terrorist, Pakistani tribal gunsmiths clandestinely visited Malda to train gunsmiths from Munger, who set up base in the border district to make AK-22 assault rifles.

These weapons were then smuggled into Bangladesh via Chapainawabganj. The NIA investigators suspect the Pakistanis who conducted the training were from the Darra Adam Khel community that resides in a village located between Peshawar

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## Scotland to give gift box to every newborn

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Babies born in Scotland will be gifted "baby boxes" from New Year's Day 2017, the country's first minister has said.

Nicola Sturgeon said Nordic-style policy, which was first announced in April, would be a "symbol of a belief in a level playing field" for all children.

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## Uproot Yaba factories

Home minister urges Myanmar

BSS, Dhaka

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday called on Myanmar to take effective steps to uproot Yaba factories in its territories, saying Bangladesh appears to be a victim of the cross-border smuggling of the deadly drug.

"Despite the fact that drug is not produced in Bangladesh the people of the country are exposed to severe damage due to cross-border smuggling of drugs from the neighbouring country," he told a high level meeting of interior ministers of Indian Ocean region

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## OBITUARY



We are greatly saddened by the sudden demise of **Ishmam Ahmed** (22) in London, son of late businessman Imtiaz Ahmed Farook and Faiza Ahmed Naz.

He left behind his mother, two sisters, brother-in-law, and a host of relatives, friends and well-wishers to mourn his death. His Janazah will be held in Dhaka today (Sunday, 30th October) baad Maghrib at Lalmatia, Block-C, Mosque. He will be put to rest in his family graveyard in Dhaka today.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray and seek peace for the departure of his soul.

**- His grieving family**

OCT 22, 1994 - OCT 22, 2016