

# Deep-sea trawling gets new boost

## Cabinet allows private sector to launch 40 trawlers to fish in the Bay

REZAUL KARIM

The government has approved a proposal for procurement of 40 modern and well-equipped deep-sea fishing trawlers by the private sector.

The decision, taken at a cabinet meeting on April 8, lifts a long-time ban on procurement of the trawlers,

according to official sources.

The trawlers will fish in Bangladesh's 710 kilometre exclusive economic zone (EEZ) from Teknaf to the Sundarbans in the Bay of Bengal up to a depth of 200 metres.

Only 18 deep sea fishing trawlers, most of them 20 to 35 years old and owned by a few families, are now

engaged in deep sea fishing. They catch 3.79 lakh tonnes of fish annually, which is only six per cent of the resources.

The government decision will break the cartel and increase the quantity, the sources said.

Besides, due to inadequate number of modern trawlers, surveil

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# Top Khatunganj business magnate abducted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Criminals on Saturday kidnapped a non-Bangali businessman of a traditional wholesale market at Khatunganj in the city.

They have demanded a Tk 90 lakh ransom by this morning for his release. Otherwise, they threatened to kill the businessman.

Mohammed Hanif, 50, is the owner of H H Brothers and Amin Enterprise of Khatunganj Haji Market.

Witnesses said three miscreants stopped the rickshaw Hanif was riding at Momin Road, dragged him inside an auto-rickshaw at around 6pm on Saturday and headed for their hideout. Hanif was returning home from his office to take his son to a dentist.

The kidnappers contacted the victim's younger brother Mohammad Harun on the phone yesterday and demanded the ransom.

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SHAZNEEN CASE

## Cross exam of friend of victim's father ends

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Cross-examination of Ahmad Shafi Chowdhury, 10th prosecution witness in the Shazneen case and a friend of the victim's father, by lawyers of five of the six accused ended yesterday.

The lawyers of the accused Hasan, Badal, Shaniram, Minu and Parvin--cross-examined the witness for about two hours.

The cross-examination took place in the Second Special Tribunal

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PHOTO: STAR

Mohammad Kaif flicks a ball to reach 95 not out in yesterday's match against South Africa.

## India sink SA

SPORTS REPORTER

The new-look Indian team put up yet another spirited show to register their second successive victory in the TVS Cup triangular tournament at the floodlit Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Fresh after their 199-run thrashing of hosts Bangladesh in the opening match on Friday, Saurav Ganguly's committed crew inflicted a 153-run defeat on their opponents to put one foot in the April 20 final even before the halfway stage of the two-tier first phase.

Billed as a big match, the clash of the giants turned into a mismatch when Graeme Smith's South Africa were shot out for 154 chasing a huge Indian total of 307 for four.

The in-form Indian batsmen continued to revel on the slow Dhaka wicket after winning the toss again. Ganguly played a captain's knock of 75 to lay the foundation before Mohammad Kaif and Dinesh Mongia tore the toothless Protea bowlers to shreds.

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# Two-stroke ban lifts air quality

## Environmental scientist says 25pc pollution lowered in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Air quality in the capital has improved by 25 per cent following the ban on 18,000 two-stroke three-wheelers.

Disclosing this at a city roundtable, an environmental scientist said he is still not sure whether the improvement has brought pollution level below the harmful point or not.

Auto-rickshaw drivers at the roundtable organised by the World Bank (WB) castigated the government for not rehabilitating the two-stroke three-wheeler drivers.

Haji Md Fazlul Haq, president of the

Bangladesh Auto-rickshaw Malik Samity said, "We signed an agreement with the government which stated that about 500 auto rickshaws would be handed to us by September 2002. But we got only 50. In total, 5,000 four-stroke vehicles were supposed to be introduced, but it has not happened and our workers are passing days without any income."

Md Mamunur Rahman, pollution control planning officer of communication ministry, said, "It is true that many auto-rickshaw driv

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# Islamists' U-turn on Saddam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some Islamist parties have apparently changed their interpretation of the war on Iraq with the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime.

They have termed the toppled Iraqi leader as an 'autocrat' and an 'enemy' of Islam.

Nezami Islami Bangladesh, a segment of the Islami Oikya Jote, in a

statement said that the war on Iraq was a natural justice against the repressive and autocratic regime of Saddam's Ba'ath Party.

Mostafa Anwar Khan, an executive member of the party, expressed satisfaction over the fall of the Ba'ath Party regime.

But the Islamist parties have failed to exploit the situation arising

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## Tejgaon OC remanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Tejgaon Police Station Saud Ahsan who was 'closed' on Friday for alleged involvement in assaulting an army sergeant was placed on a day's remand yesterday.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) police produced

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
April 14		6-20 pm
April 15	5-38 am	

Prayer Timings		
April 14		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-15
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-26	6-32
Esha	7-35	8-00
Source: Islamic Foundation		