

IS code made mandatory for air passengers

UNB, Dhaka

Immigration service code (IS code) has been introduced for all air passengers as a mandatory requirement.

An immigration official told the news agency that the IS code system has been introduced with two objectives—to save time for passengers at the immigration and restrict passengers who are barred from leaving the country.

Both the arriving and departing passengers have to possess the IS code before they report to the immigration counter at Zia International Airport (ZIA).

The passengers need to fill up and submit the online embarkation/disembarkation forms.

Once a passenger gets the auto generated IS code, he/she will give it to his/her travel agent who will then insert the number in the passenger booking reference called PNR (passenger name recorder).

Failure to comply with the new

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Banks told to keep LC margin low

Central bank for engaging small traders in import to end monopoly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) yesterday asked commercial banks to keep the LC (letter of credit) margin at a tolerable level for the essential imports as its recent study reveals that some banks require up to 100 percent cash deposit.

The central bank governor, Salehuddin Ahmed, at a meeting with the top brass of the banks also asked for policies designed to encourage small traders to engage in import with a view to ending the monopoly of a few giant importers.

During the discussion, the bankers voiced discontent about 'indiscriminate' raids by the joint forces on different branches. They said the forces demand transactions and

accounts statements of particular clients, but on many occasions they could not produce warrants or necessary legal documents.

In response, Salehuddin said the government high-ups have assured the central bank that such raids would be stopped and the army-led crack forces would take the BB's assistance in collecting a person's bank statement.

The bank officials however welcomed the anti-graft crackdown and observed that the ongoing drives would bring positive changes in economy.

Coming out of the meeting, the BB governor told reporters, "In the past, a handful would eat the cake while now everyone—the poor and the honest—will have a slice of the

cake."

Replying to a query, he said the individuals, whose bank accounts have been frozen recently, would be allowed to withdraw a maximum of Tk 50,000 a month. The National Board of Revenue (NBR) recently froze accounts of a number of high profile people on charges of corruption and tax evasion.

On delay in release of products, Salehuddin said the banks have been asked to co-operate with the importers in securing customs clearance easily and quickly and the central bank too will help to that end.

He said, "We have directed the

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Mother, daughter among 4 killed in road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Four people, including a mother and her daughter, died and five others were injured in a road accident on the Dhaka-Tangail highway at Chhoydana in Mirzapur upazila yesterday.

Two of the dead were identified as Saleha Begum, 30, of Nallapara village in Delduar upazila of Tangail and her daughter Bilkis, 8. Identity of the remaining two could not be known.

Police and witnesses said the accident took place when a Dhaka-bound passenger bus from North Bengal collided head on with a Delduar-bound tempo from Gazipur at around 2:45pm, killing three passengers of the tempo on the spot and injuring six others.

Of the injured, one died on way to Mirzapur Kumudini Hospital while five others were admitted to the hospital.

Police recovered the bodies and sent them to Tangail General Hospital morgue for autopsy.



PHOTO: STAR

Barisal City Corporation uses this elephant during its ongoing drive to demolish illegal establishments yesterday.

Seized wildlife now enriches Safari Park

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Dulahazara Safari Park at Chokoria in Cox's Bazar is getting enriched with treasures of wildlife since late February, thanks to the forest department and joint forces' ongoing drive against illegally kept animals and birds as pets.

An increased number of wildlife lovers and general people have been visiting the sanctuary in recent times with a great deal of queries about each and every 'newcomer' to the park, Tapan Kumar Dey, divisional forest officer of Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Department, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Since the drive was launched on February 28, a total of 129 of different species of wildlife have been rescued by the joint team of forest

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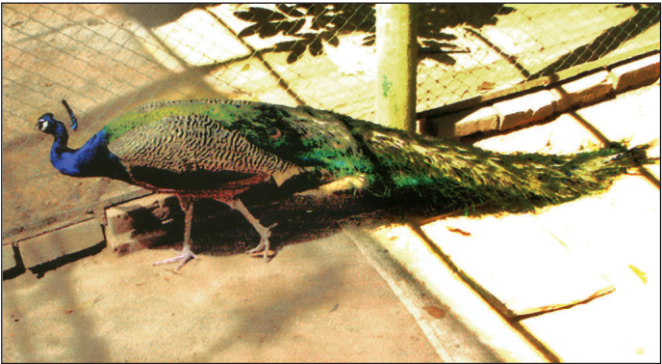
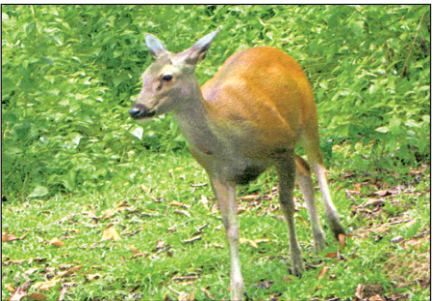


PHOTO: STAR

Animals seized by the joint forces are now at Dulahazara Safari Park in Cox's Bazar. Top: From left -- Emu, spotted deer and sambar deer. Bottom : Golden and silver pheasants and peacock.

10 JMB men held in C'nawabganj

Bogra madrasa teacher arrested as militant suspect

OUR CORRESPONDENT

C'nawabganj

Police arrested ten members of the outlawed Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) during their drives in different areas of the district on Sunday night.

The arrestees are Abdur Rahim, son of Nurul Huda of Tikrampur, and Yusuf Ali, son of Azahar Ali Molla of Chadlai under Chapainawabganj Municipality; Kayeshuddin, son of Ayub Ali of Kagman, Abdul Jalil, son of Yasin Ali, and Motalleb alias Masud, son of Belayet Ali of Chandpur Hajarbigi under Shahbajpur Union; Masud Rana, son of Abu Taleb, Kafiluddin, son of Haji Monjur of Dhobra under Kansat Union, Abdul Alim, son of Nazrul

Islam of Mohammadpur, Karim, son of Bhulu and Mostafa, son of Setabuddin of Umarpur under Shibganj upazila.

Police produced the JMB men in a court, which sent them to jail.

In Bogra, the law enforcers yesterday arrested a madrasa teacher for his alleged involvement with Jama'atul Mujahidin Bangladesh (JMB) at Joyvoga in Gabtoli upazila, according to our correspondent.

The officer-in-charge (OC) of Gabtoli Police Station told this correspondent over cell phone that the suspected JMB man, Abdulla, son of Abul Master, was arrested at a place near Joyvoga Dhakil Madrsa in the morning. He was sent to jail in the afternoon.

KAMAL MAJUMDER Stay on HC order against detention extended by 17 more days

UNB, Dhaka

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday stayed for 17 more days the operation of a High Court (HC) verdict that had declared illegal the detention of former Awami League lawmaker Kamal Ahmed Majumder and three others.

A five-member full bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice M Ruhul Amin, passed the order, as the government did not get the certified copy of the HC verdict for preparing ground of filing an application for leave to appeal.

On February 26, a High Court division bench, upon habeas corpus petitions challenging the legality of the government action, declared illegal the detention of

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3 Rab killing suspects killed in 'crossfire'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three people allegedly involved with the recent killing of two Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) men were killed in 'crossfire' on the outskirts of the city early yesterday.

The dead are Soheli Rana, 23, Saleh Ahmed, 25, and Mostaque Ahmed, 30.

With this the death tally stood at four, as another alleged murderer Mamun was killed in crossfire on March 06.

Sources said Rab arrested Soheli on Sunday morning from his residence at Gabtoli while Saleh was arrested from Lalbagh in the city. Mostaque was held from Sherpur.

On information given by the arrestees, Rab-11 members went with the three at Chishtia Filling Station at Aminbazar in Savar to recover hidden firearms.

As soon as the Rab members reached there at about 3:00am yesterday, the accomplices of the arrestees opened fire on them.

The victims were caught in the 'crossfire' following the Rab members' retaliation and died on the spot.

Soheli's family members alleged that Rab killed Soheli by mistake.

They said Soheli Rana, a bus driver on Sayedabad-Gabtoli route, was not connected with the Rab killing.

They claimed that Rab mistakenly arrested Soheli in place of his neighbour Soheli Khan, a notorious criminal.

Both Soheli Khan and Soheli Rana have a brother named Masud and Rab made the mistake at this point, they said.

Soheli's family members also alleged that Rab picked up five of them from their house, as they (Rab men) could not find Soheli there.

"Rab members left a contact number with the other family members and asked them to tell Soheli to surrender. Otherwise the five would be killed in crossfire," one of Soheli's brothers said.

Rab freed the family members following Soheli's surrender at 11:00 am on Sunday.

Talking to The Daily Star, an official of the three-member investigation committee formed after the Rab killing denied the fact and said there is no chance of making such mistake as Rab arrested them after confirming their involvement with the killing.

About motive of Rab members'

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Hasina may fly to US on Thursday

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina is likely to leave Dhaka for US on Thursday to see her ailing daughter-in-law in Washington.

Her son Joy's wife, Christina, has been suffering from gall bladder complications. She had an operation recently but again developed some complications.

Asked if Hasina requires

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Commissioner Qaiyum, wife asked to place banking details

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) yesterday asked Dhaka City Corporation Commissioner MA Qaiyum and his wife Shamim Ara to submit their bank account details by March 19.

They were asked to submit

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Malaysia targets 6 lakh illegal workers

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia plans to arrest up to half a million illegal foreign workers this year, the immigration enforcement director said yesterday, as officials voice fears over immigrant criminals.

A citizen volunteer corps known as RELA, which assists law enforcement agencies, has been mobilised to help police and immigration officers crack down on an estimated 600,000 illegal migrant workers, Ishak Mohamed, the department of immigration's enforcement director, said.

"As of today, RELA have checked 46,000 foreigners and 8,500 arrests have been made," Ishak told AFP.

"Our target is to arrest 400,000-500,000 illegals and we are also looking out to arrest as many as possible employers who hire foreigners illegally," he said.

A Malaysian junior minister last month called for a review of foreign worker recruitment policies, citing what he said were large numbers of foreigners in jail.

Deputy Internal Security Minister Fu Ah Kiow said 34 percent of

35,000 people in Malaysia's prisons were foreigners, the state Bernama news agency said.

Malaysia is also mulling a bill which would recommend that workers register with their employers if they wished to go out during breaks or days off, while the country's police chief reportedly suggested confining foreigners to their workplaces and putting them under 24-hour surveillance to prevent crime.

Ishak said those apprehended were mainly Indonesians. They are placed in detention centers where they will be charged for illegal entry, jailed and caned before being deported home.

His comments came as the deputy chief of mission at Indonesia's embassy, Abdulrahman Mohamad Fachir, said employers of illegal workers should receive the same punishment as the workers.

"We do not mind if our citizens are caned as long as the same applies to employers," Abdulrahman said, according to the New Straits Times daily on Sunday.

"If there are too many illegals, it is because there must be many

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PHOTO: STAR

Mobile court men check fake cosmetics at Century Chemical Company at Rahmatganj in the capital yesterday.

Mahmudur sues The Daily Star for Tk 25cr defamation

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Former energy adviser Mahmudur Rahman yesterday filed a case against The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam and five other journalists of the daily claiming Tk 25 crore as compensation for running a defamatory news item on February 5.

The news item published in the daily on February 5 said Mahmudur was among the 41 "big fish" who had been hiding since the law enforcers' crackdown began.

Judge Abul Kashem of the Fourth Joint District Judge's Court, Dhaka, fixed April 12 for next hearing of the case.

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Prayer Timing		
March 13		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-05	5-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-12	6-15
Esha	7-30	8-00
Source: Islamic Foundation		