



SONARGAON CROSSING

# Where traffic law is broken every moment

KHALID HUSSAIN AYON

Police have put up signs warning buses of punishment for stopping near the roundabout at Sonargaon intersection in the capital's Karwan Bazar.

In what appears to be an attempt to deter unheeding drivers, a tow truck of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) is kept nearby.

Yet when The Daily Star videographers went to the spot on Sunday at 4:00pm and filmed the particular spot on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue for 20 minutes, as many as 108 buses stopped right in front of the police signs, taking up a large portion of one of the busiest intersections.

At least five traffic policemen were present there. But the promised punishment was not being delivered.

Vehicles approaching the roundabout from Panthapath were forced to stop or slow down while the buses picked up and dropped off passengers. The place designated to do that remained empty only about a hundred metres away.

The Daily Star teams visited the spot on three days and

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



Buses regularly stop to pick-up and drop-off passengers next to this sign prohibiting these actions at Sonargaon crossing. A Daily Star video team found 108 buses stopping here in a 20-minute span. Inset, Buses stopping in the intersection block the connecting roads causing heavy gridlocks on a daily basis.

PHOTO: KHALID HUSSAIN AYON

## Quader, Fakhrul bump into each other

Quader links Rangpur attack with 'plot to harm ties with India'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Ruling Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday crossed paths with his BNP counterpart Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir at Saidpur Airport in Rangpur.

The two traded greetings and shared some light moments during the exchange, according to several people who were present at the scene.

A close aide to Fakhrul told The Daily Star that the meeting took place when Fakhrul was waiting at the airport to return to Dhaka.

Quader entered the VIP waiting room and went forward when he saw the senior politician.

"As we are politicians, it will be better to keep our doors open for discussion," Biplob Barua, deputy office

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



## Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former deputy speaker of parliament Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui passed away at a city hospital in Dhaka yesterday. He was 71.

Siddiqui, also a member of BNP Chairperson Khaleida Zia's advisory council, breathed his last at United Hospital in Gulshan around 12:15pm, said Syrul Kabir Khan, an official of Khaleida's media wing.

He left behind his wife, two sons and one daughter,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

## Defiant Mugabe vows to stay on

Gives televised speech after being replaced by his sacked VP Mnangagwa; he was asked to step down as president of Zimbabwe

AFP, Harare

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, in a much-expected TV address yesterday, stressed he was still in power after his authoritarian 37-year reign was rocked by a military takeover.

"The (ruling ZANU-PF) party congress is due in a few weeks and I will preside over its processes," Mugabe said, pitching the country into further uncertainty.

Many Zimbabweans expected Mugabe to resign after the army seized power last week.

But Mugabe delivered his speech alongside the uniformed generals who were behind the military intervention.

In his address, Mugabe made no reference to the clamour for him to resign. Instead he paid tribute to three pillars of power in Zimbabwe -- the military, the ruling party and the war veterans movement -- and urged national solidarity.

"Whatever the pros and cons of how they (the army) went about their operation, I, as commander-in-chief, do acknowledge their concerns," said Mugabe.

"We must learn to forgive and resolve contradictions real or perceived in a comradely Zimbabwean spirit," he said.

His address provoked immediate anger.

"That speech has nothing to do with realities. We will go for impeachment and we are calling people back to the streets," Chris Mutsvangwa, head of the influential war veterans' association, told AFP.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

## Ex-husband, cohorts 'rape' woman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A woman was allegedly abducted and gang-raped by her former husband and his accomplices in Laxmipur's Kamalnagar upazila Friday night.

Victim's mother on Saturday night filed a case against her daughter's ex-husband Abu Kalam, 35, and his two accomplices with Kamalnagar Police Station under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.

In the case statement, she said Kalam married her daughter around 10 years ago. Since then, Kalam had been demanding dowry from her family and they gave him money on different occasions. As they refused to give him more money last year, he beat up her daughter severely. Around five months ago, her daughter divorced Kalam, she added.

Kalam along with his two aides kidnapped her daughter from Torabganj on Friday evening and raped her. They cut off her daughter's hair and she was also beaten up, the woman added.

Police arrested one of the accused Babul

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

## Own a dog for good health



USA TODAY ONLINE

A massive scientific study shows having a dog could mean you have a lower risk of dying from cardiovascular disease, the world's leading cause of death.

That's good news for dog lovers, especially if they fit into the 30 million Americans who found out this week they have hypertension after federal guidelines changed.

The research, published Friday in the journal Scientific Reports, claims to be "by far the largest investigation" into the links between dog ownership and health. The researchers used data from nearly 3.5 million Swedish people between the ages of 40 and 80 to compile their findings.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Miladunnabi on Dec 2

BSS, Dhaka

Eid-e-Miladunnabi will be observed in the country on December 2, commemorating the birth of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) on this day of the month of Rabiul Awal.

The National Moon Sighting Committee at a meeting at Islamic Foundation office in Dhaka took the decision yesterday as the moon of Rabiul Awal of Hijri 1439 has not been sighted, an Islamic Foundation release said.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



AVIJIT MURDER

## Suspect gives confessional statement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A suspect in blogger Avijit Roy murder case yesterday confessed before a Dhaka court that he was among four Ansar Al Islam operatives who did a recce of the killing spot near TSC of Dhaka University five to six days before the murder.

Mozammel Hossain alias Saimon, in his confessional statement, said four more operatives of the banned militant outfit took part in the killing mission, a source in the court said.

The court of Metropolitan Magistrate Ahsan Habib recorded the version of his statement after he agreed to confess to his crime, said court sources.

Mozammel was arrested from Baunia embankment area of Turag in the capital on Saturday afternoon, said Masudur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP).

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



Underprivileged children from Charulata Bidyapith at Tulatali in Chittagong flash the victory sign. The school was founded by six students for providing free education. It currently has 120 students.

PHOTO: STAR

## Small school, big hope

Six Ctg youths running school for underprivileged children

MD ABBAS, Chittagong University

Charulata Bidyapith, a school initiated by six youths studying at different educational institutions in Chittagong, gives a ray of hope for underprivileged children to get an education.

Domestic help Minara Begum and her day labourer husband Nagor Shikder are now happy as their two daughters, Nupur Akhter and Jumur Akhter, and their son Mohammad Shahadat are getting quality education.

"We cannot afford to send our children to such a school that offers students standard education. We all are really thankful to them [the founders]," said Minara.

In the mornings, Nupur, 13, and her younger sister Jumur, 11, work at a Fish Processing Factory in Gate-2 area in Chittagong city, on a temporary basis and in afternoons, they go to Charulata Bidyapith, where classes begin at 2:00pm and continue till 5:00pm.

The school, situated in Gate-2 area of Tulatali, started its journey around six years ago with the aim of providing quality education to underprivileged children.

Currently, 120 children are getting free education from the school, enrolled from nursery till class five.

Students from renowned universities and colleges in Chittagong conduct the classes.

Besides, the school provides students study materials free of cost, and the students are served quality food on special occasions.

Students also get new clothes and shoes during Eid and Durga Puja.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5