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A man holding a sleeping toddler picks up a key he dropped while jaywalking on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue near the underpass at Karwan Bazar. Inset, boy scouts across the street stop a motorcyclist going the wrong way. Top right, rampant jaywalking at Banglamotor intersection despite a footbridge there. Bottom right, jaywalkers get down from buses on Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover near Sayedabad and to walk down a ramp to go to their destinations. Buses are not supposed to drop off passengers on the flyover where walking is prohibited. The pictures were taken yesterday afternoon.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN, AMRAN HOSSAIN, RASHED SHUMON

## Journalists to lay siege to home ministry

Protest in Dhaka, elsewhere; they want arrest of attackers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalists yesterday said they would lay siege to the home ministry on Thursday demanding arrest of those who assaulted journalists during the student demonstration for safe roads.

Factions of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) at a rally at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday said if the attackers were not arrested by Thursday, they would march towards the Prime Minister's Office and submit a memorandum.

Many journalists were attacked while covering the clashes between demonstrating students and alleged ruling party activists between July 29 and August 7.

Journalists of several print and electronic media on Tuesday gave the government a three-day ultimatum to arrest the attackers. The demand was not met.

Addressing yesterday's rally, Molla Jalal, a BFUJ faction president, said journalists across the country were agitated and concerned over their safety.

Journalists will also submit a memorandum to the home minister on Thursday,

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## ROHINGYA REPATRIATION Progress quite insignificant

Diplomats say after Bangladesh delegation visits Maungdaw

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh delegation to Myanmar, led by Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali, yesterday saw the trail of wide-spread devastation suffered by the people of the northern Rakhine State.

The delegation saw this when they visited the villages around Maungdaw township to witness Myanmar's preparations for repatriation of Rohingyas.

Diplomatic sources in Dhaka and Yangon said the progress made so far in regards to accommodation facilities, particularly installation of pre-fabricated houses for Rohingya returnees, was quite insignificant.

According to a foreign ministry press statement, the delegation saw 148 houses being built in one village 20 in another for internally displaced while 50 more homes were being constructed for returnees in another village.

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## CONTROVERSIAL ASSAM CITIZENS' LIST Stop us if you can

BJP chief takes on Mamata in Kolkata, accuses her of 'vote bank' politics

NDTV, The Hindu

India's ruling BJP party's President Amit Shah yesterday said that no matter "however hard Mamata Banerjee tries," she cannot stop the National Register of Citizens (NRC) exercise in Assam and the government will ensure that the process is completed in a judicious manner.

Addressing a rally in Kolkata, Shah also accused the Trinamool Congress (TMC) chairperson and West Bengal chief minister of creating confusion regarding NRC in West Bengal. Shah targeted Mamata for "keeping the Bangladeshi infiltrators" and urged the people of the state to uproot the incumbent government.

"We want to ask Mamata Banerjee why she is protecting the Bangladeshi infiltrators. All that she has done is protest against the NRC. But NRC is the process to throw illegal migrants out. Shouldn't Bangladeshi migrants be thrown out?" Shah questioned the rally as thousands of the party workers responded in an affirmative.

He alleged that the Bangladeshi infiltrators were a vote bank of the previous Communist government and now, they had become a vote bank of the TMC.

"For us, the country comes first, before vote bank... Oppose us as much as you want but we will not stall the process of NRC," Shah added.

The first draft of the National Register of Citizens, or NRC, in Assam last month left out 40 lakh people, triggering sharp criticism about the implementation of the exercise by opposition parties in India. Mamata had taken the lead, worrying that it could lead to a "bloodbath" and "a civil war".

The Trinamool Congress has said the poor implementation of the citizens' list will not impact Muslims but also Hindus who had come from Bangladesh. Shah told Hindus immigrants from Bangladesh - he referred to

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## Brutal beating

Man, woman tortured over 'extramarital affairs' in Comilla; two held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

A video of a woman being tortured in presence of a local government representative for her alleged extramarital affair in Daudkandi upazila has gone viral in social media.

The victim, a mother of four children and wife of an expatriate, was tortured through arbitration in presence of the chairman of Baropara Union Parishad on July 31.

A person wielding a stick in his hand is seen in the 82-second video beating her to the ground. The man hits her several times on the bottoms of her feet and her thighs. Dozens of people including the UP chairman are seen surrounding them, but none of them bats an eye.

The man at one stage turns to her alleged boyfriend and beats him up

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## French park appoints crow litter cleaners



AFP, Paris

Six crows specially trained to pick up cigarette ends and rubbish will be put to work next week at a French historical theme park, its president said on Friday.

"The goal is not just to clean up, because the visitors are generally careful to keep things clean" but also to show that "nature itself can teach us to take care of the environment", Nicolas de Villiers of the Puy du Fou park, in the western Vendee region, told AFP.

Rooks, a member of the crow family of birds that also includes the carrion crow, jackdaw and raven, are considered to be "particularly intelligent" and in the right circumstances "like to communicate with humans and establish a relationship through play", Villiers said.

The birds will be encouraged to spruce up the park through the use of a small box that delivers a tasty nugget of bird food each time the rook deposits a cigarette end or small piece of rubbish, he added.

## HEAVY VEHICLE LICENCE Relax the experience requirement

Transport leaders ask authorities

TUHIN SHUBRA ADHIKARY

Leaders of transport owners and workers yesterday requested the authorities concerned to relax the mandatory experience required for getting driving licences for heavy vehicles.

As per the law, a driver must have at least six years' of driving experience to be eligible for a licence for heavy vehicles.

The leaders made the plea claiming that there was a huge crisis of drivers for heavy vehicles and many owners, amid the ongoing crackdown on unfit vehicles and drivers without licences, took their vehicles off the road because they do not have drivers with the proper licence.

They made the request at

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## TEA PROJECT IN HILLS Result not so encouraging

SANJOY KUMA BARUA with ANDREW EAGLE

A grand plan by the Bangladesh Tea Board to encourage small-scale tea plantations in the Chittagong Hill Tracts has met with little success. Under the Tk 1.56-crore project initiated in 2005, loans were extended to 64 prospective farmers in anticipation that around 300 acres would be cultivated with tea. But loans have been used for other purposes. Many farmers are in default with regard to repayment. The targeted annual harvest of 1.4 lakh kilograms of tea leaves has fallen well short, with only 22,000 kilograms collected last year.

"We are really frustrated," says Md Amir Hossain, development officer in the Bandarban unit of the Bangladesh Tea Research Institute. "The farmers, including several politicians, didn't use the loans properly. Most beneficiaries only cultivated a few acres with tea."

"Many of the loan holders under the scheme haven't repaid their loans in time," says Md Akkas Uddin, the manager of Bangladesh Krishi Bank in Bandarban, which supervises the loans. "They have become defaulters."

Among the scheme's participants, Kwe Shwe Hla, the president of the ruling party's Bandarban district unit and also Bandarban Hill District Council's chairman received Tk 8.79 lakhs in loans to grow tea on ten acres; but only a few decimals of land at Hla Pai Mukh have been used for that purpose, according to Amir.

It's a circumstance that may raise questions about his continued role in the district council since the Hill District Council Act 1989 precludes the involvement of government bank loan defaulters.

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An unkempt tea plantation at Hla Pai Mukh area in Bandarban's Rowangchhari upazila. Many farmers who took loans from Bangladesh Tea Board promising small-scale tea plantations in the hilly district have allegedly used the money for other purposes. The picture was taken recently.

PHOTO: SANJOY KUMAR BARUA

## Two killed in 'gunfights' in Ctg, Jhenidah

STAR REPORT

An alleged criminal and a robber were killed in "gunfights" in Chittagong and Magura early yesterday.

The deceased in Chittagong was identified as Mohammed Nasir alias Mamun, 35, of Boalia in Anwara upazila, reports our Chittagong office.

"He was arrested in Anwara following a tip off on Friday afternoon. The gunfight took place in Dut Kumra area of Barasat union early yesterday [Saturday],"

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SIBL Social Islami Bank Limited

PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 12  
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-25 12-45 4-45 6-41 8-00  
JAMAAT 5-00 1-15 5-00 6-44 8-30  
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION