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STAFF CORRESPONDENT

action against stalkers.

#### Vow to build green S Asia

Saarc leaders adopt statement on tackling climate change UNB, Thimphu

The 16th Saarc Summit yesterday adopted the Thimphu Statement on Climate Change, expressing a determination to make South Asia a world leader in low-carbon technologies and renewable :

The statement adopted on : the concluding day of the ; summit emphasised the . importance of reducing: dependence on high-carbon SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

### Nuke rivals to resume peace talks

Manmohan, Gilani meet in Thimphu

AFP, Thimphu

India and Pakistan took a significant step towards . resuming their frozen peace . dialogue yesterday as their : prime ministers held direct . talks for the first time in nine . months.

During the discussions in · the Bhutanese capital: Thimphu, which both sides : described as positive, the two . leaders agreed that their . respective foreign ministers: would meet soon to draw up a road map for future talks.

The officials would work out "the modalities of restoring trust and confidence in the : relationship and thus paving the way for a substantive SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

ATTACK ON TAPOSH

DB report

by July 21

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked

detective branch of police to

submit by July 21 the probe

report of the bomb attack on

Awami League lawmaker

Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh in

Third Additional Chief

Metropolitan Magistrate

Mohammad Ali Hossain

passed the order as the DB

Assistant Commissioner

Akbar Hossain failed to sub-

mit its probe report by yester-

a bomb at Taposh's car in front

of his law chamber at

Motijheel on October 21 last

year, leaving 13 people

injured. Taposh, however,

has so far arrested eight peo-

ple for their alleged involve-

Following the incident, DB

**SEE PAGE 15 COL 3** 

escaped unhurt.

ment with the attack.

Unknown assailants hurled

October last year.

# Saarc sings for democracy

Summit ends with Silver Jubilee Declaration; 2 agreements signed; next summit in Maldives

UNB, Thimphu

The two-day Saarc Summit concluded yesterday with a 36-point 'Thimphu Silver Jubilee Declaration' that endorses Bangladesh's proposal for a "Charter of Democracy" for regional cooperation aimed at nations. strengthening good governance.

Saarc leaders appreciated that all the member states had evolved into multi-party democracies, and underlined the challenges they still face in ensuring effective, efficient, transpar-

ent and accountable government for their peoples.

Bangladesh's proposal to convene an inter-governmental meeting in Dhaka on taking forward the idea of a Saarc Charter of Democracy was noted by the leaders of the eight

Meanwhile, two agreements --Saarc Convention on Cooperation on Environment and Trade in Services -were signed at the concluding session of the summit.

countries signed the agreements on behalf of their respective govern-

The Convention on Cooperation on Environment aims at promoting regional cooperation in preserving the environment and mitigating the impacts of the climate change.

The agreement on Trade in Services is aimed at increasing trade cooperation and integrating the regional economy.

The foreign ministers of the Saarc held in the Maldives in 2011. Saarc

leaders at the concluding session of the Thimpu summit welcomed the offer of the government of the island nation to host the next sum-

South Asian leaders, at the concluding session of the summit, recommended that a 'Conclave of Saarc Parliamentarians' in line with the Saarc Charter be convened, and directed the Saarc Secretariat to convene a Working Group comprising The 17th Saarc Summit will be nominees of the member states to

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

India keen

on seeing

Delhi deals

Manmohan tells

Hasina

BSS, Thimphu

January this year.

implemented

India has been expediting the

implementation process of

various agreements, including

export of 200MW electricity

and providing one billion

dollars soft loan to

Bangladesh, signed in Delhi

between the two countries in

Manmohan Singh said this to

Bangladesh premier Sheikh

Hasina when she paid a cour-

tesy call on him at India House

in the Saarc Village in

leaders discussed various

issues of bilateral and

During the meeting the two

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Thimphu yesterday morning.

Indian Prime Minister

### ministry, said Abdus Sobhan. Incidents of tender manipulation, extortion and stalking reached an intolerable level and caused embarrassment to the They were not

Target stalkers

Home ministry sits with heads

The home ministry will hold talks with the heads of educational

institutions in the capital in a day or two to decide on taking

day or two to take action against stalkers," Home Secretary

"We shall sit with the heads of educational institutions in a

Prime Ministers' Office in a letter to the home ministry

Premier's Principal Secretary MA Karim sent the letter to the

recently asked it to take stern action against those involved in

of educational instts soon

Abdus Sobhan Sikder told The Daily Star last night.

tender manipulations, extortion and stalking.

aware of power EC Sohul tells of executive magistrates for trying poll offences in Bhola

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Executive magistrates engaged in electoral duties in Bhola-3 bypoll were unaware of their magisterial authority to hold trial of electoral offences summarily, an election commissioner said yesterday.

"The executive magistrates could not punish anyone during the by-election as they were unaware of their jurisdiction, Election Commissioner Muhammed Sohul Hussain told journalists after a meeting with 28 executive magistrates at the con-

ference room of the Election Commission Secretariat. The Mobile Court Act empowers executive magistrates, who are also admin cadres, to sentence an offender to up to two years' imprisonment and slap a fine.

The executive magistrates had the authority to hold trial of electoral offences summarily and were also responsible for assisting the striking forces of law enforcement agencies.

Sohul said the executive magistrates could have easily held

**SEE PAGE 15 COL 4** 



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks with her Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh at a bilateral meeting on the sideline of the 16th Saarc Summit in Thimphu, Bhutan yesterday. PHOTO: PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU, INDIA

# Court asks for Knock down all

illegal billboards HC asks authorities; revokes stay order

on demolition of rooftop hoardings STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday lifted the stay on dismantling hazardous rooftop billboards it had earlier imposed following a writ petition.

The court also directed the authorities concerned to immediately remove all unauthorised billboards on streets and rooftops in the capital to save lives of citi-

An HC bench delivered its verdict after final hearing on the writ petition. The bench was comprised of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and justice Md Delwar Hossain.

President of Outdoor Advertising Owners' Association Rafiqul Islam filed the writ petition in September 2007, challenging a Rajuk (Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha) notice asking house owners and advertising firms to immediately remove all unauthorised billboards from

In October the same year, the HC stayed operation of the notice. Then on October 16, it extended the stay order and issued a rule on Razuk to explain why its notice should not be declared

Dhaka City Corporation and Rajuk authorities, assisted by Dhaka Metropolitan Police, will remove the illegal hoardings as per the HC directives in its verdict.

The court noted that unauthorised billboards fell down at times causing deaths in the capital in the past.

No law will be violated if those billboards are removed since protecting the lives of people and their property is supreme law, it observed.

Respondents to the writ petition are constitutionally and legally bound to protect the rights of people, it said.

During the hearing, counsels for Rajuk told the court that due to the HC stay order, the DCC could not remove the illegal billboards from rooftops SEE PAGE 15 COL 3 MUTINY TRIAL AT PILKHANA

## Male nurse helped remove 40 bodies

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

All eyes were set on nayek subedar Torab Hosain Khan when he told a BDR court yesterday about his involvement in removing over 40 bodies of slain army officers from the Darbar Hall.

The 57-year-old nurse was among 256 alleged mutineers of the BDR Hospital Unit who were hauled before the Special Court-6 set up at the Pilkhana headquarters of the border guards.

Prosecutor of this case Lt Col SMA Al-Muid during his submission said 16 of the accused including medical assistant Torab and JCO (junior commanding officer) Monaranjan Sarker were involved in removing the bodies. President of the three-member court Maj Gen M Mainul

Islam, also director general of BDR, asked Torab how many bodies he had removed during the mutiny held on February 25-26 last year.

Sitting in the dock, at first he tried to deny his involvement but eventually admitted that he along with others had removed 40 to 42 bodies.

"We removed the bodies from 2:00pm to 5:00pm [on February 25]," he told the court.

Torab said he didn't know when the officers were killed as the

court asked him about the time.

He however said he had recognised the body of slain former DG Maj Gen Shakil. Asked by the court if he showed honour to the body, he said, "As a force member I gave salute to his body when I first saw him."

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



**Torab Hosain Khan** 

DMCH staff

recruitment

cancelled for

The health ministry yesterday

cancelled the appointments of

354 third and fourth class

employees at the Dhaka

Medical College Hospital for

huge irregularities in the

informed the hospital author-

Haque at a meeting cancelled

the appointments and asked

The ministry in a letter

Health Minister AFM Ruhal

recruitment process.

ities of the cancellation.

anomalies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

# 4 back home, tell of horror

Promised of jobs in Switzerland 31 seamen left stranded aboard ships at Benin coast

PORIMOL PALMA

The Bangladeshi seamen stranded offshore Benin had been promised jobs in Switzerland but were left in the ships in rough Atlantic ever since they had left the country in late last December.

The four seamen, who arrived in Shah Jalal International Airport at 5:00am yesterday by a Qatar Airways flight, told journalists how they were cheated and humiliated by shipping agents in Chittagong and their Greek

employer Golden Shipping SA. Ashraful Alam, Zulfikar Ali, Shahadat Hossain and Fazlul Haque returned from the horrible situation, but 27 more are still there on eight ships several miles off the port

in the West African country. "I was promised a monthly salary



Ashraful Alam with his 6-year-old son on his return home from offshore Benin where he was stranded aboard a ship for about two months. PHOTO: STAR

of \$3,800 in Switzerland, but they at its office. "Now I have returned sent me to Benin," Ashraful Alam, a empty-handed. I could not even nautical officer, told The Daily Star bring a packet of candy for my kid."

He said they often faced shortage

of food, water and fuel, while rough weather and possibility of terror attacks put them under constant threats on their lives.

Another returnee Fazlul Haque said, "I could not eat anything. Vomiting was a regular incident. A colleague got severe back pain but there was no scope for treatment."

The seamen said the Golden Shipping SA, which had financial issues with the Nigerian authorities, was trying to sell the ships. Complications also arose as the ships were not registered with the International Maritime Organisation, they said. This, however, could not be confirmed.

The Chittagong-based shipping agents, SIS and KSF that had sent the seamen, said they maintained all

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## Schoolboy killed for ransom

Relative abducted him 3 days ago

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rab recovered the body of schoolboy Oli from a maize field at Berabari village in Mohonpur upazila yesterday after three days of his abduction.

Mukul Hossain abducted his wife's cousin Mostafizur Rahman Oli, 8, a class three student of Krishnapur Government Primary School,

from the school on Monday morning for ransom. A team of Rab 5 arrested Mukul from Berabari Purbopara

tracking his mobile phone at 7:00pm on Wednesday. Following Mukul's confessional statement, Rab arrested Shaheb Ali, Oli's brother-in-law, from Upashahar area in the city at 2:00am yesterday and recovered the body from under earth of the field around 7:00 am.

Rab brought Mukul before reporters at its headquarters. SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

the authorities concerned to issue a letter to the hospital

authorities, ministry sources We got the order of canceling the recent appointments

of those third and fourth class SEE PAGE 15 COL 2