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## FLIRTING WITH DANGER

Distraction while driving is a killer combination, especially on the busy roads of Dhaka. However, many use mobile phones while driving cars and riding motorcycles and bicycles, violating traffic rules and putting lives in danger. The photos were taken near Farmgate, Karwan Bazar, Banglamotor, and Shahbagh areas recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

### BLAST AT CTG FLAT Two burn victims die

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg  
SSC examinee Tanima Afrin Chowdhury Ifi and her grandmother Samuda Khatun, who had suffered burns in a fire at a flat in Chittagong city on Friday, died at a hospital early yesterday.

Ifi and her 70-year-old grandmother were undergoing treatment with 100 percent of their bodies burnt at the burn unit of Chittagong Medical College Hospital. They breathed their last between 12:00 midnight and 1:00am, said assistant professor S Khaled of the CMCH burn unit.

Ifi's brother Ariful Islam, 27, also suffered burns in the incident and was transferred to the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Friday  
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## Take me home

Appeals Bangladeshi woman; Sold twice, first by Bangladeshi father, then by Indian husband, she remains stranded at West Bengal shelter home for decade

SUBRATA ACHARYA, Kolkata

Hearing-impaired Bangladeshi girl Nasima Khatun has been stranded in India for at least 10 years. The 25-year-old, now in a shelter there, cannot remember her Bangladesh address but wants to see her parents and siblings.

According to Nasima, she is from Paylabari of Barisal and her father's name is Bechu Miah and mother's Ayesha Bibi. She has three brothers and three sisters.

Nasima is in Baganda Janasiksha Prochar Kendra under Jangipara Police Station in Hooghly, some 50km from West Bengal's capital Kolkata.

The shelter authorities sent several letters to the address Nasima gave them but the letters returned undelivered.

BM Jamal Hossain, counsellor (political) of Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata, said they were going to use the social media, including Facebook, to get information about her parents. They will open a Facebook page for Nasima where her photograph and other information would be uploaded.

Talking to The Daily Star recently, he said they have come to know from  
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Nasima Khatun

## Green activists, journos protest police attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pro-Sundarbans activists and journalists yesterday separately demonstrated against the police attack on Green activists and two journalists during Thursday's hartal protesting the Rampal power plant.

Several hundred newsmen formed a human chain in front of the National Museum demanding justice and that the home minister withdraw the comments he made over the incident.

Many of them covered their faces with black cloth while photojournalists and camerapersons kept their cameras on the ground.

They were holding placards that read: "Protest against brutal police attack", "We demand freedom of the press", "Free country, confined media", "Pen and Camera never bow down", "We want freedom to write".

They said the absence of punishment of the perpetrators was the reason behind the  
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PHOTO ON PAGE 4

## Muslim comics take aim at Trump



CNN, New York

Four days before showtime, "The Big Brown Comedy Hour" had sold out. "That never happens," organiser Dean Obeidallah told the crowd at Comic Strip Live, a venerable club in Manhattan. "We're pretty sure Homeland Security bought a block of tickets."

Like many of the night's quips, rants, impressions and wisecracks, it was both a joke -- and serious. It was comedy as an "act of resistance," said Obeidallah, a way of empowering Muslims and minorities to talk back to the incoming powers that be. Namely, Donald Trump.  
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## Commendable Tangail judicial magistrates settled over 18,000 cases in 2016

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Judicial magistrates of the district have set a record in disposing of cases and hearing witness testimonies in a year when around 30 lakh cases are pending with courts across the country.

They have disposed of 18,848 cases and heard around 14,000 witness testimonies last year thanks to their sincerity in discharging duties, proper use of court time and hearing all the cases according to the rules of business, insiders say.

The achievement came despite some setbacks, including shortage of magistrates, courtrooms, workforce, and infrastructure.  
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### NURSE RECRUITMENT BSMMU to investigate anomalies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Syndicate of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) yesterday refrained from approving recruitment of 200 senior staff nurses two days after publishing a final list amid allegations of anomalies and decided to appoint nurses on an ad hoc basis.

The Syndicate, the highest decision making body of the university with  
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A car negotiating a pothole hidden under stagnant water on the street from Rampura to Malibagh (DIT Road) yesterday. Waste and dirt from construction work clogged the sewers in the area. Inset, a tow truck taking away a car that broke down in a pothole there.  
PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## PM slams anti-Rampal protesters

UNB, Chittagong

Blasting the critics of Rampal power plant project, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the plant would cause no environmental damage.

"The construction site of the plant is around 14 kilometres away from the outer boundary of the Sundarbans and about 70 kilometres off the world heritage site. It is being set up in Rampal, not in the Sundarbans. So there is no possibility of causing any damage to the Sundarbans," she said.

The PM was addressing the inaugural ceremony of the 57th National Convention of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) at its Chittagong centre.

She came down hard on the critics saying that they "never visited the power plant site" to get an idea about the impact on the Sundarbans.

"They are conducting a campaign sitting in the capital... they never visited Rampal," she said.

The government took all kinds of measures to protect the environment of the Sundarbans and its surrounding areas as well as to protect the habitat and biodiversity of that region, Hasina told the programme.

Referring to the construction of Barapukuria coal-fired power plant in Dinajpur, she said there was no negative impact on the densely populated and green area in Barapukuria although two sub-critical plants were set up there.

The land of the area "became more fertile and more rice  
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**PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 29**  
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5-35 12-45 4-15 5-46 7-15  
JAMAAT 6-10 1-15 4-30 5-50 7-45  
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION