

Clampdown on dishonest travel agents ordered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have been asked to launch an immediate clampdown on the travel agents, who are doing the manpower business illegally.

Countrywide ban on two-stroke vehicles soon

BSS, Dhaka

A countrywide ban on two-stroke three wheeler auto-rickshaws will come into effect very soon following consultation with parties concerned.

Addressing a discussion on "Role of people in Protecting Environment" on the occasion of

Galib denied bail in Brac office bomb attack case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A magistrate court here in Gaibandha rejected the bail petition of Ahle Hadith Andolon chief Asadullah Al Galib in connection with a bomb blast case at the Brac office in Mohimaganj on March 20.

It was the second bail move by

Frauds fleece fortune seekers with ease

PORIMOL PALMA

From early morning to late evening every office day, throngs of aspiring migrants are being cheated just at the doorstep of the District Employment and Manpower Office, paying illegal registration fees to brokers and even office employees themselves.

The crowds milling about the office each day intend to be registered with the manpower office database in the hopes of going abroad to Malaysia or other countries.

the registration process, starting from collecting the registration forms, filling them out, buying bank drafts, and 'managing the submission of the forms to the office'.

A notice posted outside on the wall of the manpower office clearly states that aspirants themselves have to submit their registration forms, and warns that nobody will be held responsible if someone unknown cheats them.

The large crowds are a telling sign that these regulations are being blatantly ignored. The registration

forms are given free of cost, and submitted attached to a bank draft of Tk 50 with Tk 18 as a bank charge.

But an aspiring migrant has to pay Tk 200 to 250 to a broker to fill it out and to supply the bank draft, this correspondent learned from a broker while posing as a potential migrant.

"I will charge only Tk 200 more if you want me to submit the form, and I can do it by 4:00pm today," the broker said.

One migrant, requesting anonymity, also revealed that manpower employees themselves also cheat migrants by demanding fees.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

HABIGANJ KILLINGS Why Qaiyum not be produced before court

HC asks govt on legality of his detention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday issued rule upon the government to explain in two weeks why direction should not be given to produce AKM

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

First private land phone in Ctg launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bay Phones, a joint venture between the US firm Westec.com Inc. and local Westec Limited, yesterday declared the launching of the country's first private fixed phone in the country's southeastern zone bringing an end to the monopoly of state-owned Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTB).

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Moudud claims media incorrectly reports his letter

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed on Thursday told journalists that the letter he had written to the speaker was not correctly reflected in the newspapers.

Denying the statement, as published in the newspapers about private members bill, the law minister blamed the journalists for

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



A transport owners' association has put up a banner arbitrarily designating the spot at Shahjahanpur under Khilgaon flyover for running their operations in a move to grab land.

Human wall staged amid stray violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The no-confidence human wall programme held by the 14-party opposition combine yesterday at the upazilas across the country witnessed some stray incidents of violence that left at least 45 people injured.

During the one-hour programme from 4:00pm, activists of the ruling BNP and its front organisations attacked the opposition men in Feni, Shariatpur, Pabna and Madaripur. In Bogra, a police constable was injured by brickbats thrown by Awami League (AL) workers.

The main opposition AL, left-leaning 11-party alliance, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) and National Awami Party (Nap) simul-

taneously staged the 4:00pm to 5:00pm demonstration demanding immediate resignation of what they said was its failure to deliver.

The programme, first of its kind at the grassroots, was also to protest frequent grenade and bomb attacks and price spiral of essentials.

FENI

Our Feni correspondent reports: Welding sharp weapons and sticks, a group of Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Jubo Dal activists attacked a human wall formed by AL supporters near Hazi Rahimullah Market at Sonagazi Sadar upazila at about 4:15pm.

The attack led by an alleged criminal named 'Boma' Siraj injured

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Dhaka to ask Delhi to put 300 products on Safta list

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka will request New Delhi to exclude about 300 products of Bangladesh's export interest from a sensitive list of some 900 items India wants to keep aside from free trade in South Asia.

The Saarc states have already exchanged their product lists for negotiations leading to striking the South Asian Free Trade Area (Safta) deal.

The request will be made at the seventh meeting of the expert committee to be held on March 22-24 in the Maldives, commerce ministry officials said.

A five-member expert delegation

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

INDIAN RIVER LINKING Dhaka to raise issue at next JRC meet

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka will raise the issue of Indian inter-river linking project at the next 36th Joint River Commission (JRC) meeting to solve the problems through bilateral discussion, said Water Resources Minister M Hafiz Uddin yesterday.

The minister told a press briefing

at his ministry that they would soon send a letter to his Indian counterpart to hold the JRC meet in Dhaka in May-June this year.

Dhaka has apprised New Delhi and donors of his worry about India's river-linking plan, he said, adding, they would take steps after observing the developments of the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

ALLEGATION OF SUPPORTING CRIMINALS Home probes former Rajshahi top cop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A two-member team from the home ministry yesterday began investigating allegations against former Superintendent of Police (SP) in Rajshahi Masud Mia, who is widely accused of abusing his power to demand bribes, issue death threats and support criminals, including the militant leader Bangla Bhai.

The committee, comprised of deputy secretary Abdur Rouf of the Home Affairs Ministry and AIG of police headquarters Hasanul Haider, reached Rajshahi last night and interrogated at least ten policemen at the Rajshahi SP office as of the filing of this report.

The committee will interrogate more than 21 policemen during its investigation, including Officers-in-

charge (OC) of Bagmara Golam Kibria, OC Puthia PS Akram Hossain, OC Charghat Abul Kalam Azad, OC Bagha Sarwar, reserve officer Bazlar Rahman, reserve inspector Asgor Ali, Inspectors Fazlur Rahman and Yusuf Ali, as well as five sub-inspectors, three ASI and five constables who were harassed by the former SP.

The committee will also meet with villagers of Bagmara upazila who allegedly fled their homes following threats by police, including the family of businessman Abdul Bari.

Sources said the committee was formed on March 17, after the Rajshahi divisional police authority reported to the home ministry that Masud Mia earned widespread notoriety during his stay in Rajshahi. Masud Mia was transferred to

Dhaka on March 5 after The Daily Star ran a report on March 1 revealing his support to the Islamist militant leader Bangla Bhai. He was stand-released on March 11 as he was 'forcibly staying in Rajshahi to collect money from his subordinates over their transfers and postings.'

Abdul Bari, who was waiting to be interrogated, told journalists that he had long been harassed by Masud Mia.

"The SP's men took my family to the Police station and threatened me with death in a crossfire, telling us we were outlaws," Bari said.

The probe team members disclosed further information about the former SP's illicit activities, saying that Masud Mia, after being denied the Tk 50,000 he demanded from OC Bagmara Golam Kibria,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Move to know Royal Bengal Tigers' habit

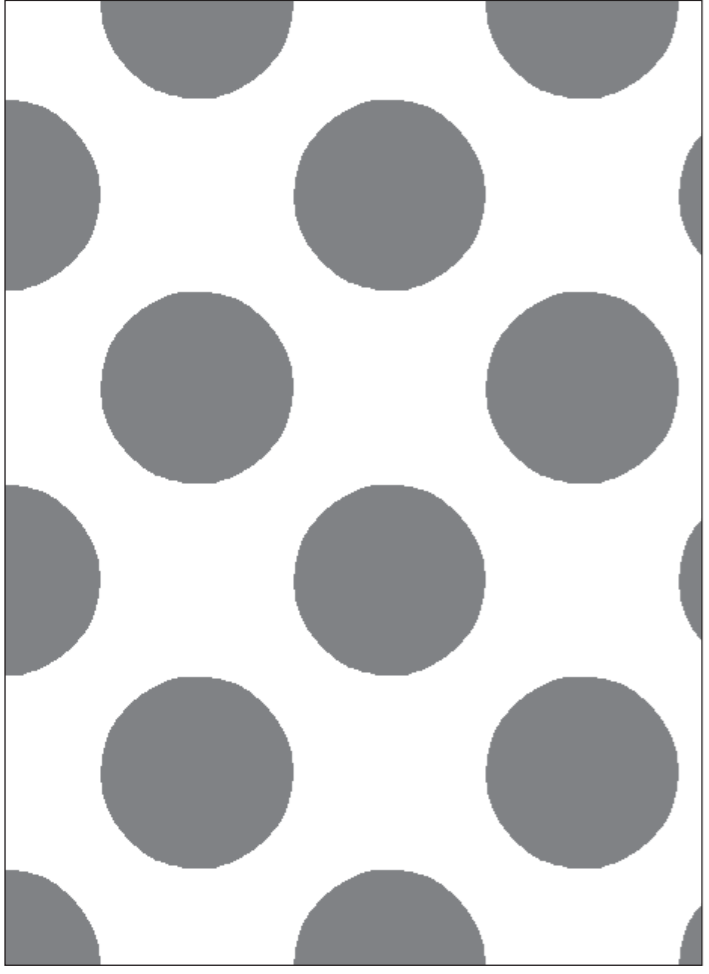
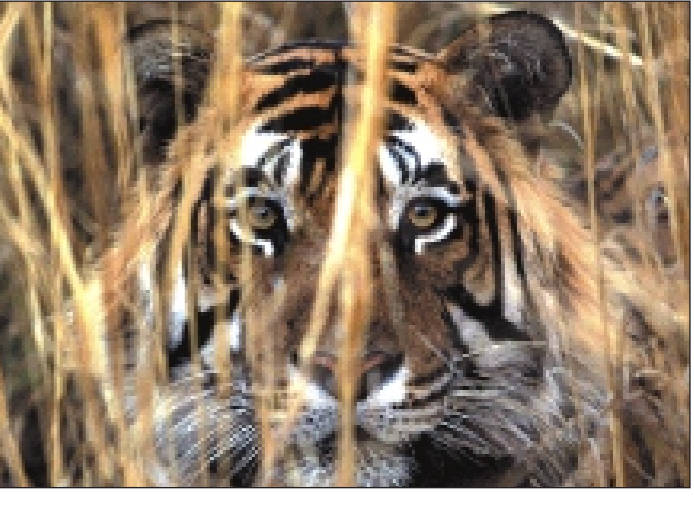
Wildlife experts of Bangladesh, US to use radio collars to collect data

AFP, Dhaka

Bangladesh and US wildlife experts have teamed up to place radio collars on Royal Bengal tigers living in a dense coastal mangrove forest to learn more about the habits of the elusive cats, officials said Sunday.

Little is known about the habits of an estimated 668 Royal Bengal tigers that live in the Sundarbans,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



Pakistan Kumble-ed

REUTERS, Kolkata

Leg-spinner Anil Kumble captured seven wickets for 63 to bowl India to a 195-run victory over Pakistan in the second Test on Sunday.

The 34-year-old bowler grabbed

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

CTG ARMS HAUL Yakub taken to JIC

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Mohammad Yakub, one of the five prime accused in the Chittagong arms haul case, was taken to the Joint Interrogation Cell (JIC) yesterday.

Deputy Commissioner

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Table with Prayer Timing for March 21, including Azan and Jamaat times for Fajr, Zohr, Asr, Maghrib, and Esha.