



The Daily Star

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GAIBANDHA HEARING

The Santals demand return of land, not rehabilitation

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Uber taxis hit Dhaka streets

Mobile app-based worldwide service expected to improve city's transport system

M ABUL KALAM AZAD and PANKAG KARMAKAR



"Boss, my name is Arman. I am at Panthapath. Where should I come to pick you up?" a driver of Uber transport service said, seconds after Shaful Islam sought the newly introduced taxi service in Dhaka.

When called using the mobile app, the phone screen shows the name of the driver, his photograph and approximate time of his arrival.

The driver was supposed to come in five minutes, as the screen showed. But he came after 20 minutes, thanks to bad traffic, with his Toyota Corolla. Shaful, a private service holder, got on the car and started for Uttara.

"Amid the evening rush, I reached Uttar Sector-5 in one hour and 15 minutes. The fare was Tk 600," he told The Daily Star by phone. "I am happy with the service."

His experience is starkly different from that of thousands of Dhaka commuters, who face severe transport crisis every day. Capital cities across the world have smooth taxi services but in Bangladesh all attempts in this regard went in vain for a lack of proper planning.

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From left sitting ... Aly Zaker, Reza Latif, Alam Khan, Ferdausi Majumdar, Bobita, Fardousi Rahman and Runa Laila, and from left standing, Sara Zaker, Abrar A Anwar, Asaduzzaman Noor and Mahfuz Anam pose for a photo during the Celebrating Life award ceremony at the International Convention City, Bashundhara yesterday. Reza Latif, Alam Khan and Ferdausi Majumdar are seen with Lifetime Achievement Award 2016.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



3 cultural icons honoured

Winners of film, lyrics, photography contests awarded

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Talent, in whatever field it may be, is of no use without a platform. And in one of the most densely-populated countries in the world, it is probably of even more significance, especially of creative talent. There are many platforms for creative talents in the country, at various capacities, but not too many that spread across the country and have been going on consistently for nine years, and that is where The Daily Star-Standard Chartered Celebrating Life stands head and shoulders above as a platform for creative talents to express themselves and flourish.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Hasina raps Osmans

Asks Shamim to work for Ivy or quit; BNP picks Shakhawat for NCC polls

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and RASHIDUL HASAN



Awami League President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday came down hard on party lawmaker Shamim Osman for taking position against AL mayoral nominee Selina Hayat Ivy.

The PM was in a meeting with senior Narayanganj AL leaders apparently to settle the long-standing rivalry between Shamim and Ivy ahead of the December 22 city polls.

Hasina asked Shamim either to support Ivy or quit the party, a meeting source said.

As the two rival leaders became involved in an altercation, Hasina took position in favour of Ivy and said everyone will have to follow party decisions. She asked all to work together for the AL's

victory. Narayanganj AL sources said Osman family was trying to secure Jatiya Party's nomination for late Nasim Osman's widow. Former JP lawmaker Nasim, also elder brother of Shamim, died on April 30, 2014.

Emerging from the meeting last night, AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader said all the senior leaders from Narayanganj pledged to the party chief to remain united in favour of Ivy.

"We all are united. We will work together to secure victory. There is no alternative to ensuring victory for boat [electoral symbol of AL]," he said.

On Friday, the AL Parliamentary Board unanimously nominated Ivy for mayor. Her nomination came days after the party's Narayanganj city unit at

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Vikings overrun Barisal

SPORTS REPORTER

The Chittagong leg of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) ended on a brilliant note for the Chittagong Vikings yesterday as Tamim Iqbal and co thrashed Mushfiqur Rahim's Barisal Bulls by 78 runs at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Rohingyas keep trying to get in

With them come the tales of horror; at least 400 more pushed back to Myanmar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Hauser Dweep. It's an island in the middle of the Naf river, which marks the Bangladesh border with Myanmar.

There is a shrimp farming project with an embankment around it. Shrimp farmers go there by small boats.

On Monday morning, over 500 Rohingyas took shelter on this island.

Visiting the place yesterday afternoon, this correspondent found around 300 of them near the embankment's sluice gate-1 and another 200 near gate-5. BGB was guarding them.

It is being widely reported that Rohingyas, often dubbed one of the most persecuted minority groups in the world, are trying to flee the military crackdown in Rakhine state of Myanmar.

Though Bangladesh officials say patrolling has been increased, Rohingyas keep arriving, mostly by crossing the Naf river at night, many

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TOP QUOTE

"We are maintaining a double standard on the issues of child labour and domestic helps. Many of us speak of protecting their rights but do the opposite at home."

STATE MINISTER FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
MUJIBUL HAQUE
AT A ROUNDTABLE AT THE DAILY STAR CENTRE

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NO. 1 HOT BEVERAGE BRAND 2016

ISPAHANI MIRZAPORE TEA
NO. 2 LOCAL BRAND 2016

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We sincerely thank all our consumers, customers, stakeholders and well-wishers.

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Best Hot Beverage Brand 2015

2nd Best Brand 2016
Amongst Local Brands Across All Categories

4th Best Brand 2016
Amongst MNC & Local Brands Across All Categories

Best Beverage Brand 2014 & 2015
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A RICHER BLEND WITH A BETTER TASTE

BEST BRAND AWARD
Bangladesh 2016

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