

# DIU offers scholarships named after Faraaz, nine others

CITY DESK

Daffodil International University (DIU) has offered scholarships in the name of renowned entrepreneurs and business leaders as well as Faraaz Ayaaz Hossain who was killed in Gulshan cafe attack.

DIU has taken up the initiative to create 500 new entrepreneurs in the next five years in the country. Thirty percent of them will be females, says a DIU press release.

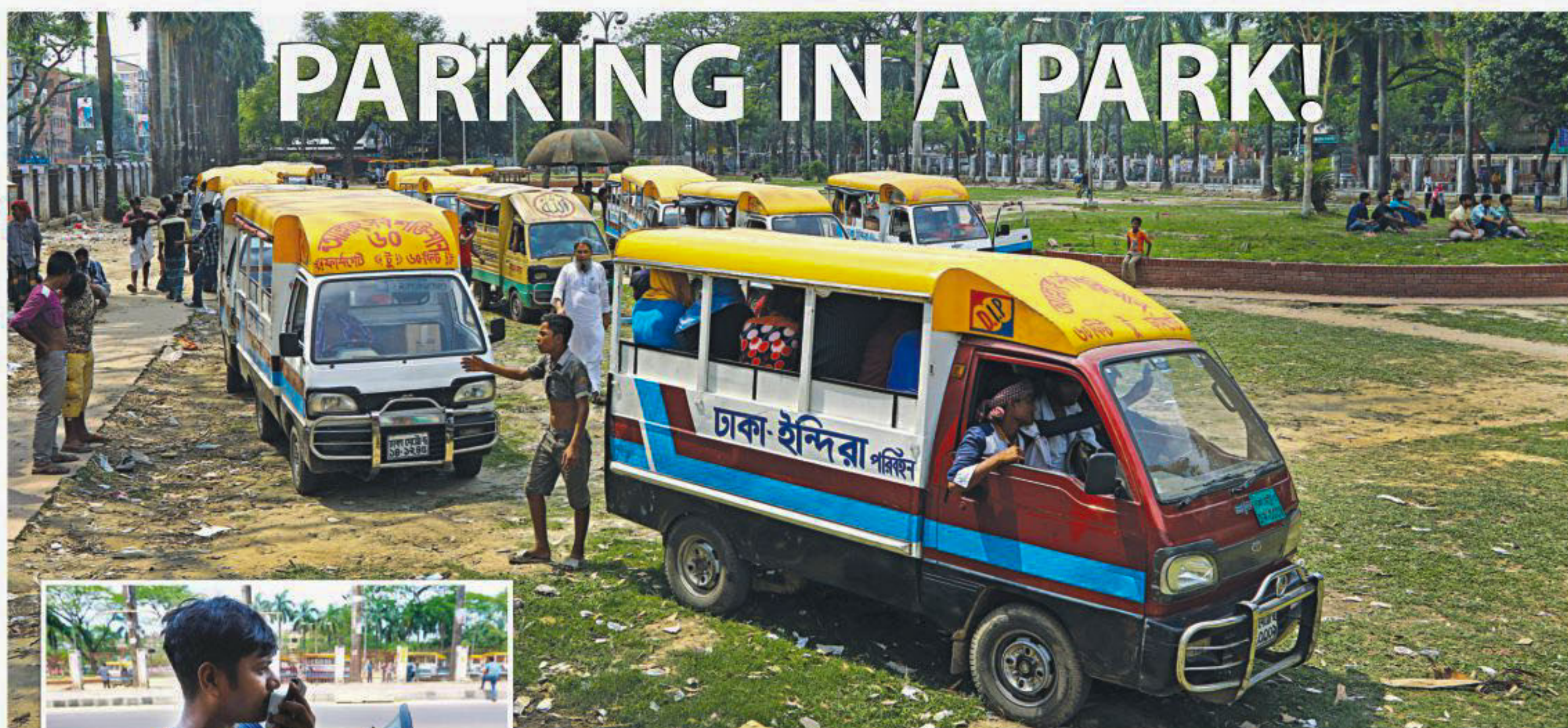
Under a talent hunt and scholarship programme "Are You the Next Startup?" of the university's entrepreneurship department, promising youths selected from across the country will be provided different sorts of assistance to make them successful entrepreneurs.

To let people know about the information, the DIU held a press conference at the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Our staff correspondent reports, speakers at the programme said over 20 lakh young graduates add to the country's job market every year with 40 percent of the educated graduates unemployed.

Keeping this reality in view, the university undertook the programme last December.

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Vehicles belonging to a transport service being parked in the age-old park, intended for use by city residents, adjacent to Indira Road near a police box in Farmgate area in the capital yesterday. Dhaka North City Corporation recently evicted the transport service from Indira Road as the latter was illegally using a large portion of the road and the adjacent sidewalk as its passenger terminal. Inset, a transport worker using a megaphone to inform prospective passengers and passersby of their new "terminal".

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

# Meherpur family with rare disease leaves for India today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Meherpur family, which drew huge public attention after writing a letter to the district's deputy commissioner in January asking the civil servant to either bear the treatment cost of three terminally ill members of the family or have them euthanized, goes to India today for treatment.

In February, the NeuroGen Brain and Spine Institute, a hospital in Mumbai, India, said it would bear the treatment and travel expenses for the three Meherpur patients. Later, Air India volunteered to foot their travel cost.

And after completing all other formalities, the family will leave for India this morning. Nur Khan Liton, former director of Ain o Salish Kendra, who has been working as liaison between the hospital and patients' family, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Six family members of Tofazzel Hossain will leave their Meherpur house around 7:00am and will reach Gede-Darshana border on a microbus provided by the Meherpur DC office, Nur Khan said. From the border, they will go to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport on another vehicle hired by some of Tofazzel's well-wishers in Bangladesh, he added. Then they will fly to Mumbai by Air India.

Fifty-five-year-old Tofazzel, who runs a grocery shop in Meherpur town, has already lost everything in his

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# Don't bring out cars if not urgent

Home boss urges city dwellers

UNB, Dhaka

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Kamal urged the city dwellers not to bring out their cars, if not necessary, as the five-day Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) began in the capital yesterday.

The home minister came up with the request while talking to reporters after visiting the security system in the South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad, one of the venues of the conference.

Replying to a query, Asaduzzaman said the recent militant incidents are not a threat to the IPU as law enforcers have taken necessary security measures.

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# INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION ASSEMBLY

## Where we stand on women empowerment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Among the South Asian countries, Bangladesh ranks fourth and fifth in the index of women in national parliaments and in ministerial positions respectively, according to data released by Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Nepal tops the index of women in national parliaments while India the women in ministerial posts, according to Women in Politics Map 2017 released ahead of the IPU conference

that began in the capital yesterday.

Afghanistan ranks second, Pakistan third, India fifth, Bhutan sixth, the Maldives seventh and Sri Lanka eighth in women in national parliaments among the South Asian countries.

In the ministerial posts index, the Maldives ranks second, Afghanistan third, Bhutan fourth, Sri Lanka sixth, Nepal seventh and Pakistan eighth.

In the global parliamentary map, Rwanda, a war torn central African country, emerged as a model for

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# HSC exams begin today

BSS, Dhaka

The Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and equivalent examinations of 2017 will begin countrywide today.

A total of 11,83,686 examinees from 8,864 educational institutions will take part in the examinations.

The theoretical examinations will continue till May 15, while practical examinations will be held from May 16 to 25, education ministry sources said.



Tofazzel Hossain with his family members. FILE PHOTO

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COMILLA CITY CORPORATION ELECTIONS 2017

## A good start: EWG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Holding the Comilla City Corporation election in an efficient and professional manner is a good start for the Election Commission, the Election Working Group, a non-partisan network of 28 leading civil society organisations in Bangladesh, said yesterday.

"Despite a small number of observed incidents of malpractices, irregularities and violence, the Election Working Group evaluates that the Comilla City Corporation election is a good start for the 12th election commission led by KM Nurul Huda," EWG Director Abdul Alim, said at a press conference in the capital's Cirdap auditorium.

He also said that polling officials were neutral while voting was undertaken in an efficient and professional manner, and voters were able to cast their votes in an orderly manner.

The CCC election was held on March 30 where BNP candidate Monirul Haque Sakkul clinched the mayoral post for the second term defeating ruling Awami League aspirant Anjum Sultana Shima.

Addressing the press conference, Alim said the EWG based on its election day observation found that the March 30 election was held "without major incident, though there were scattered incidents of violence and attempts of ballot stuffing in the afternoon."

Responding to a question, EWG steering committee member Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah said the newly constituted EC could hold a participatory election. The experience will help it in the upcoming national elections, he said.

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**NURU MURDER**  
JCD's half-day hartal in 5 Ctg dists today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Chittagong city unit will observe a half-day hartal today in Chittagong district and metropolitan area, Cox's Bazar, Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban, protesting the murder of its central assistant general secretary

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