

Dhaka, Delhi talk thorny issues at JEC meet today

NAZMUL AHSAN
After a long six-year gap, the sixth meeting of the Joint Economic Commission (JEC) between India and Bangladesh begins today (Monday) in the capital.
Bangladesh side would be cautious in committing to sign any agreement on transshipment or transit with India during the JEC talks in response to the interest of India in this connection.

But it is likely to react positively to sign a free trade agreement (FTA) with India.
Meanwhile, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan yesterday said market access to Bangladeshi goods to India as well as removal of tariff, para-tariff and non-tariff barriers would be discussed at the meeting.
Talking to a group of newsmen at his office, he said Bangladesh will discuss everything that reflects wishes and aspirations of people.

Bangladesh will put stress on the revision of the 23-year-old Bangladesh-India bilateral trade agreement. But India has been showing little interest in the revision of the agreement by inserting a new clause, a demand from Bangladesh, which will provide Bangladesh items duty free access to the Indian market.
Issues like FTA, transit and transshipment are some of the important items to be tabled by the Indian side

in the discussion.
On the other hand, Bangladesh would lay stress on reducing trade imbalance through revision of bilateral trade agreement, elimination of Indian non-tariff barriers on Bangladeshi exporting items and duty free access to its products to India.
Bangladesh may agree to initiate a dialogue on FTA between the two countries.
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Audit finds Tk 18cr anomalies in R&H deptt

UNB, Dhaka
An official audit into the Roads and Highways (R&H) Department under communications ministry unearthed Tk 18.35 crore in irregularities and anomalies by the department officials and employees.
Twenty cases of "serious irregularities" were found during 1996 to 2001 fiscal and those were portrayed under 17 audit objections, the audit report revealed.
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Akbar faces PM heat

Khaleda orders actions against culprits for Meghna tragedy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain yesterday came under fire from the prime minister in the wake of the Chandpur launch capsizing that has added hundreds of passengers to the list of casualties in a series of such disasters in recent times, sources in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.
During an exclusive meeting with Akbar at the PMO, Khaleda Zia reprimanded the minister for his "inactive" role in discharging his

duties. She expressed her dissatisfaction at his failure to prevent the off-repeated fatalities or take legal action against those responsible for the accidents and demanded explanation for his "poor performance" despite repeated assurances to improve the situation.
Khaleda also questioned the "integrity, sincerity and responsibility" of the minister and his ministry officials concerned, and wanted to know from the minister why he did not visit the spot immediately after the accident.

The prime minister threatened action against Akbar Hossain if he failed to promptly come up with effective measures to halt such disasters in future.
Later during a formal meeting with some of her cabinet colleagues including the shipping minister, she ordered legal action against those responsible for the July 8 launch capsizing following recommendations of the committee investigating the accident.
LRD and Cooperatives Minister
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Lawyers bring out a silent procession as part of their protest at the appointment of a judge to the Appellate Division superseding his senior colleague in the High Court Division.

Seven bank directors' appointment cancelled

REJAUL KARIM BYRON
The central bank has recently cancelled the appointments of seven directors of two private commercial banks (PCBs).
The Bangladesh Bank (BB) also served show cause notices on the
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Lawyers stay out of SC over judge's appointment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Supreme Court Bar Association yesterday boycotted both divisions of the court protesting appointment of a judge to the Appellate Division superseding his senior colleague in the High Court Division.
The Bar also said it will boycott

Keraniganj murders Charge framed against BNP MP's brother

COURT CORRESPONDENT
The Speedy Trial Tribunal-4, Dhaka Division, yesterday framed charges against Reaz Uddin Ahmed Monir, brother of the ruling BNP MP Nasir Uddin Ahmed Pintu, and 22 others in connection with the Keraniganj double murder case.
Judge Jahangir Alam Mollah fixed July 16 for the trial of the case.
The other accused are Mohammad Mehbub, Zahedul Islam alias Saju, Mahub Hossain alias Palash, Mohammad Arif, Abdul Kader alias Kader, Mohammad Shahin, Jahangir alias Janu, Mohammad Hasan, Mousa alias Matu, Salahuddin, Chandu alias Chand Miah, Talim alias Talila, Pappu alias Russian Pappu, Mohammad Azad, Mohammad Motaieb, Mohammad Alam, Manzur alias Manzur Ali, Saku alias Shawkat, Javed, Azhar Hossain alias Dhanu, Mohammad Mesbah and Mohammad Mobarak.
Among the accused, Monir and eight others are in jail custody while 10 others are on bail. Talim, Azad, Javed and Mesbah have been absconding since the incident.
The tribunal yesterday cancelled Monir's bail and ordered that he be sent to Dhaka central jail following a prayer by the prosecution lawyers seeking cancellation of his bail.
In the petition, Special Public
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50 Sadarghat staff withdrawn, law watch still lax

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The government yesterday issued a set of orders reshuffling about 50 officials and employees of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) and the Department of Shipping posted to the Sadarghat launch terminal.
The orders replacing and releasing the officials and employees came in line with the government decision to change all staff at the terminal due to lax maintenance of discipline and safety rules, shipping ministry officials said.
The scene of the terminal, however, was virtually the same yesterday when hardly any law enforcement efforts could be noticed.
There were over two dozens of big launches moored to the terminal in the afternoon and some of them were loading cargoes, witnesses said.
The number of passengers was thin, a fallout from the
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FOOLS NEVER LEARN... Four days after the tragic launch capsizing in the Meghna, an overcrowded launch sallies for Dhaka from Bamna on Saturday. At Sadarghat launch terminal, iron rods are being loaded onto a vessel, a major reason for the capsizing in the Meghna.

Body-find hope all but over

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal
The hopes of recovering the bodies of passengers missing since Tuesday night's triple-deck launch disaster in the Meghna are practically over.
Five days after the deadliest launch capsizing in the latest in a series in Bangladesh, rescuers are yet to trace the MV Nasrin-1 that went down in the river after being
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Barrister Ishtiaq laid to rest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Renowned constitutional expert, lawyer and two-time adviser of the caretaker government Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed was buried at the Banani graveyard yesterday afternoon.
Barrister Ishtiaq died of old-age complications at 72 in BIRDEM Hospital in Dhaka on Saturday night.
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Flood takes more areas in its fold DND Dam out of danger

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The flood situation in the central and northern districts has worsened as the rivers in the Brahmaputra-Jamuna and the Ganges-Padma basins are still swelling.
Five people, including children, were washed away by strong currents in flood affected Taras, Ullapara, Kazipur and Chowhali upazila of Sirajganj district yesterday.
River erosion, collapse of embankments and onrush of upstream water overnight submerged several hundred more villages in northern and northwestern regions.
Meanwhile, the Dhaka
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Member REHAB

DCC nod for limited road digging

ABDUL KADER
Four utility service providers will start digging different points of 18 zonal roads soon on an approval from the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC).
The DCC One Stop Cell, formed three months back to coordinate road digging, gave the approval to Titas Gas, Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board, Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) and Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority yesterday, considering their urgency.
The four utility service agencies sought permission for digging 290 kilometres of road, but the DCC approved only 200 metres, mindful of monsoon. The DCC will be approving only the essential road digging from now on, Tapan Kumar Das Gupta, chief town planner of the DCC, told The Daily Star.
The DCC took the initiative for limited road digging to ease commuters' sufferings caused by haphazard digging in the city by about 3,000 kilometres of road, sources said.
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সচেতনতা ও সহযোগিতায়
শাহ্ সিমেন্ট 50.50.50.



বড়ির সাথে এবার হবে গাড়ি

অংশ নিব সহযোগিতায় অংশ নিব প্রতিযোগিতায়

এ প্রতিযোগিতার সময়কালে প্রতি কুপন ২.৫০ টাকা এসিডমুক্তদের সহায়তায় "প্রথম আলো সহায়ক তহবিল" এ প্রদান করা হবে।

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শাহ্ সিমেন্ট

জন্ম, সৃষ্টির লক্ষ্যে