



Convicts being taken to a Dhaka court by law enforcers before the verdict yesterday. Ten leaders and activists of Harkatul Jihad al Islami were sentenced to death for attempting to assassinate the then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina by planting 76kg bomb in Kotalipara of Gopalganj in July 2000. Four others were sentenced to different terms of imprisonment.



### 5 get life term for raping two sisters

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Sylhet court yesterday sentenced five people to life imprisonment for raping two sisters in 2014.

Zulfiqar Hayat, additional district and session judge of Sylhet, pronounced the verdict and acquitted a person in the case, said additional Public Prosecutor Fakhru Islam.

The convicts are Syedur Rahman Saiful, 38, of Bardesh village in Sylhet Selim Ahmed, 28, of Kotia village in Moulvibazar Kalam Ahmed, Joynul Islam, 40, of Beanibazar upazila and his brother Nazrul Islam, 45.

According to the case statement on May 24 of 2014, a group of people raped two sisters in front of their parents by entering their house in Beanibazar upazila of the district.

Later, a case was filed with Beanibazar Police Station in this connection.

PHOTOS: STAR

## Dhaka transport not women-friendly

International workshop told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women feel uncomfortable and unsafe while travelling on public transport in Dhaka, especially buses, but they are bound to use the transportation due to a lack of alternatives for them, speakers said at a workshop yesterday.

They said women even have to struggle accessing the available transportation.

Those who prefer walking to riding buses cannot walk comfortably as most of the roads in the capital do not have good walking facilities, they said, adding that the surrounding environment of the footpaths was also women-unfriendly.

The University of Leeds and University of Asia Pacific (UAP) jointly organised the workshop on UAP campus in the capital.

Poor working women are the worst sufferers; therefore, the authorities concerned should ensure their easy access to public transport by increasing the number of buses

and making those women-friendly, said the speakers.

They also urged the authorities to build wide and well-structured footpaths, and ensure lighting facilities on the footpaths.

Faculties of different local and international universities took part in the workshop.

Dr James Evans, a professor of the University of Manchester, said boarding and exiting the busses is the biggest challenge for the women, and they have to fight with other male passengers to get access there.

Besides, they do not feel safe walking on the footpaths, especially during night, and when they walk people's attitude makes them uncomfortable, he said. Therefore, the authorities should increase lighting facilities and ensure police presence on the footpaths, he added.

Karen Lucas, professor of the University of Leeds, said a coordinated government approach is a must to solve the women's

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### SC VERDICT ON 16TH AMENDMENT

## Scrap it by Thursday

Demand pro-AL lawyers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pro-AL lawyers yesterday said the Supreme Court has to cancel its judgement on the 16th constitutional amendment including expunction of the "irrelevant" observations by Thursday (August 24) through a suo moto (of its own) move.

Under the banner of Bangabandhu Awami Ainjibi Parishad (BAAP), they made the demand at a meeting at the south hall of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA).

BAAP's member secretary Barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh said the lawyers will wage a greater movement to realise their demand after the upcoming annual vacation of the SC.

Presided over by BAAP's convener Advocate Yusuf Hossain Humayun, the BAAP meeting was addressed by its Joint Convener Advocate Abdul Baset Majumder, Awami League's Law Affairs Secretary SM Rezaul Karim and SCBA's former secretary Advocate Momtaz Uddin Ahmed Mehedi, among others.

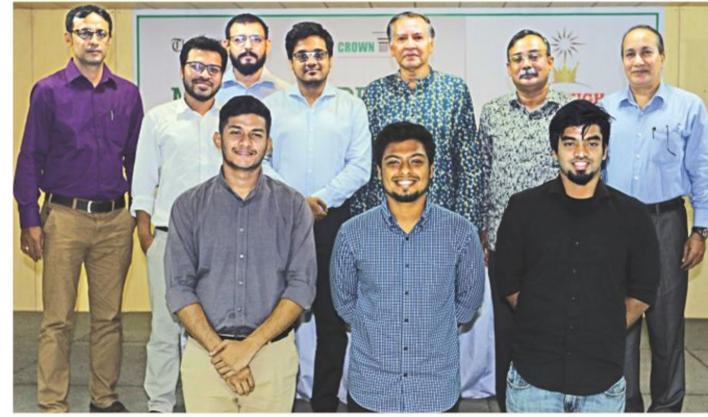
The SC will go into vacation on August 25 and reopen on October 1.

Meanwhile, pro-Awami League and pro-BNP lawyers staged demonstrations and counter-demonstrations at

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## Making differences thru' innovations

The Daily Star, Crown Cement launch 2nd season of export idea competition 'Rise High Bangladesh'



The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam (fifth from left, second row) and MI Cement Factory Ltd (Crown Cement) adviser Maj Gen (retd) Hameed Al Hasan (second from right) at the launching ceremony of the second season of "Rise High Bangladesh" yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After the successful first season of an export idea contest, "Rise High Bangladesh", The Daily Star and Crown Cement formally launched its second season yesterday.

The idea generating contest brings innovative and creative minds from various universities under one platform.

The organisers made the announcement at a "meet the press" programme at the capital's The Daily Star Centre.

Over 100 teams from universities across the country participated in the contest last year.

Describing the purpose of the campaign, The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam said a country has to advance towards development through creativity. This creativity can be in the field of fine arts, sports, journalism or any other sector.

"We will look for those who have creativity in generating ideas to export fresh and newer items abroad," he said.

Among other criteria, a distinguished panel of jury will take into account the realistic aspect of an idea for winning the contest. The jury will also consider how native the idea is, its eco-friendly aspect and marketability, he further said.

The top 10 idea generators, including three

winning groups, will have the opportunity to closely work with renowned investor groups.

MI Cement Factory Ltd (Crown Cement) adviser Maj Gen (retd) Hameed Al Hasan said the campaign aims to recognise young talents who are making differences through innovations.

The Daily Star and Crown Cement jointly launched "Rise High Bangladesh" last year with an objective of primarily gathering export ideas from students and secondarily, awarding some of the people who have contributed in the international arena to brighten up the country's image.

Top 10 teams presented their ideas in front of an expert panel of jurors, comprising some of the country's prominent business leaders.

Among them, top three teams were shortlisted for the final round based on both jury board's score and online votes.

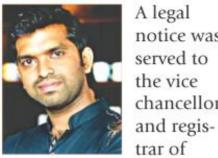
The campaign process of season 2 is same as season 1 and the details are available at: <http://www.thedailystar.net/risehighbd/>

Last year, awards were given to top three business ideas and three notable entrepreneurs and professionals. Taposh Ghosh, team leader of last year's winning group from Dhaka University's Institute of Business Administration, was present at the event.

### FORCED LEAVE

## Comilla Univ teacher serves legal notice to VC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Comilla



A legal notice was served to the vice chancellor and registrar of Comilla University yesterday to withdraw a forced leave order against a teacher within 12 hours.

On the other hand, pro-Awami League teachers under the banner of Bangabandhu Parishad continued demonstration by locking the administrative building gate so that VC Dr Ali Ashraf cannot enter his office.

They also staged a sit-in on the campus around 9:00am demanding cancellation of the leave order.

Mahbubul Haque Bhuiyan, a lecturer, has been sent on forced leave for a month as he allegedly taught in a class on National Mourning Day, said the authorities.

However, Mahbubul earlier said he was not teaching formally on the day. As 10 to 12 students requested him to explain a topic, he just asked them to go to a classroom, he added.

Lawyer Jotirmoy Barua, who sent the legal notice on behalf of the teacher, said his client was sent on the forced leave without any investigation.

VC Ali Ashraf said he did not know anything about the legal notice as he could not enter his office.

Meanwhile, the scheduled classes and examinations of the university were held.



PEOPLE TO THE RESCUE...the Dhaka-bound "Nilsagar Express" remains stopped near a railway bridge in Kalihati upazila of Tangail. The bridge was partly damaged due to floodwater. Noticing that, locals waved a red flag as a warning sign for the driver to stop the train around 5:45am yesterday. The train was carrying around 2,000 passengers.

PHOTO: STAR

## A fatal train trip averted as locals step in

MIRZA SHAKIL

The story could go something like this: a train carrying more than 2,000 people fell into a deep pit near a bridge; rescuers were trying to save as many people as they could; and there were mourners wailing all around.

But that did not happen in Pungli of Tangail. Villagers stepped in to prevent what could be a tragedy.

At 5:45am yesterday, Nilsagar Express was heading towards a bridge across the Pungli River. The driver did not know there was a large pit just on the other side of the bridge. It was created after floodwater washed away earth beneath the rail line.

A several hundred metres ahead of the bridge he saw a crowd waving their hands and a piece of red cloth. So he stopped.

"I saw the danger signal and was able to stop the train at the north end of the rail bridge," said Mohammad Sarwardi, driver of Nilsagar Express.

With more than 2,000 passengers, the train started off from Nilphamari

and was headed for Dhaka.

The driver said, "Thanks a lot to the villagers who stopped the train, using their ready wit. If they didn't do it, there could be a fatal accident and a large number of casualties."

Only 45 minutes earlier, around 5:00am, another inter-city train, Sundarban Express, from Khulna crossed the bridge when the approach at the south end of the bridge was all right.

It was about the time of Fajr prayers. A few fishermen first saw the hollow under the rail track, said Jamir Uddin, president of Pungli Bazar Traders' Association.

The fishermen immediately informed the matter to the people who came to pray at the local mosque, he said.

The pit was around 30 feet long, 20 feet wide, and 20 feet deep. The wooden sleepers were gone.

One of the witnesses and a medicine shop owner at Pungli Bazar, Jakir Hossain, said, "After getting information, we were discussing the matter standing beside the rail track."

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## Cop arrested over 'raping' female colleague

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A constable was arrested in Dhaka early yesterday on charge of raping his colleague at a city hotel a month ago.

The female constable of Rajarbagh Police Lines filed the case against Constable Ariful Islam with Shahjahanpur Police Station on Saturday night, Rafiqul Islam, a sub-inspector of the police station, told The Daily Star.

After the case was filed, police arrested Ariful, a constable of Public Order Management (POM) in Mirpur police barracks, the SI said.

The victim has been sent

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These schoolgirls head back home braving a waterlogged road in the port city yesterday morning after their school got closed as water entered the classrooms. For the low-lying parts of Chittagong, waterlogging is a serious problem especially during the monsoon. But in the city's Agrabad CDA Residential Area, it persists almost all year round due to regular tidal surges. And when it rains, things get worse there.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS