

### BTTB cellphone tender stayed for 10 days as Chinese firm files writ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The launch of the Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board's (BTTB) cell phone project heads for a delay as a Chinese company filed a writ petition with the High Court (HC) Division Monday, feared sources in the industry.

The state-owned BTTB could not open the scheduled financial offer yesterday after the HC stayed the tendering process for 10 days.

The court also issued a show cause notice asking the government to explain why the project would not be declared illegal. The hearing takes place Monday.

The notice followed a writ petition by the telecommunication equipment vendor ZTE Corporation of China, which claimed that it was declared responsive in the preliminary evaluation but was announced non-responsive afterwards.

"The tendering process of the mobile phone project was done in a very transparent manner. So, there is no way for any company to make

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6



PHOTO: STAR

Drivers jostle for space as conductors hustle passengers into their buses yesterday on the stretch of a road between the Bangabandhu National Stadium and the Hockey Stadium -- the area that is now clustered with sidewalk ticket counters.

## Munshiganj erosion worsens with tide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

River erosion in Munshiganj and Faridpur districts has taken a serious turn with the recession of floodwaters, rendering hundreds of families homeless afresh.

Official sources in Munshiganj said as the river Padma eroded vast areas of the sadar upazila during the last couple of days, many additional families were made homeless.

They said the offices of

Department of Public Health and Engineering, Upazila Parishad Bhaban, Chairman's residence, officers' quarters and thana bhaban in Louhajang sadar have already been devoured by the river.

The river Padma has partially taken away the court bhaban, officers' quarters and pump house while nearly 1.50 km long river bank in the Louhajang upazila sadar was eroded during the last one week. The UNO office and two commercial banks had earlier been shifted to

the Louhajang college premises.

Besides, the staff quarters, thana dormitory, BADC office and godown, old conference room, and a number of private and public establishments are now under serious threat of being washed away. Locals fear that these structures would be devoured by the river if the erosion continued for another few days.

According to district administra

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

## JS body moves to recover grabbed Waqf land

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Religious Affairs Ministry has termed the Waqf Administration and the Waqf Ordinance 1962 'ineffective' and decided to recommend amendments to the ordinance to recover huge Waqf property from encroachers.

The committee took the decision yesterday at a meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad

Bhaban.

"Encroachers have grabbed at least seven lakh acres of Waqf land out of nine lakh acres. The Waqf Administration is incurring heavy losses every year due to various irregularities and corruption. We want to stop it," committee member Mohammad Sahiduzzaman of the BNP said.

"We want to recover Waqf property from encroachers and for this we will do everything needed, including amendment to the

ordinance," Sahiduzzaman said after the meeting.

Meeting sources said the committee also decided that its members would visit Pakistan and Malaysia to see how they manage Waqf property before making its recommendations.

A draft proposal to increase its manpower and take steps for

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

## Laloo for giving water to Bangladesh

PTI, New Delhi

In his inimitable style, RID supremo Laloo Prasad Yadav on Tuesday asked the government to reconsider giving water to Bangladesh from Bihar.

When told by Water Resources Minister Arjun Charan Sethi in Rajya Sabha that sufficient notice had to be given to raise the issue as the main question pertained only to water harvesting and storage in Rajasthan and UP, Yadav said the minister must come prepared for

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

## Policewomen withdrawn from traffic duty

### Restroom problem blamed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) temporarily withdrew the first batch of women traffic police from the city due to lack of infrastructural facilities.

They had to be withdrawn in the absence of restrooms and sheds near the places where they were posted.

However, the 40 women traffic police will be brought back to duty within a short time, DMP Commissioner Ashraf Huda told

The Daily Star yesterday.

"They will resume their duties after the required facilities are installed," he said. Proposals in this respect have been sent to the authorities concerned.

The women traffic police will wear comfortable boots and a hat-like cap instead of oblong caps, he said.

Meanwhile, the duration of their duty period might also be

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
July 30		6-43 pm
July 31	5-27 am	

Prayer Timings		
July 30		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	5-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-50	6-55
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation