

### Fakhrul lauds Hasina for visiting Rohingya camp

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

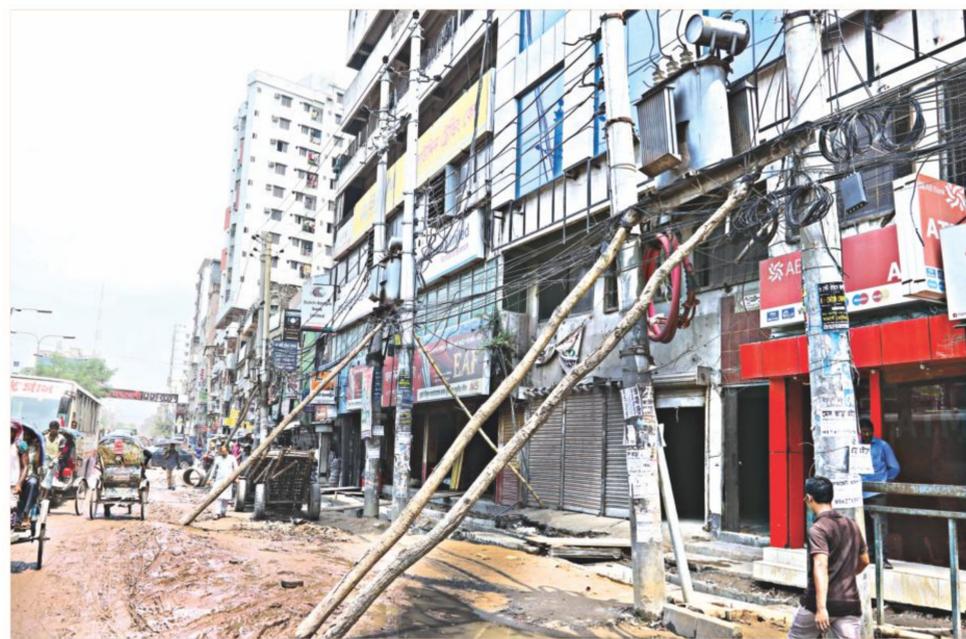
BNP yesterday praised Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for visiting Rohingya refugee camp in Cox's Bazar.

"We are happy that good sense has prevailed upon the Prime Minister, although it has been late," BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said.

He was addressing a programme at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, marking the 10th jail release day of party chief Khaleda Zia and her elder son Tarique Rahman.

The government was silent when Indonesian foreign minister, Turkish first lady and foreign minister paid visits recently to Bangladesh over the Rohingya issue and when the secretary general of the United Nations wrote to the UN Security Council urging steps to stop the mass killing in Myanmar,

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## INDIFFERENCE UNFATHOMABLE

With the country moving towards gaining middle income status, its utility service providers do not seem to be moving forward. Rather than ensuring public safety by adopting modern techniques in maintaining service networks, they seem to be increasingly reliant on unsafe practices. *Clockwise from left*, three sets of power transformer poles are provided support with logs and bamboo on DIT Road in East Rampura in the capital. Communication service cables hanging loose on the sidewalk of DIT Avenue near Rajuk building, the development authority of the city. Oblivious to the imminent danger, people walk below a mesh of live electric wire on a sidewalk in the New Market area in Chittagong city. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN, RASHED SHUMON, PRABIR DAS

### School textbook quality to be improved

Says Nahid

BSS, Dhaka

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday said the quality of all textbooks from class VI to class VIII would be improved gradually.

"The corrected textbooks of class IX and X will be more interesting and easier to read... and quality of the textbooks from class VI to VIII will be improved gradually," an official release quoted the minister as saying.

He said this while receiving the corrected version of textbooks of class IX and class X at a programme at the ministry's meeting room in the secretariat. Textbook review committee members, including Muhammad Zafar Iqbal and Mohammad Kaykobad, handed over the corrected copies of physics, chemistry, mathematics, higher mathematics, biology and general science to Nahid at the event.

"We will distribute the corrected textbooks among the students the next year,"

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### 2ND TIME MEDICAL ADMISSION TEST HC stays mark deduction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed a government decision to deduct five marks from total marks of examinees taking the MBBS admission test for the second time.

The court also issued a rule asking the respondents to explain in four weeks why the decision should not be declared illegal.

The health secretary, director general of the directorate of health services, its director (public health), chairman of Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council and vice-chancellor of Dhaka University have been made respondents to the rule.

The bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Jahangir Hossain issued the order and rule after hearing a writ petition filed by Advocate Eunus Ali Akond.

Advocate Eunus told The Daily Star that following the HC stay order, second time medical admission seekers will take MBBS admission test this year under the previous rules and therefore, their marks will not be deducted.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam, who opposed the writ petition, told this correspondent that the health ministry will move an appeal before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court seeking stay on the HC order.

During hearing, he argued before the HC that the government decided to deduct marks from total marks of the second time admission seekers in order to bring an equality of knowledge, as second time admission seekers get more knowledge than the first timers by learning from the coaching centres in previous year.

Earlier on Monday, Advocate Eunus placed his arguments saying that the government's decision to deduct marks is discriminatory and contradictory to the national education policy.

On August 28, he submitted the petition saying that the

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### ACC one step closer to tighten grip

*To get its own lock-up facility; armed police already in place*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission's (ACC) dependency on local police stations is going to end by this year as the construction of a separate custody facility has already been completed at the commission's Segunbagicha headquarters in the capital.

The commission is now preparing a manual for the functionality of the lock-up. "Hopefully it [manual] will be completed by this year. Once it is prepared, we'll be able to keep arrestees in our own custody," said Muhammad Munir Chowdhury, director general of the ACC.

At present, the ACC has to hand over the accused to nearby police stations after making an arrest, creating complexities often-times.

The newly constructed seven-storied building behind the ACC's main building will house the facility where 20 detainees could be accommodated. There will be separate accommodations for male and female accused.

Yesterday, at a views-exchange meeting with the representatives of GIZ, a German development organisation, Munir said, "Once the commission approves the draft manual, we'll finalise the policy," he said.

Talking to The Daily Star, Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya, ACC public relations officer, said to operate such a custody, the commission will need to address several issues such as security.

"We're now discussing how these issues will be handled," he said. "The accused will be kept in the custody for an interim period until they are produced before a court."

Last week, 20 armed police members were attached to the commission to facilitate smooth execution of anti-graft drives as there had been a long-time demand that the ACC be strengthened and its force be safeguarded during raids.

In February, four including three ACC officials were beaten up at Sylhet deputy commissioner's (DC's) office, as they made attempt to arrest a staffer who was caught red-handed while taking bribe.

Officials believe the recent activities will strengthen the anti-graft watchdog's mission against corruption.

Meanwhile at the meeting, Iqbal Mahmood, the ACC chairman, advised ACC officials to upgrade their strategies so corruption suspects can not get away. "The more ACC officials continue their positive works, the more the commission's image improves."

### 76KG BOMB CASE Huji leader Sarwar sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Convicted criminal Sarwar Hossain Miah -- brother-in-law of executed Huji leader Mufti Abdul Hannan -- was sent to jail yesterday in the case for planting a 76-kg bomb in Kotalipara to kill Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Judge (in charge) Abdur Rahman Sardar of Speedy Trial Tribunal-2 of Dhaka passed the order after Sarwar through his lawyer surrendered before the court and sought bail in the case.

Earlier on August 20, Huji leader Sarwar was sentenced in absentia to 14 years' rigorous imprisonment and fined Tk 10,000, in default of which he will have to serve one year more in jail.

Ten other leaders and activists of Harkatul Jihad al Islami were also awarded death penalty for attempting to assassinate Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina by planting a bomb weighing 76 kilogrammes in Gopalganj's Kotalipara on

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### PRIVATE SECURITY FIRMS Verify firearm licences

*DMP boss instructs police*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia has instructed police personnel to verify the licence of firearms used by different private security firms and security guards in their respective areas.

Asaduzzaman gave the order yesterday at a monthly crime conference at DMP headquarters amid recent media reports that an office assistant at Rangpur Deputy Commissioner's office issued more than 400 fake firearms licences forging documents and the DC's signature over the years.

"We have been asked to verify the firearms, especially those issued by the Rangpur DC's office and [the ones that] are currently being used in the capital," said a deputy commissioner of police, who attended the programme.

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**GRATITUDE**

After the passing of my wife Pratima Das Gupta on July 14, 2017 many of our relatives, friends, colleagues and well wishers from home and abroad have either visited or have reached us through calls, texts and emails expressing their deepest condolences.

Whilst it would have been my greatest satisfaction if I could respond to all in person, I take this opportunity to join my grieving daughters Sangita and Suparna in conveying our heartfelt gratitude for offering their kindness and sympathy. Their words were not only comfort, but a source of strength for me and my family in this difficult time.

**Dilip Das Gupta**  
Baridhara, Dhaka



**WORKSHOP - IMMSAREX 2017**  
12-13 September, 2017 Dhaka, Bangladesh

Representatives of 14 Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) nations at an Initial Planning Conference (IPC) in the capital yesterday. IONS Multilateral Maritime Search & Rescue Exercise (IMMSAREX) 2017, a sea based exercise, is going to be conducted in November under the arrangement of Bangladesh Navy with the participation of Indian Ocean Littorals. Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Operations) Rear Admiral M Makbul Hossain inaugurated the event at Naval Headquarters Complex. A workshop on "Maritime Search and Rescue" was also conducted to set the tone of upcoming exercise. The IONS nations include Bangladesh, Australia, France, China, India, Oman, the UAE and Russia. IONS is a multinational maritime security initiative undertaken in 2008, aimed to promote measures and mechanisms of constructive engagement in the maritime domain.

PHOTO: ISPR

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**The event is open for all.**

**Venue**  
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**Free Medical Camp is open from:**  
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\* No backpack, food and drinks are allowed inside the venue.

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### 'Reserve JS seats for women with disabilities'

UNB, Dhaka

Speakers at a seminar yesterday recommended reserving some seats in parliament for women with disabilities to ensure their political rights.

Disabled Child Foundation (DCF) with the support of USAID Bangladesh organised the seminar titled, "Empowering Grassroots-level Women with Disabilities and Our Roles" at the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Ministry and Convener of Parliamentary Caucus on Disability Abdul Matin Khasru was present at the programme as the chief guest with Quazi Rosy, MP, in the chair.

Albert Mollah, executive director of Access Bangladesh, presented the keynote paper at the seminar and Jibon William

Gomes, executive director of Turning Point, conducted the open discussion session of the seminar.

Director (Vocational) of the Directorate of Technical Education Dr Md Nurul Islam, Deputy Director of the Department of Agricultural Extension and Secretary General of Krishibid Institution, Bangladesh Khasrul Alam (Prince) and Programme Specialist, Programme Office, USAID Bangladesh, Shaheen Bin Shiraz were present.

Quazi Rosy said all the disabled people across the country, including those of minority groups, should be brought under government assistance. "Arranging only wheelchairs for them won't work, jobs will have to be arranged for them."

The speakers suggested creating income-generating work for women with disabilities at upazila level, providing micro-credit and

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