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# No red meat for six days

Traders go on strike today over 'excessive tax'; cattle market lessee denies claim

Meat traders in the capital are going on a six-day strike from today, demanding a stop to "excessive tax collection" by the lessee in the city's only permanent cattle market at Gabtoli.

"If our demand is not met within a week, we will go for an indefinite strike. We will stop selling beef and mutton throughout the city," Robiul Alam, secretary general of Bangladesh Meat Merchants' Association, told The Daily Star after the traders formed a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Consumers fear that the strike would push up prices of beef and mutton in the city where around 2,000 cattle and 5,000 goats are slaughtered daily. Besides, this would cause chicken prices to go up.

Robiul claimed that the lessee of the Gabtoli Cattle Market is collecting tax from meat traders at rates meant for buyers other than the traders.

The traders have been paying between Tk 200 and Tk 5,000 in tax for each animal over the last nine months, and most of them couldn't make profit due to "excessive tax collection" by the lessee, he alleged.

For the traders, the tax fixed by the city corporation is Tk 50 for a cow, Tk 70 for a buffalo, and Tk 15 for a goat or a ram. But for other buyers, the tax is 3.5 percent of the price of cattle and goats.

"We have filed complaints with Dhaka North City Corporation against the lessee many times," said Robiul, alleging that the DNCC is not monitoring the cattle market properly.

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Rupanti Chowdhury, the daughter of late Ustad Ratan Chowdhury, in action with Ustad Alal during the two-day Lathi Khela Utsab, a festival of the traditional play with sticks, at the Kushtia Govt College ground yesterday. Around 500 people took part in the play.

PHOTO: AMANUR AMAN

## SEVEN MURDERS Condemned convict sent to jail

A CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

One of the nine fugitives, who were awarded death penalty in the Narayanganj 7-murder case, was sent to jail yesterday after he surrendered before a Narayanganj court.

Sepoy Abdul Alim, a sacked member of Rab-11, surrendered before the District and Sessions Judge's Court around 11:30am, said Riazur Rahman, additional public prosecutor at Narayanganj district court.

Alim is from Natore.

Another condemned convict, Enamul Kabir, a sacked army sergeant deputed to Rab-11, was arrested in Magura town on January 5. He had gone into hiding after Rab officials' involvement in the gruesome killings surfaced.

The seven other condemned fugitives are: former Rab men Mohiuddin Munshi, Al Amin, Tajul Islam and accomplices of Nur Hossain, prime accused of the case, Selim, Sanaulah Sana, Shah Jahan and Jamal Uddin. Nur was also awarded death penalty.

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# 11 arrested for robbing people posing as cops

Police arrested 11 persons through a drive in the capital's Sabujbagh early yesterday on charge of impersonating members of the detective branch (DB) to rob people coming out of banks and money exchange and jewellery shops.

Among objects recovered from their possession are three pistols, two "pipe guns", three magazines and five bullets, things generally not found with such gangs, DB Deputy Commissioner (East) Md Nurunnabi told The Daily Star.

Police also recovered three vehicles, five vests similar to those used by DB, a walkie-talkie, five handcuffs and knives.

"The gang of criminals known as 'Mama-Khoka group' used to act in such a smart manner that even policemen failed to suspect them," said a DB official who took part in the drive.

DB Senior Assistant Commissioner Md Iqbal Hossain believes two persons on the run, namely Khokon and Mamun, are the masterminds and the gang's trainers and that they are retired members of law enforcement agencies.

Police said the accused, wearing the vests, roamed business areas before picking a target and calling others to bundle the target up in rented private cars or minibuses.

After taking away valuables, the victims are left on secluded roads, said police.

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# N Korea test fires ballistic missile

US says it will avoid escalation; Trump vows '100 percent' support to Japan amid provocation

North Korea fired a ballistic missile into the sea early yesterday, the first such test since US President Donald Trump was elected, and his administration indicated that Washington would have a calibrated response to avoid escalating tensions.

The test was likely to have been of an intermediate-range Musudan-class missile that landed in the Sea of Japan, according to South Korea's military, not an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM), which the North has said it could test at any time.

The launch marks the first test of Trump's vow to get tough on an isolated North Korean regime that last year tested

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# CRACKDOWN ON UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS Raids across US nab hundreds

AFP, Washington

US authorities arrested hundreds of undocumented migrants this week in the first large-scale raids under President Donald Trump, triggering panic in immigrant communities nationwide.

The federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency rounded up undocumented individuals living in Atlanta, Austin, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York and other cities two weeks after Trump signed an executive order that broadened which undocumented immigrants would be targeted for deportation.

According to ICE, however, the operations were "routine."

"The focus of these operations is no different than the routine, targeted arrests carried out by ICE's Fugitive Operations Teams on a daily basis," said agency spokeswoman Jennifer Elzea.

David Marin, head of ICE's removal operations in Los Angeles, told reporters that approximately 160 people had been arrested in the California metropolis.

Some 75 percent of them had prior felony convictions, he said, adding that some people had been nabbed solely because they were undocumented.

By Friday night, 37 undocumented immigrants had already been expelled to Mexico.

In a January 25 decree, Trump prioritised the deportation of undocumented males who had been convicted of or "charged with any criminal offense," including misdemeanors.

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# DNA evidence saves dog from euthanasiation

PTI, New York

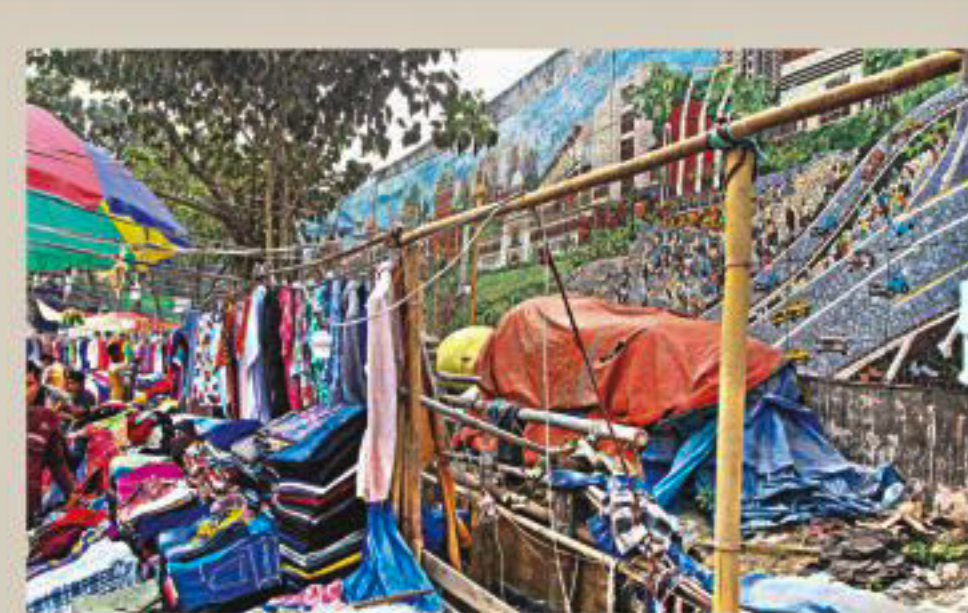
A gentle service dog, facing euthanasiation after being declared a "dangerous animal" for killing a Pomeranian, has walked free from an animal control centre in the US after a DNA test acquitted him.

Job, a two-year-old Belgian Malinois, was the service dog for Kenneth Job, 79, an Air Force veteran with neurodegenerative disease called

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**HELLO MAYOR ... IS THIS OUR FOOTPATH?**



Makeshift shops cover the aesthetic mosaic on this stretch of a wall surrounding Dhaka's New Market, as in the pictures on the left and top right. The city corporation authorities in 2012, bottom right, removed hawkers from pavements outside the market but they have re-occupied the place.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ, ANISUR RAHMAN

# Wildcat ate crocodile babies

Claims a probe body

UNB, Bagerhat

A wildcat had preyed on 62 baby crocodiles that went missing from Karamjal Wildlife Reproduction Centre in the Sundarbans, according to a probe body formed to look into the matter.

Saidul Islam, divisional forest officer (DFO) of the Sundarbans East, disclosed the report findings yesterday.

The report of the three-member probe committee mentioned that all 62 baby crocodiles, that went missing from the country's lone

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**PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 13**

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5-25 12-45 4-30 5-57 7-15  
JAMAAT 6-00 1-15 4-45 6-01 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION