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Your Right to Know

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"We are living in a communal, discriminatory, undemocratic, anti-progressive state system where the media remains under pressure to serve the interests of the ruler."

SANTU LARMA ON WORLD DAY OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE. STORY ON PAGE 3

"Let us speak, so rumours will not spread. If you don't let us speak, rumours will spread."

GONOSHASTHAYA KENDRA FOUNDER ZAFRULLAH CHOWDHURY AT A PROGRAMME IN THE CAPITAL YESTERDAY. STORY ON PAGE 5



"Silence does not earn you any respect. We do not bring shame on governments, they shame themselves."

UN RIGHTS CHIEF ZEID RA'AD AL-HUSSEIN. STORY ON PAGE 9



CLEANING UP TRANSPORT MESS

Some efforts, little change

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the wake of the student agitation for safe roads, some efforts have been made to correct the ills in the otherwise disorderly public transport system though the situation remains mostly as usual in the capital.

Yesterday, a number of public buses continued to ply the city streets without legal documents, and pick and drop off passengers on roads randomly. People were still risking their lives to cross busy thoroughfares. Bikers rode motorbikes on footpaths to avoid traffic jam -- all too common pictures on the city streets.

However, some different scenes were also there.

In many parts of the city, police were seen strictly enforcing the traffic rules as they have been conducting a weeklong special drive against errant drivers.

Motor vehicle users in large numbers turned up at the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) offices across the country to either update or get necessary documents.

The associations of transport owners and workers were checking the licences of drivers and pressing the members to obtain legal documents for their vehicles.

Action was taken against some of the owners for violating the associations' decision to end the practice of having daily contracts with bus drivers and helpers.

The developments came more than a week after school and college students began demonstrations demanding concrete government steps to improve road safety following the deaths of two of their peers in a city road crash on July 29.

Dia Khanam Mim and Abdul Karim Rajib were killed on

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Pedestrians run across the Airport Road to get to the other side dodging oncoming traffic yesterday. There is a footbridge (not in the picture) a few feet away. Despite the student movement for road safety and the ongoing Traffic Week, many choose to ignore the laws in place and risk their lives just to save time.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

End violence on journos

Int'l bodies write to PM, demand release of Shahidul Alam

STAR REPORT

Condemning the recent attacks on journalists and the detention of noted photographer Shahidul Alam, three international journalists associations have written to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to take steps to prevent violence against journalists and ensure the release of Shahidul.

"We note with great concern a series of recent attacks on working journalists,"

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ROAD SAFETY PROTEST

No bail for 22 pvt univ students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday denied bail to the 22 private university students who were arrested in two separate cases filed over vandalism and attacks on policemen during the road safety movement.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Satyabrata Sikder passed the order after police produced the students before the court on completion of their two-day remands.

The investigation officer said they were verifying information which they gathered from the students and until the investigation was completed, they would remain in jail.

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Question leak racket busted

CID arrests nine including govt officials, teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

They targeted all sorts of public exams and recruitment tests. In the last five to six years, this organised question paper leak gang struck numerous deals with job and admission seekers in exchange of hefty sums, and helped many to cheat their way into universities and jobs.

Among the gang members are government officials and schoolteachers. Some others have been recommended for BCS jobs are waiting to be recruited. So far, they made over Tk 10 crore by leaking questions of different public examinations.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police busted the gang recently, arresting nine people, including the alleged mastermind. The arrests were made from Dhaka and Sirajganj in the last five days, Molla Nazrul Islam, special superintendent of CID, told a press briefing at its headquarters yesterday.

It comes at a time when the BCS written exam is underway and university admission tests are knocking at the door.

"This is one of the biggest gangs that leaked questions using electronic

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Former Rab CO 'missing'

Men claiming to be DB officials picked him up, says family

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A former commanding officer of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) remains missing since he was allegedly picked up on Wednesday night from his home near the capital's Mirpur DOHS area by some men claiming to be detectives.

Lt Col Hasinur Rahman, who was also in the army (sacked), was allegedly picked up by plainclothes men at around 10:30pm on Wednesday when he was on his way home after meeting his friends, his wife Shamima Akhter said.

"We searched for him in every possible place including police stations and DB offices but could not find him," she told The Daily Star yesterday afternoon.

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29 kids killed in Yemen air strike

AFP, Sanaa

A strike on a bus in rebel-held northern Yemen killed at least 29 children yesterday, the Red Cross said, as the Saudi-led coalition faced a growing outcry over the attack.

The coalition said it had carried out what it called "legitimate military action" in the area targeting Huthi rebels responsible for a deadly missile attack on the Saudi city of Jizan on Wednesday.

But the International Committee of the Red Cross said the strike hit a bus filled with children in the Huthi stronghold of Saada, causing dozens of casualties.

"A hospital supported by our team in Yemen received the bodies of 29 children under the age of 15 and 48 wounded, including 30 children," the ICRC said on Twitter.

A spokesman for the Red Cross in Sanaa told AFP the toll was not final as casualties from the attack were taken to several hospitals.

"Under international humanitarian law, civilians must be protected during conflict," the ICRC said as alarm grew among international aid agencies.

Geert Cappelaere, the UN Children's Fund regional director in the Middle East and North Africa, said all the

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CASH INCENTIVE SCAM

BB blocks rehiring of Janata's audit firm

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

Bangladesh Bank has rejected Janata Bank's plea for reappointing Syful Shamsul Alam & Co to audit the state-owned bank's financial health as it found that the firm allegedly helped Crescent Group embezzle government funds of Tk 408 crore in cash incentive.

Janata Bank applied to the BB in June for the auditor's reappointment, but the BB rejected the request on Tuesday, a senior official of the central bank confirmed yesterday.

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Relatives and friends gather around the prison van carrying 22 private university students outside the CMM's Court in Dhaka yesterday. Inset, Mother of Nur Mohammad, a student of Southeast University, breaks down after her son's bail prayer was refused. One of Nur's friends holds her hand in an effort to console her.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

We Mourn

We deeply mourn the sad demise of our beloved Chairman of The ACME Laboratories Ltd., Director of Bangladesh Cricket Board, Chairman of Bangladesh Premier League and current President of Dhaka Club, **Mr. Afzalur Rahman Sinha**, the youngest son of the Late Hamidur Rahman Sinha, founder of The ACME Laboratories Ltd. Our honorable Chairman breathed his last at 9.40 p.m. on 08.08.2018 in Gleneagles Global Health City Hospitals Group, Chennai, India (Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un). He was 68 and has left behind his wife, a son, a daughter, three brothers, grandchildren and a host of well-wishers to mourn his death.

We ACME family are deeply shocked and saddened by the sudden demise of our beloved Chairman. Although words are not enough to ease this grief, we convey our heartfelt condolences on the bereavement caused from his departure. We invoke blessings of the Almighty for the departed soul of Mr. Afzalur Rahman Sinha and pray for his eternal peace in the eternity and may his family and well-wishers have strength, patience and courage to bear this irreparable loss.

In this regard, his Qulkhwan & Dua Mahfil will be held at the ACME Corporate Office, Kallayanpur as well as all sales centers and in his village Dohuri, Kalma, Louhajong, Munshiganj on 12th August, 2018 (Sunday) and at Dhamrai Factory on 13th August, 2018 (Monday) after Zuhr prayers.

We request all who may have known him to honor us with your gracious presence and extend your forgiveness and pray for his eternal peace, hereafter.



ACME

—Members of the **ACME** Family

Afzalur Rahman Sinha
(1950-2018)

