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# Free food for the poor

Tangail restaurateur strives to eliminate hunger



MIRZA SHAKIL with ANDREW EAGLE

What to have for dinner? It's a question that for many is a matter of basic choice. But for those of us not blessed with a reliable income, finding a meal can be more challenging. Every day some people won't manage; some will go hungry. It is an enduring, sad reality that is true of almost everywhere; a reality that Tangail restaurateur Mirza Masud Rubol refuses to accept.

"I read about a free restaurant for the poor in Madrid, Spain," says Masud, who is also the general secretary of Tangail's restaurant and sweet-shop owner's association. "I was inspired to do something here. As it was,

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Vehicles manoeuvre the dilapidated DIT Road in the capital's Rampura yesterday. The Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) and Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) started drainage work to solve the waterlogging problem a few months ago, but the process deteriorated the situation further.

PHOTOS: PALASH KHAN

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# RAMPURA ROAD No end to sufferings of people

HELEMUL ALAM

Jannatul Ferdous Mitu, a first year student of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College, along with three of her classmates was eagerly waiting for a bus at Mouchak crossing a few days ago.

The road from Mouchak to Rampura Bridge was in a severely bad condition and they failed to board a bus even after waiting for more than one hour. It was because just half-an-hour rain put the Rampura road under ankle-to-knee deep water.

The four students -- Mitu, Tahira Tasmi Asma, Sumaiya and Afrin Islam -- did not dare to hire a rickshaw seeing the severe condition of the road.

Most of the people avoiding rickshaws tried to get a bus or wade through ankle-to-knee-deep water to go to their destinations.

Locals say the drainage SEE PAGE 13 COL 2

# 18 transactions, Tk 77 lakh

Shady IT firm received from Spain in one year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Wahmi Technologies, the IT-firm suspected of terror funding, had received over Tk 77 lakh from Spain in the last one year, Rab claimed yesterday.

There were 18 transactions, in which the money was sent by software firm Isynctel in Spain. Isynctel is owned by Bangladeshi-born Ataul Haque Sabuj, reads a case statement filed by Rab with Rupnagar Police Station on Saturday night.

Sub-inspector Alauddin of Rab 4 filed the case following the arrest of 11 suspects including eight employees of Wahmi on Friday.

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# MYANMAR'S 'CLEANSING' CAMPAIGN

## Medics find proof of violent sexual attacks

REUTERS, Cox's Bazar

Doctors treating some of the 429,000 Rohingya Muslims who have fled to Bangladesh from Myanmar in recent weeks have seen dozens of women with injuries consistent with violent sexual attacks, UN clinicians and other health workers said.

The medics' accounts, backed in some cases by medical notes reviewed by Reuters, lend weight to repeated allegations, ranging from molestation to gang rape, levelled by women from the stateless minority group against Myanmar's armed forces.

Myanmar officials have mostly dismissed such allegations as militant propaganda designed to defame its military, which they say is engaged in

legitimate counterinsurgency operations and under orders to protect civilians.

Zaw Htay, spokesman for Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi, said the authorities would investigate any allegations brought to them. "Those rape victim women should come to us," he said. "We will give full security to them. We will investigate and we will take action."

Suu Kyi herself has not commented on the numerous allegations of sexual assault committed by the military against Rohingya women made public since late last year.

Violence erupted in Myanmar's northwestern Rakhine state following attacks on security forces by SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

# Robot performs dental surgery

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A robot has carried out a dental operation without help from humans for the first time, carrying out implant surgery on a patient in China.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



# Double blow

Rape victim stabbed by accused for not withdrawing case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A rape victim was stabbed allegedly by five accused in a rape case and their cohorts in the district's Saltha upazila on Saturday night for not withdrawing the case.

Around 9:30pm, Dipu Mollah, the main accused in the case, along with eight to 10 others, entered the girl's house in Phulbari village and confined her mother and two siblings to a room. They then took the girl to another room and stabbed SEE PAGE 13 COL 3



Police intercept and fine a government SUV with flagpole for driving on the wrong side of Hare Road in the capital yesterday evening. Officials said most of the vehicles penalised were carrying bureaucrats and other "VIPs".

PHOTO: COLLECTED

# Admirable

Cars of state minister, MP, top official fined for using wrong side

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a rare instance, police yesterday filed cases against 57 drivers and fined them for using the wrong side of Hare Road in the capital.

A state minister, a lawmaker and several top bureaucrats were in some of the vehicles. "About 70 percent of the vehicles were carrying bureaucrats, 10 percent police and the rest were carrying media personnel, an army officer and others," said a traffic police officer who participated in the drive.

Some of the top bureaucrats flouting traffic laws were a senior and a deputy secretary of the home ministry, an additional secretary of the ministry of communications and an officer of the public administration ministry.

Using the wrong-side of the road defying traffic laws during rush hour is a common practice of ministers, government officials, VIPs, lawmakers, ruling party SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

# 'Kim Jong Un won't be around much longer'

Says Trump; tens of thousands attend anti-US rally in Pyongyang

REUTERS, Seoul

US President Donald Trump dialled up the rhetoric against North Korea again at the weekend, warning the country's foreign minister that he and leader Kim Jong Un "won't be around much longer", as Pyongyang staged a major anti-US rally.

North Korea's Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho told the United Nations General Assembly on Saturday that

targeting the US mainland with its rockets was inevitable after "Mr Evil President" Trump called Pyongyang's leader a "rocket man" on a suicide mission.

"Just heard Foreign Minister of North Korea speak at UN if he echoes thoughts of Little Rocket Man, they won't be around much longer!" Trump said on Twitter late on Saturday.

Trump and Kim have traded increasingly threatening and personal

insults as Pyongyang races towards its goal of developing a nuclear-tipped missile capable of reaching the United States - something Trump has vowed to prevent.

Analysts say the escalation in rhetoric is increasing the risk of a miscalculation by one side or the other that could have massive repercussions.

North Korea's state-run television KRT aired a video yesterday showing SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

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