



Hundreds of vehicles get stuck in gridlock at Paltan intersection in the city yesterday, causing suffering to the commuters and the pedestrians.

2,200 litres of stolen furnace oil, diesel, petrol recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Joint forces and Rab-6 recovered 2,200 litres of furnace oil, diesel and petrol at Formaish Khana ghat under Digholia upazila in Khulna yesterday and arrested two people who were arrested in this connection.

The arrested were identified as Mazharul Anwar alias Thomas, 27, and Kazi Alamgir Hossain, 43. Thomas is son of UP member Sheikh Anwar Hossain and an alleged ringleader of a gang of black marketers.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) recovered 1,935 litres of furnace oil from possession of Thomas which was stolen on September 26 from a ship named Summit which anchored at skid ghat under Khulna Sadar Police Station, Rab sources said.

Later, Rab recovered 180 litres of diesel and 100 litres of petrol from possession of Alamgir.

The arrestees were handed over to Digholia police. Rab-6 filed a case in this connection.

The furnace oil, diesel and petrol were purchased for Khulna power station.

'Dhaka, Tokyo share excellent relations'

Iftekhar greets new Japanese FM

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury has greeted Masahiko Komura for his appointment as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

Your appointment to this exalted position is a reflection of the trust and confidence reposed upon you by the government and the people of Japan, said Iftekhar in a message of felicitation.

He said Bangladesh and Japan share excellent relations that have progressively widened over the years between the two friendly countries.

The adviser expressed his hope that the close ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries will acquire greater momentum in the years to come.



PHOTO: ISPR
Managing Director of Khulna Shipyard Ltd Captain RU Ahmed hands over a newly built harbour patrol boat to DG of Coastguard Commodore M AK Azad yesterday. Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam attended the ceremony as the chief guest.

Bangladeshi cattle trader shot dead by BSF

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) yesterday shot dead a Bangladeshi cattle trader on Goga border.

The dead was identified as Shahjahan, 24, son of Ramzan Prodhania of Goga village.

BDR sources said BSF members of Pepoli camp fired on a group of cattle traders early yesterday when they were returning to Bangladesh from India.

Shahjahan died on the spot. BSF took away the body.

'Wari-Bateswar to be developed as tourist spot'

DU CORRESPONDENT

The government is to develop Wari-Bateswar, being considered as one of the earliest civilisations discovered in the country, as a tourist spot.

With a view to familiarise Wari-Bateswar, situated in Narshingdi district, a rally and discussion was organised there yesterday on the occasion of the World Tourism Day 2007.

The programme began with a colourful procession led by Narshingdi Deputy Commissioner Md Zillur Rahman that started from Bateswar High School and ended at the archaeological site.

Along with a good number of school students and teachers, local people, Belabo Upazila Nirbahi Officer Nurul Alam, Prof Sufi Mustafizur Rahman and the students of archaeology department of Jahangirnagar University (JU) took part in it.

Later a discussion was held there.

At the discussion, Mohammad Habibullah Pathan read out a written statement highlighting the importance of the Wari-Bateswar.

He is the son of late Mohammad Hanif Pathan, a schoolteacher who first brought the archaeological importance of Wari-Bateswar to

light in the 1930s.

An exhibition on the artefacts found at the site was arranged by the excavation team.

A team of JU archaeology department led by Prof Sufi Mustafizur Rahman have been carrying out the excavation in phases at the site, three km west of Belabo Police Station of Narsingdi, since 2000.

Wari-Bateswar will be developed as a tourist spot as it is an important and attractive archaeological site in the country, said Zillur Rahman.

The government is planning to improve the condition of roads in the area for easy movement of archaeologists, researchers and tourists from home and abroad, he said, adding that a rest house will be will constructed there to facilitate their stay.

Prof Sufi thanked the government for organising the programme for the first time.

He said any kind of government assistance in excavation and preserving the elements of the site will be a great contribution to his team.

Take initiative to reduce trade gape

President urges China

UNB, Dhaka

investment in Bangladesh.

Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday urged the Chinese government for taking initiatives to reduce the trade gap, heavily tilted in favour of China.

He also stressed the need for enhancing bilateral trade and commerce between the two countries.

The remarks came when a 14-member Chinese Parliamentary delegation, led by Wang Zhongyu, senior most vice-president of the 10th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), called on the president.

Welcoming the delegation, the president expressed satisfaction at their visit to Bangladesh.

He thanked the Chinese government for granting duty-free access to 84 products from Bangladesh under the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement and urged to provide more facilities to Bangladeshi products under the provision of the Agreement.

He also called for more Chinese

cooperation for the mutual benefit of the two friendly, neighboring countries. They termed the existing bilateral relations between the two countries as excellent, saying that it would be further strengthened and consolidated in the days to come.

Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Zheng Qingdian, Military Secretary to the President Major General M Aminul Karim, Secretary Sirajul Islam, Press Secretary Abdul Awal Howlader and concerned officials from both the countries were present on the occasion.

The delegation members included Chairman of CPPCC Henan Provincial Committee Wang Quanshu, CPPCC National Committee Deputy Secretary-General Sun Huashan, CPPCC National Committee Foreign Affairs Bureau Deputy Director-General Xie Bohua and Division Director of Ministry of Public Security Li Shuqi.

The delegation told the president