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# Another city canal goes

HELEMUL ALAM

A canal, which was once connected to several other water bodies in the city and the Turag River, at Lautola Kanchabazar is now in its death throes.

It is being rapidly filled up to construct a bus terminal. The illegal filling up of the canal has been going on unabated for several months as the Deputy Commissioner's Office in Dhaka has been turning a blind eye to the issue.

Mohammadpur units of Bangladesh Inter-District Truck Drivers' Union and Dhaka Inter-district Truck Owners' Association, are dumping earth to fill up the canal through trucks every night.

This correspondent visited the area last month and saw that a significant portion had already been filled up.

Mohammad Nasu Mia, president of Bangladesh Inter-district Truck Driver's Union, Mohammadpur unit, said due to not getting any space to park around 1000 to 1200 trucks, they, along with Dhaka Metropolitan Truck Owners' Association, are partially filling the canal.

"We started filling up [the canal] before Eid-ul Azha," he told The Daily Star, adding that their trucks are bringing earth from different places.

He said the location currently being used as the truck terminal at Bhangamosjid, on the northern side of Mohammadpur crossing, will have to be vacated within a few months. For this reason, they are constructing the new terminal here. "The place is leased out for other purposes from the DC office," he said.

The DC office was earlier asked to find khas land in the area to construct the terminal but they did not find any suitable place. Thus, the canal is being partially filled up as it is already facing encroachment by many others, he added.

Over the years, several housing projects in Basila encroached on a large chunk of the water body narrowing its width while many structures were illegally constructed on both sides of the canal.

A local, Sayed Saiful Alam, recently filed a complaint with the Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) to stop the ongoing filling up.

In his complaint, Saiful said the act was a violation of many laws, including Bangladesh Water Law, 2013, Bangladesh River Protection Act 2013, Playground, Open Space, Park and Natural Water Body Protection Act 2000,

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A canal at Lautola Kanchabazar in the city's Basila is being filled up with earth by the Mohammadpur units of Bangladesh Inter-District Truck Drivers' Union and Dhaka Inter-District Truck Owners' Association for constructing a new truck terminal. The DC office who is in charge of the canal, however, denies leasing out the land to them.

PHOTO: STAR



## Extramarital affair led to Badda killing

Say investigators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Extramarital affair between Arzina and her subtenant Shahin Malik led to the murder of her husband Jamil Sheikh and daughter in the capital's North Badda, say investigators.

Shahin, who along with his wife and child lived in a small room as a subtenant of the victims, hit hard in the head of Jamil with something hard when he was in sleep.

Wishing not to be named, two police officials investigating the double murder said Shahin strangled the victim's daughter Nusrat Akter Zidney, 9, as she saw Shahin killing her father.

According to the officials, Shahin entered the room after Arzina opened the door of her room.

Soon after the killings, SEE PAGE 12 COL 6

STORY ON KAKRAIL DOUBLE MURDER -- PAGE 3



**SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center**

**PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 4**

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-55 12-45 4-00 5-30 7-15

JAMAAT 5-30 1-15 4-15 5-34 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## BNP to contest next national polls despite 'all obstacles'

Says Moudud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP will participate in the upcoming parliamentary elections despite "all obstacles", party's Standing Committee Member Moudud Ahmed said yesterday.

The party must contest the polls even if it faces obstacle and repression, he said while addressing a discussion organised by Swadhinata Forum, a pro-BNP organisation, at the Jatiya Press Club.

Issuing a note of "caution" that no national election would be held in the country without the participation of the party, the former law minister

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# Bus of bandits

Police nab gang of 28 robbers after chase, exchange of fire on Dhaka-Aricha highway

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Posing as passengers, a gang used to rob valuables from people travelling in a bus on the Dhaka-Aricha highway.

The gang members would fill most of the seats in the moving bus at night so that passengers boarding the vehicle at different bus stops don't feel insecure.

In an opportune moment, they would snatch valuables from the victims. The bus driver and his helper are also part of the gang.

Such a tactic of robbery came to light late on Thursday night after police rounded up 28 suspected robbers near the Nabinagar bus stop on Dhaka-Aricha highway in Savar. They were arrested after a gunfight between the criminals and police.

Law enforcers, however, couldn't confirm how long the gang had been involved in robbery.

Khorshed Alam, additional superintendent (Savar circle) of police, yesterday said

they set up a check post at Nabinagar bus stop around 11:00pm on Thursday on information that robbery was being carried out in a bus.

Seeing a bus speeding towards Dhaka, they signaled the driver to pull over. But the driver disregarded the signal and continued on his way, claimed the ASP.

All of a sudden, the robbers opened fire at policemen from inside the bus. It prompted police to fire retaliatory shots at them, he added.

Sensing danger, the driver pulled over some 20 yards away.

Law enforcer then got on the vehicle and arrested the 28. They rescued three passengers with their hands tied behind their back and mouths gagged with pieces of cloths, said Khorshed.

Police also claimed to have seized a pistol, five bullets, a magazine, a few sharp weapons, 30 cell phones and around Tk 10,000 from the robbers' possession.

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## Australia issues travel alert for its citizens in Bangladesh

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government of Australia has issued a travel alert for its nationals in Bangladesh, saying that it has "reliable information to suggest that militants may be planning to target Western interests in Bangladesh".

Issuing the advice yesterday, the government called upon Australians to reconsider their need to travel to Bangladesh due to the "high threat of terrorist attack and the uncertain security situation".

"Stay alert and maintain an active awareness of your environment. Ensure you have robust security plans in place. The level of our advice has not changed. Reconsider your need to

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## Ladakh gets highest motorable road



PTI, Srinagar

In a major feat, India's Border Roads Organisation or BRO has constructed the world's highest motorable road in Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir, passing through Umlingla Top at a height of over 19,300 feet. The feat was achieved under 'Project Himank' of the organisation.

Being close to Hanle, the 86km long strategic road connects Chisumle and Demchok villages, located 230 Kms from Leh. These villages are stone's throw away from the Indo-China border in eastern sector, a spokesman of BRO said.

Felicitating the BRO personnel for completing

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## 16TH AMENDMENT Govt may seek review of SC verdict this week

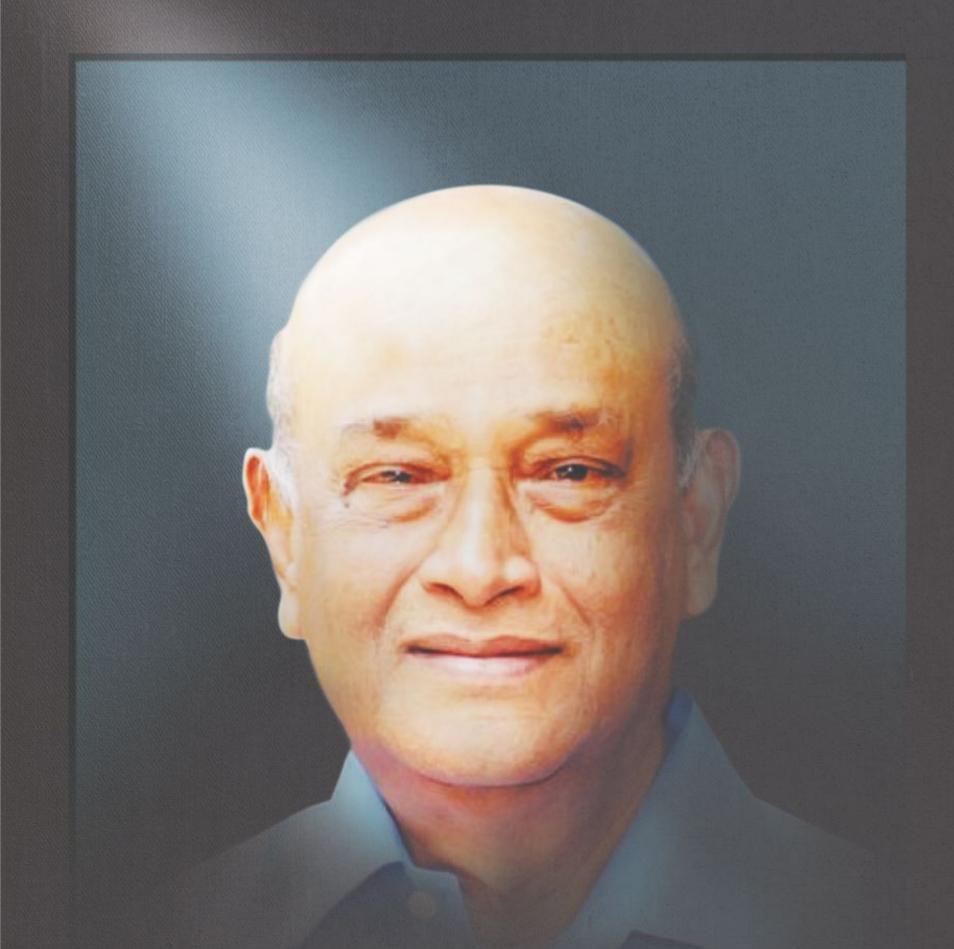
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government may file a petition with the Supreme Court this week, seeking a review of the verdict that scrapped the 16th Amendment of the Constitution.

The amendment had empowered parliament to remove SC judges for incapacity or misconduct.

"We will file the review petition against the Supreme Court verdict in 30 days from the date of receiving the certified copy of the verdict. We are studying and examining the verdict and the relevant points of the constitution and laws for preparing the review petition," Attorney

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**Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury**  
03 May 1945 – 04 November 2012

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