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REMEMBERING THE GREAT

On Tagore's 76th death anniversary, TDS looks into the back-story of some of his short stories



YABA TRADE IN DHAKA

Devils within

DMP's list of godfathers, patrons includes ruling party men, police

AT A GLANCE

- DMP lists nearly 100 godfathers, mostly from AL, front bodies
- Two from BNP and JP, cops, narcotics dept official also named
- Daily consumption over 8 lakh pills
- 2.94 crore pieces seized last year, 13.60 lakh in 2011
- Bangladesh a 'smuggling route to Mideast'

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The trade of illegal drug Yaba is booming in the capital under political patronisation. A section of policemen, who are supposed to clamp down on Yaba traders, are also working as the patrons, according to police findings.

Some of the corrupt cops could not be transferred while they remained assigned to a known drug spot in the capital for long and facilitated the trade of narcotics including Yaba. They somehow persuaded the

higher authorities not to change their place of duty.

A report prepared by the Dhaka Metropolitan Police months back found nearly 100 godfathers, mostly from the Awami League and its front organisations, patronise drug trade, particularly Yaba, in the capital.

The DMP also named two leaders from the BNP and the Jatiya Party, some policemen and an official of the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC).

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Wisdom finally dawns on all Brac University takes steps to resolve crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The week-long standoff at Brac University seems to have ended as university authorities met most of the students' demands.

The university authorities yesterday sent Registrar Muhammad Sahool Afzal to a long leave until the end of his contract, amid continuous protests by the students for his removal over an allegation of torture on a law department teacher.

Besides, Assistant SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Muhith cops the flak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two former law ministers of the previous Awami League and BNP governments yesterday criticised Finance Minister AMA Muhith's for his comment that parliament would pass the 16th constitutional amendment time and again.

Ex-minister Shafique Ahmed said Muhith might have made the comment out of emotion. Terming the remark horrifying, another former minister Moudud Ahmed called upon the government to avoid any conflict with the judiciary.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, former AL ministers Shafique and Abdul Matin Khasru said the Supreme Court's verdict on the constitutional amendment was binding on



SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



NOW (2017)

At first sight, this vehicle may look like any other ramshackle minibus that runs in the city. But this vehicle was never meant to be a minibus. Human hauliers, inset, have been illegally cut and extended to carry more passengers. The photos were taken at Mirpur.

PHOTO: STAR/GOOGLE STREET VIEW



THEN (2013)

Illegal, but who cares?

Human haulier evolves into minibus; authorities turn a blind eye

MOKAMMEL SHUVO

They consider Tata engines grossly underrated. If a "Tata human haulier" is capable of carrying double the passenger-load than what they usually do, then why not turn them into minibuses?

All it needs is a little improvisation; ingenious indeed!

While not lawful, this is an aspect that hardly matters as far as Dhaka streets and their diverse array of public transports are concerned.

If you're a regular Mirpur-Gabtol route traveller, in all likelihood you must have had a trip or two already on board dozens of such improvised minibuses.

Once, these were Indian made human hauliers with a maximum passenger carrying capacity of

15. Modifications have turned them into minibuses. Now, these so-called minibuses carry 30 sitting people and a lot more standing.

Interestingly, the "Champion-Fast Ten" -- as these improvised vehicles are called, had all been registered with the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) as "human hauliers". Converted to "minibuses", these now run in the vicinity of the BRTA office in Mirpur.

"Tata engines are really powerful," said a smiling under-aged helper of one of these improvised vehicles. "Although it's made as a human haulier now it endures the load capacity of around 40 people after getting the shape of a minibus," he explained.

Pretending to be a businessman interested in investing in the transport business, this corre-

spondent recently visited one of many workshops capable of turning the human hauliers into minibuses in Mirpur-14.

Daud Hossain, who builds bodies of vehicles, said he had converted three human hauliers into minibuses at his workshop in East Lalsarai, a few yards away from the BRTA office.

"Length of the human haulier will be increased by 7-feet and the width by 7 inches, which will make the vehicle up to 22 feet long and 6.5 feet wide. A total of 30 seats will be installed in the vehicle and there will be no need to change the shock absorbers or the wheels. The total cost of the remodelling would be Tk 2.75 lakh," Daud explained.

There are many workshops in the city where SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

GATLIN STEALS BOLT'S FINAL THUNDER



Justin Gatlin of the United States bends down to Jamaica's Usain Bolt after upstaging the greatest sprinter of all time in his last competitive 100m appearance during the final of the marquee event at the 2017 IAAF World Championships in London last night. The 35-year-old American, who served a five-year doping ban and won silvers behind Bolt at the last two world championships, clocked 9.92 seconds, with teammate Christian Coleman winning silver in 9.94sec. Bolt suffered a dreadful start and could only claim bronze in 9.95sec.

PHOTO: AFP

Parents cry at the very mention of Bishwajit

HC delivers verdict today on the savage murder by BCL men

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and WASIM BIN HABIB

For Ananta Das and Kalpana Rani Das, the past five years have been agonising.

Hardly a day passes when the memories of the brutal killing of their 24-year-old son, Bishwajit Das, does not haunt them.

"Every so often when I close my eyes, those moments flash across my mind. It is like a burning flame inside me," said the grieving father Ananta, 55, who retired from his job of making sweetmeats in a village eatery one and a half years ago.

Bishwajit's mother Kalpana Rani Das breaks, 47, down in tears at the very mention of his name, Ananta told The Daily Star.

As the grieving parents in Shariatpur wait for justice for their son, the High Court today gives verdict on the death reference and appeals in the sensational murder case.

Bishwajit started his own tailoring shop in the old part of the capital around four years before he was murdered in 2012. The youngest of three SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



DEATH SENTENCE:

8 (2 on the run)

LIFE SENTENCE:

13 (11 on the run)

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