



One of the 50 truck drivers receives a prize for safe driving, at yesterday's programme organised by Road Safety Foundation at the Central Public Library's Shawkat Osman Auditorium in Shahbagh. PHOTO: COLLECTED

## 50 drivers, 2 transport owners awarded

FROM PAGE 18  
Transport Driver Award-2018" at Shawkat Osman Auditorium of the Central Public Library at Shahbagh. Apart from drivers, two transport owners were also given "Responsible Transport Owner Award-2018" for doing the business with "proper management." They are Romesh Chandra Ghosh of Shyamoli Paribahan and Mostafa Azad Chowdhury of Agomoni Express. About the initiative, Saidur Rahman, chief executive of the foundation, said there are many owners among the non-professional and profit mongering people who run the business properly. Similarly, there are skilled drivers who operate vehicles with care, he observed. "We think these responsible transport owners and skilled drivers should be recognised and honoured since recognition of one's good work makes them more responsible and encourages others," he added. They decided to award such responsible transport owners and drivers and

named 50 drivers and two owners for the first time as award winners. Talking to The Daily Star, Saidur said from 12,000 drivers who filled up their forms, they selected the 50 considering several aspects. No accident due to neglect in last 10 years, having all legal documents, not being an addict and not accused in a criminal case have been considered. The two owners have been selected from a list of 10 who regularly interact with their drivers and advise them, consider drivers' and passengers' benefits, and are involved in social and cultural activities, he added. At the programme, transport expert Prof Moazzem Hossain said the government and the political leadership cannot avoid the responsibility for the "uncontrolled" transport sector. It is very difficult for the owners nowadays to make their business profitable. So, they, in many cases, force the drivers to compromise with safety and traffic rules, he observed. It is true that everyone wants to

blame the drivers for all the faults, said Prof Moazzem, a former director of the Accident Research Institute at Buet. Talking about lack of training facility for drivers, he said a transport worker is exposed to the risk of accidents 20 times higher than a normal passenger, so the workers should be more vocal for road safety. Prof Mohit Kamal, a prominent psychiatrist, said a driver must have control power, patience and attention and the owners should check these qualities before recruiting them. Belal Ahmed, chairman of Janata Insurance Company Limited, which sponsored the programme, said giving felicitation to drivers is a good idea and his organisation would work for the betterment of the transport workers. Workers leader Ali Reza, Janata Insurance's Managing Director Saadat R Khan and Vice-President of International Business Forum of Bangladesh MS Siddiqi also spoke at the programme chaired by Road Safety Foundation's Vice-Chairman MA Hamid Sharif.

## The JP plot thickens

FROM PAGE 1  
Yesterday was very crucial for the party as today is the last day for withdrawing candidacy. But at least 15 aspirants waited at the Banani office throughout the day but Ranga was a no-show, a JP leader present there told The Daily Star. Wishing anonymity, a number of JP leaders said although Quader announced that 40 to 42 seats were left for JP, it was actually 30 to 35 including seven that will "remain open". In those seven seats, the leaders explained, both AL and JP will contest the election. Two AL leaders also confirmed this to The Daily Star. This seat-sharing made Ershad, who is now at Dhaka Combined Military Hospital, very unhappy, insiders said.

Earlier, Ershad changed his secretary general as Hawlader failed to convince the ruling AL to leave two seats for JP heavyweights -- lawmakers Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu and Salma Islam. The JP chief made Ranga the second-in-command as the state minister is considered close to the AL high-ups. But Ranga's failure to "manage adequate seats for the party" also angered Ershad, said sources. Last week, several top JP leaders categorically told this paper that AL will leave 40 to 45 seats for them though they demanded 50. In the current parliament, JP has 40 lawmakers, including five elected to seats reserved for women. So party

leaders became enraged at the high-ups including Ershad for the failure to manage at least 40 seats. A JP presidium member says the final decision on the seat-sharing would be made after Obaidul Quader returns from Noakhali tonight (last night). The AL general secretary was yet to be back in the capital as of 10:30pm. On April 10, 2014, Hawlader was fired as secretary general, which he had been holding since 2002. Ershad appointed Bablu to the post in recognition of his "significant role" in the party. Three years later, the JP boss removed Bablu from the position over negligence in duty and reinstated Hawlader.

## Withdraw candidacy

FROM PAGE 1  
have become "rebels". Hasina's letter said the 11th national election is very important in establishing a sustainable democratic system and save the country from the "ferocious paw" of the BNP-Jamaat. "That's why we have decided to participate in the election under the alliance comprising like-minded political parties. "My special request... you withdraw your candidacy in support of the grand alliance aspirants... to ensure victory of the grand alliance. Your sacrifice, hard work and sincerity -- everything is in my consideration," reads one of the letters. She also wrote about her confidence

in winning by a landslide. "You will also be a part of that victory. I can tell for sure if the Awami League remains united no one has the organisational strength to defeat the boat symbol." Hasina said she expected leaders and activists at all levels of the party to join the campaign trail. In the other letter, Hasina said the list of the party's nominees was finalised after taking into consideration the findings of several surveys of the party, opinions of the grassroots, and decisions of the parliamentary nomination board. Over 4,000 AL leaders submitted nomination papers to get the party ticket. "It was difficult to pick a single

candidate from multiple nomination seekers," she said. She also termed the role of those who didn't get the tickets as praiseworthy for turning the Awami League into a strong party. "I believe your loyalty to our loving motherland Bangladesh and for the beloved organisation Bangladesh Awami League will remain in the days to come." Talking to The Daily Star, AL Deputy Office Secretary Biplob Barua said the letters were being sent. Meanwhile, AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader urged units in districts, cities, upazilas and municipalities to observe the Victory Day in a festive manner but with solemnity.

## China hopes

FROM PAGE 18  
trust and then we need to deepen economic integration," the diplomat said. He also suggested deepening innovation and interaction; having stronger cooperation on experience sharing on security; and enhancing cultural and people's connectivity. "We should join hands to become good partners with equality and mutual trust. We should work together to improve the level of global governance," Zhang Zuo said. About the Rohingya issue, the ambassador said China would continue to play a constructive role in properly solving the problem of Rakhine state in accordance with the three-phase solution to stop violence, ensure repatriation and development. He said China would continue to support Bangladesh and Myanmar to find a proper way for the repatriation of the displaced people, as well as a proper solution to the Rakhine issue through dialogue and consultation. On security, Zuo said the next decade would see a profound reshaping of the

global governance system and the international security situation. "China and Bangladesh are neighbours who look out for each other during either safe or disturbing times." He said the two countries should work together to be good partners for peace and cooperation. On deepening economic integration, the envoy said the next 10 years would be a decade of transition from the old to new growth drivers in world economy, as well as of profound adjustments and reforms. "Both China and Bangladesh have highly prosperous markets that attract businessmen from all over the world. Faced with opportunities and challenges, we should join hands to become good partners of mutual benefits. Let's work together to promote free trade." Zuo said the two countries should accelerate the feasibility study for China-Bangladesh FTA (Free Trade Agreement), and then start the negotiation as soon as possible for fruitful outcomes. He said they would complete the exchange of letters for zero-tariff treat-

ment to 97 percent of tariff items exported from Bangladesh to China within a short time, to further boost Bangladesh's export to Chinese market. Experts from both the countries attended the symposium. They assessed the Bangladesh-China relationship in the present context and identified the challenges and opportunities. Chairman of Cosmos Foundation Enayetullah Khan delivered the welcome speech at the programme, chaired by former caretaker government adviser Ukkar Ahmed Chowdhury. **Respect** FROM PAGE 18 As per the tradition of the US House of Representatives, the proposed resolution was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. In another legislation placed on November 20, Republican Representative Jim Banks identified Jamaat-e-Islami, Islami Chhatra Shibir and Hefazat-e-Islam as extremists and radical organisations who pose an immediate threat to Bangladesh's stability and secular democracy.

## Around 20m Yemenis food insecure due to conflict

AFP, Dubai  
Around 20 million Yemenis are food insecure, UN agencies said yesterday, adding the conflict ravaging the impoverished country was the key driver behind rising hunger levels. "As many as 20 million Yemenis are food insecure in the world's worst humanitarian crisis," a joint statement by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the children's fund UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP) said. "Already 15.9 million people wake up hungry" in Yemen, it said, citing an analysis by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), a food security survey.

According to the IPC -- whose analysis is necessary to decide whether to declare famine in countries -- the 20 million people facing "severe acute food insecurity" represent 67 percent of Yemen's population. "What the IPC tells us is alarming," said Lise Grande, UN humanitarian coordinator for Yemen. WFP head David Beasley said the analysis "is an alarm bell that shows hunger is rising". "We need a massive increase in aid and sustained access to all areas in Yemen in order to rescue millions of Yemenis. If we don't, we will lose an entire generation of children to hunger," he warned. The world's worst humanitarian crisis spiralled in Yemen after a Saudi-led coalition launched an offensive to support the government against Iran-aligned Huthi rebels in March 2015. It has killed at least 10,000 people, according to the World Health Organization. The latest report comes as Yemeni government representatives and a rebel delegation were holding UN-brokered peace talks in Sweden. The armed conflict was at the top of a list of the "key drivers of food insecurity", which has been further exacerbated by a protracted economic crisis in the impoverished Arab Peninsula country. Yemen's finances have been devastated by the conflict, with the World Bank reporting the economy has contracted by around 50 percent since 2015. Unemployment is running at over 30 percent and inflation is projected at around 42 percent, while the majority of state employees are not paid.

## Stop genocide

FROM PAGE 18  
"Often it is the culmination of years of exclusion, denial of human rights and other wrongs. Since genocide can take place in times of war and in times of peace, we must be ever-vigilant," he said. Mentioning the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, Guterres said he was extremely concerned about the plight of the Rohingya Muslims, some of whom were "systemically killed, tortured, raped and burnt alive." He would never forget the bone-chilling accounts he heard from the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh earlier this year, he added. "My generation believed that after the Holocaust, we would never see genocide again. We were wrong. "Modernity does not protect us from genocide. The digital age does not protect us from genocide. Nothing but our own actions, based on our values and principles, can protect us from genocide. The Genocide Convention offers an essential legal framework for our efforts." The International Day, which was established by the UN General Assembly in 2015, has since been observed annually on December 9, to mark the adoption of the Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

## Japan

FROM PAGE 18  
Foreign workers in those fields who hold stronger qualifications and pass a more difficult Japanese language test will be able to obtain a visa that can be extended indefinitely, eventually leading to residency, and will be able to bring over family. But there have been questions about whether an influx of foreign workers will depress wages, how the workers will be incorporated into Japan's social security system, and worries about exploitation of migrant labour. Many of Japan's low-skilled foreign workers are in the country under a so-called "technical training" programme, which has repeatedly faced allegations of abuse. "We should not create a new system hastily without reviewing the technical training programme in which problems are mounting," Yoshifu Arita, an opposition lawmaker, told parliament. Businesses have long lobbied for looser immigration rules, saying they struggle to find workers in a country where unemployment hovers around 2.5 percent. The chronic labour shortages are only worsening as Japan's ageing and shrinking population means a declining pool of workers.

## A bad Friday for Trump

FROM PAGE 18  
Friday marked the first time federal prosecutors officially concurred. It said Cohen made the payments in "coordination with and the direction of" Trump. Democrats jumped on that assertion and called for steps to protect Mueller's probe into possible collusion between Russia and Trump's presidential campaign. "These legal documents outline serious and criminal wrongdoing, including felony violations of campaign finance laws at the direction of President Trump," Senator Diane Feinstein said in a statement. The president has denied any collusion with Russia, and accuses Mueller's prosecutors of pressuring his former aides to lie about him, his campaign and his business dealings. Russia has denied interfering in the election to help Trump. In new tweets on Friday, Trump accused federal investigators and senior officials of having conflicts of interest, without offering evidence. "Totally clears the President," wrote Trump. "Thank you!"

White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders called Cohen a liar and dismissed the filings as insignificant. Last week, Cohen admitted to lying to congressional investigators in an attempt to minimize his efforts to secure the Kremlin's help for a Trump skyscraper in Moscow. He has said he did so to stay in sync with Trump's political messaging, and that he consulted with the White House while preparing to testify to Congress. Mueller said on Friday that Cohen repeated his false statements about the project in his first meeting with Mueller's office, admitting the truth only in a later meeting in September after he had pleaded guilty to the separate New York charges. On Friday, Mueller said Cohen's false statements to Congress had "obscured the fact" that the skyscraper project held the potential to reap "hundreds of millions of dollars from Russian sources" for the Trump Organization. Mueller said that discussions about the potential Moscow development were relevant to the investigation because they occurred "at a time of sustained efforts by the Russian government to interfere with the US presidential election." In addition to coming clean on the Moscow project, Cohen provided information to Mueller about several attempts by Russians to contact the Trump's campaign, according to Friday's filing. In November 2015, Cohen spoke with a Russian national who said he could offer the campaign "political synergy" with Russia and repeatedly proposed a meeting with Putin. Cohen did not follow up on the offer, the filings say. Mueller also said in the filing that Cohen had provided "relevant and useful information concerning his contacts with persons connected to the White House" in 2017 and 2018. Mueller also detailed alleged lies

told by Manafort during interviews with prosecutors and the FBI. Last month Mueller voided Manafort's plea agreement because, they said, he was not telling the truth. They said Manafort told "multiple discernible lies," including about his communications with a political consultant will alleged ties to Russian intelligence, and about interactions with Trump administration officials even after Manafort was first indicted in late 2017. The filings followed a sentencing memo earlier this week regarding Trump's former national security adviser, Michael Flynn, who Mueller praised for providing "substantial" cooperation and argued for no prison time. Cohen had been hoping prosecutors would make a similar recommendation in his case. But the New York prosecutors were unsparing in their descriptions of his conduct, saying he was motivated by "personal greed" and that he "repeatedly used his power and influence for deceptive ends." Mueller, for his part, praised Cohen for voluntarily providing information about his own and others' conduct on "core topics under investigation" and described the information as "credible and consistent with other evidence" they had obtained. Considering that cooperation, Mueller suggested the sentence for lying to Congress run concurrently with the sentence in the New York case.

## Tigers

FROM PAGE 1  
third-best by any team in 2018. The team management will be faced with a sweet dilemma in forming the playing eleven after magnificent performances from the top order in recent times. It was learned that Liton Das was expected to open the innings alongside Tamim while Imrul Kayes, who was the highest run-scorer in the previous three-match ODI series against Zimbabwe, would bat at number three. The experienced Mushfiqur Rahim is set to bat at number four followed by Shakib and Mahmudullah Riyad. It was also learned that Soumya Sarkar is expected to bat in the middle order, which means Mohammad Mithun may have to make way. Mehedi Hasan Miraz will assist Shakib in the spin department while Mashrafe, who already hinted at playing three seamers in the line-up, will likely partner Mustafizur Rahman and Rubel Hossain. West Indies on the other hand will be looking for a comeback after the whitewash in the Test series, especially as the Caribbean outfit has been unable to win an ODI series for four years -- since beating Bangladesh at home in 2014. While the Mirpur pitch is expected to provide some assistance for seamers, it is also expected that it will offer runs.

## China sends rover

FROM PAGE 18  
mission's chief commander He Rongwei of China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp, the main state-owned space contractor. Unlike the near side of the moon that is "tidally locked" and always faces the earth, and offers many flat areas to touch down on, the far side is mountainous and rugged. It was not until 1959 that the Soviet Union captured the first images of the heavily cratered surface, unclanking some of the mystery of the moon's "dark side." No lander or rover has ever touched the surface there, positioning China as the first nation to explore the area. It is no easy technological feat -- China has been preparing for this moment for years. A major challenge for such a mission is communicating with the robotic lander: as the far side of the moon always points away from earth, there is no direct "line of sight" for signals. As a solution, China in May blasted the Queqiao ("Maggie Bridge") satellite into the moon's orbit, positioning it so that it can relay data and commands between the lander and earth. Adding to the difficulties, Chang'e-4 is being sent to the Aitken Basin in the lunar south pole region -- known for its craggy and complex terrain -- state media has said. The probe is carrying six experiments from China and four from abroad. They include low-frequency radio astronomical studies -- aiming to take advantage of the lack of interference on the far side -- as well as mineral and radiation tests, Xinhua cited the China National Space Administration as saying. The experiments also involve planting potato and other seeds, according to Chinese media reports. Beijing is pouring billions into its military-run space programme, with hopes of having a crewed space station by 2022, and of eventually sending humans to the moon. The Chang'e 4 mission is a step in that direction, significant for the engineering expertise needed to explore and settle the moon, an expert said. Chang'e-4 will be the second Chinese probe to land on the moon, following the Yutu ("Jade Rabbit") rover mission in 2013. Beijing is planning to send another lunar lander, Chang'e-5, next year to

collect samples and bring them back to earth. It is among a slew of ambitious Chinese targets, which include a reusable launcher by 2021, a super-powerful rocket capable of delivering payloads heavier than those NASA and private rocket firm SpaceX can handle, a moon base, a permanently crewed space station, and a Mars rover.

## Muslims rally to defend rights in Malaysia

AFP, Kuala Lumpur  
Thousands of banner-waving Muslims dressed in white rallied in the Malaysian capital Saturday demanding protection of their rights, at a time of growing racial tensions in the multi-ethnic country. Big crowds gathered in downtown Kuala Lumpur, chanting "God is great" and waving banners that read "Long live the Malays", an AFP reporter said. Large numbers of police were on the streets and major roads were closed. Race and religion are sensitive in Malaysia, which is home to sizeable ethnic Chinese and Indian communities, and the Muslim Malay majority appears to be feeling increasingly insecure under a new government that is more representative of minorities. The rally was originally intended as a protest against a plan by the government, which took power in May after defeating the scandal-mired old regime, to ratify a UN convention which aims to eliminate racial discrimination. Authorities abandoned the plan after opposition from conservative politicians and Malays, who feared the treaty could erode privileges they have long enjoyed. But Muslim groups pushed ahead with Saturday's demonstration, which alongside the convention has become about the bigger issue of defending Malays' position in society and Islam. "I hope the other races don't challenge the rights of the Malays. As a Muslim, I want Islam to be the first (priority) in Malaysia," protester Arif Hashim, 26, told AFP.