



A bus takes in passengers ignoring a DMP warning sign asking buses not to stop and take or drop passengers at Sonargaon intersection on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue yesterday. The Daily Star published similar photos beforehand, but to no avail.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

### Ensure protection of journalists

ARTICLE 19 urges NHRC STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Human Rights Commission should play a robust role in ensuring protection of journalists, said Tahmina Rahman, ARTICLE 19 director for Bangladesh and South Asia region yesterday. She also urged the government to ensure speedy trial for 51 journalists and online activists killed since 1995, says a press release. She was speaking as key note speaker at a seminar titled "Protecting Freedom of Expression" organized by Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) at RC Majumdar Auditorium of Dhaka University. Tahmina said Goal 16 of the sustainable development goals requires states to take active steps to remove obstacles to free expression and to refrain from interference. In this regard she highlighted the implication of

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### Man dies falling into uncovered box culvert

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A middle-aged man died as he fell into an uncovered box culvert in the capital's Paltan area last evening. His identity could not be known immediately, said Paltan Police Station Officer-in-Charge Rafiqul Islam. Fire service divers rescued him unconscious around 7:20pm and took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he was declared dead. Dhaka South City Corporation acting executive engineer Kazi Borhan Uddin said it was a manhole of a box culvert of Dhaka Wasa which was being cleaned. Delwar Hossain Ripon, a witness and proprietor of Mahin Telecom, said the man was walking toward a side lane due to traffic jam and tried to maintain his balance by holding onto an unmarked mesh fence around the open manhole of the culvert.

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The uncovered box culvert in the capital's Paltan area.

PHOTO: SHAHEEN MOLLAH

### Cooperate or I will resign

NCC mayor Ivy warns govt agencies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Narayanganj City Corporation (NCC) Mayor Selina Hayat Ivy yesterday threatened to resign from her post unless the government agencies cooperated with her in resolving various problems of the city. The mayor came down heavily on officials of Narayanganj administration at a discussion saying that they were not cooperating with the NCC. "I will quit if I fail to serve the people of Narayanganj city. Before that I will hold a press conference, explain everything and then tender my resignation to the prime minister." Although the administration of the city is immensely influenced by political pressure, "the DC and SP can do everything. Only their willingness [to cooperate] is necessary," Ivy said. The mayor told this during a views exchange meeting organised by the NCC at its conference room yesterday to discuss numerous problems of the city including traffic congestion and hawkers' eviction, reports our Narayanganj correspondent. Officials from the district administration, police, Wasa, BRTA and Public Works department were also present at the meeting, which was chaired by the mayor.



### Two prisoners in jail for 13yrs get bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted bail to two prisoners who have been languishing in jail for 13 years with their cases pending before trial courts. The HC bench of Justice Md Rezaul Haque and Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar passed the order after a panel lawyer of Supreme Court Legal Aid Office (SCLAO) drew court's attention on the matters last month. Imran alias Ismail Musa, 45, is in Dhaka jail while Satyajit Paul, 42, in Chittagong jail. Meanwhile, the same court directed a trial court concerned to complete trial proceeding of Abu Taher within four months.

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### QUESTION LEAK IU revokes admission of 100 freshers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, KUSHITA

The authorities of Islamic University in Kushita yesterday cancelled the admission of around 100 freshers, penalised three teachers and two employees, and expelled a student after an investigation found evidence of their involvement in a leak of the admission test questions. The syndicate suspended Nurul Islam, assistant professor and chairman of the mathematics department, and Alauddin Alal and Saiful Islam, both class III employees. The syndicate also relieved two teachers from academic activities for two years. They are Mizanur Rahman, associate professor of mathematics, and Altaf Hossain Rassel, assistant professor and chairman of the statistics department. Monojeet Kumar Das, a master's student of mathematics, was expelled, while admission of around 100 newly-enrolled students of mathematics and statistics was revoked. Acting registrar SM Abdul Latif said president and general secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League at IU Saiful Islam and Amit Kumar informed the administration of the leak of the "F unit" admission test questions in the 2016-2017 sessions, through a written complaint. The test was held in December last year. A member of the probe committee said 68 question papers went missing from a lot around two days before the test, and an admission seeker paid as much as Tk 1 lakh to Tk 1.5 lakh to buy them.

### Interns call off strike after penalty lifted

STAR REPORT

Interns of medical college hospitals in the country yesterday called off their strike after the health minister withdrew the punitive measures against four interns of a Bogra hospital. The strike caused immense sufferings to patients across the country over the last four days. The announcement came at a meeting at Dhanmondi residence of the minister, Mohammed Nasim, yesterday. "The interns apologised to the health minister and promised they would not repeat such incident," a health ministry official said. The minister then announced withdrawal of the punishment and the interns assured him of calling off the strike, Parikshit Chowdhury, public relations officer of the ministry, told The Daily Star. Pro-ruling party doctors' forum Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad (Swachip) President Dr Iqbal Arslan, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) President Saifur Rahman, interns from Dhaka Medical

College, Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College, and Sir Salimullah Medical College were present at the meeting. The ministry on March 2 suspended four interns of Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College and Hospital (SZRMCH) in Bogra for six months and transferred them to four different colleges after a probe found their role in beating the son of a patient. The interns are BCL president of SZRMCH Al Mamun, vice president Ashiqzaman Asif, former president Kutubuddin, and Noor Jahan Binte Islam Naz. They allegedly beat up Abdur Rouf, son of cardiac patient Alauddin Sarkar, 65, of Sirajganj Sadar upazila, at the hospital on February 19. As the patient was feeling cold, Rouf asked an intern to show him the switch of the fan for turning it off by addressing Noor Jahan as "sister" since he thought she was a nurse, said Bina Khanam, 30, daughter of Alauddin. Suddenly, the intern became angry and started insulting him. Meanwhile, other interns rushed in and started beating

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Father Rafiur Rabbi wails at the grave of his son Taqi who was murdered four years ago. PHOTO: SANAD SAHA

### Tears, tributes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Holding back his tears, the loving father removed fallen leaves and wiped off drips of rainwater from the grave of his son. The father, Rafiur Rabbi, yesterday went to Siraj Shah Astana graveyard in the city to offer prayer for the departed soul of his beloved son Tanwir Muhammed Taqi, who was murdered four years back. Zonayed Saki, convener of Gano Sanghati Andolon; Ziaul Islam Kajal and Dhemana Saha Jewel, president and general secretary of Narayanganj Sangshkritik Jote; Hafizul Islam, president of Communist Party of Bangladesh, Narayanganj; SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Patients waiting at the outpatient area of Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College and Hospital yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

### Mother watches baby die

STAR REPORT

Sonali Begum, 27, never thought that she would lose her baby girl. The ten-month-old, Sumaiya Meem, was in her cradle while she was crossing a road in Laxmipur Bazar area of Sadar upazila in Gaibandha yesterday afternoon. The baby died instantly as she fell on the pavement after a speeding auto-rickshaw knocked them off, reports our Gaibandha correspondent. Sonali was returning home from a bank in the area, said Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mehedi Hasan. She sustained injuries and was taken to Gaibandha Sadar Hospital. There was another tragic end for two youths in Jessore on Sunday night. An oncoming truck rammed their motorbike on Jessore-Satkhira highway in Altapool Taltola area in Keshabpur upazila, reports our Benapole correspondent. The victims -- Saddam Hossain, 32, son of Mobarak Gazi; and Hasan Sheikh, 35, son of Ishak Ali Sheikh -- lived in Chakundia village in Dumuria upazila of Khulna. Keshabpur police said Hasan died instantly while Saddam on the way to Khulna Medical College Hospital. Police seized the truck. A case was filed.

### 2 KISHOREGANJ WAR CRIMES ACCUSED Prosecution seeks death penalty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prosecution yesterday prayed to the International Crimes Tribunal-1 for giving capital punishment to two Kishoreganj men for allegedly committing crimes during the 1971 Liberation War. Prosecutor Tureen Afroz made the prayer after completing her closing arguments in the case against Syed Mohammad Hussain alias Hossain, younger brother of convicted war criminal Syed Hasan Ali; and Muhammad Moslem Pradhan. Moslem is in jail and pleaded not guilty while Hussain absconding. "We are praying for their capital punishment because the offences are grievous," Tureen said. The prosecutor placed her arguments citing the testimonies of prosecution witnesses and documentary evidence to prove all six charges brought against them. After taking brief arguments from defence counsel Abdus Sattar Palwan, the three-member tribunal led by Justice Anwarul Haque adjourned the case proceeding until today when he will place further submission. The charges are forcing Hindus in Dampara village of Nikli in Kishoreganj to convert to Islam; abduction, confinement and torture on four people at Nikli Bazar; killing of 26 people in Gurui; killing of 35 Hindus and torturing four others in Dampara; and abduction and murder of freedom fighter Abdul Malek of Purbogam; and the killing of freedom fighters Khairul Jahan Bir Pratik and Md Selim Bir Pratik in Hossainpur.

### Cop wearing earphones fatally run over by train

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An Armed Police Battalion (APBn) constable died as a train ran him over while he was crossing rail tracks wearing earphones in the capital's Uttara yesterday. Billal Uddin, 35, father of a child, of Chandina upazila in Comilla, was posted at APBn's Uttara office. He was on duty while the incident took place around 9:00am. Yasin Faruk, officer-in-charge of Dhaka Railway Police Station, said Billal was found wearing earphones after the Chittagong-bound Karnaphuli Express hit him. Ali Akbar, a sub-inspector of railway police, said he went out of his office minutes before the incident. Railway police sent the body to Dhaka Medical College morgue, where an autopsy was conducted.

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