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The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



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CUBA CELEBRATES

The country marks 50 years of victory at the Bay of Pigs and declaration of socialism

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LOOKING BACK TO MUJIBNAGAR

Syed Badrul Ahsan discusses the significance of Mujibnagar government formed this day in 1971

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J LO RULES

Jennifer Lopez has been named People Magazine's most beautiful woman in the world

6 die from bus-top fall

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Gaibandha

Six died and 25 were injured falling off the roof of a Dhaka-bound bus at Tulshighat in the district early yesterday.

The deceased Shahinur Rahman, 35, Ranju Mia, 28, Titu, 33, Shakib, 36, and Jhilim Khan, 60, hailed from Sadullapur and Fulchhari upazilas of the district. However, one deceased could not be identified as of filing the report.

The bus of Shaikat Paribahan hit a tree around 1:00pm spilling the passengers perched on top of the roof into the adjacent ditch, said Mashiur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Gaibandha

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Equal transit fees for all countries

Tariff Commission recommends fees of \$4-\$50 per tonne of goods

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh should charge between \$4 and \$50 for a tonne of goods in transit fees depending on routes chosen by the user, according to a recommendation report of the Tariff Commission on transit.

The rate of charge may be equally applicable to India, Nepal and Bhutan, it said.

The committee on transit led by Tariff Commission Chairman Mujibur Rahman submitted the report to the commerce ministry last week. The rate will be fixed at an inter-ministerial meeting.

The recommendations were made on the basis of reports of five sub-committees on transit route, charge, volume of traffic, investment, and benefit.

Mujibur Rahman told The Daily Star on Thursday, "We have submitted the report online and recommended the imposition of charge in line with World Trade Organisation rules". He, however, did not elaborate.

Rahman said it cannot be assessed how much benefit Bangladesh will reap by providing the facility until the transit system is implemented. On charging fees, the report said,

all relevant ministries and agencies such as the National Board of Revenue (NBR), Ministry of Communications and Ministry of Environment, need to sit together under the leadership of the Ministry of Commerce and finalise the transit charge based on a calculation of user charges in different categories.

The report said Bangladesh may negotiate with the countries, which can use transit facility, about the percentage of savings it could receive from them. After settling the amount through discussion, it could be incorporated in the transit charge.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

STOCK INVESTIGATION REPORT Scamsters out to discredit probe

STAR REPORT

An influential section of businessmen and politicians, who allegedly siphoned off large sums of money from the share market, is now trying to discredit the government's probe committee report on the securities market scam to avert punishment.

The section is also lobbying hard to ensure that the government agencies do not go head with further investigations beyond the primary findings. Finance ministry sources said the section has even threatened different policymakers with putting the stock market through another turmoil if the government proceeds with any investigation.

A four-member probe committee led by Krishi Bank Chairman Khondker Ibrahim Khaled had prepared the report.

The group has targeted Khondker Ibrahim Khaled. It wants to make him controversial.

This was evident in a news item of a news agency Friday where Ibrahim Khaled was quoted as saying on a television channel that he wanted share-market

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Investors swindled thru' share conversion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unscrupulous beneficiaries used preference shares as a tactic to fleece people in the stockmarket, cashing in on the weakness of existing rules, found the government probe body on the recent stockmarket crash.

They swindled investors converting preference shares into ordinary ones on the share market, said the committee in its report.

Preference share is a special equity security -- generally considered a hybrid instrument -- has

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



An elephant, with a young one, trying to eat the leaves of a tree at the Pablakhali Wildlife Sanctuary in Rangamati. Elephant food in this sanctuary has largely been wiped out by new settlers. Inset, locals irritating a migrating herd of elephants.

PHOTO: COURTESY DR REZA KHAN

RESERVE FORESTS DISAPPEARING

Elephants left to starve

PINAKI ROY

People are illegally clearing the reserve forests and occupancies of elephant corridors, creating acute food shortage for the animals, changing their food habit and inviting more human-elephant conflicts.

Wild elephants are badly suffering from lack of food even in the country's wildlife sanctuaries. As a result, the Asian elephants in Bangladesh are forced to change their food habit and eat Brazilian plant species hyacinths.

Experts say elephants eating

hyacinths is not a natural phenomenon and suggest that the government immediately plant elephant fodder in the forests.

A group of wildlife experts have recently visited Pablakhali wildlife sanctuary where they found newly settled people clearing all the bushes of the

reserve forest, leaving a herd of wild elephants no alternative to living on hyacinths.

"I have never seen elephants eating hyacinths. This is not natural," said Dr Reza Khan, elderly wildlife expert of the country.

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Danger lurks at drug stores

Lack of trained salesmen leads to sale of wrong medicine

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

Suffering from a severe toothache, 25-year-old Tonni visited a dentist and was prescribed Velox, an antibiotic.

When she presented the prescription to a drug store in the capital's Nilkhet, the salesman sold her Valex, another antibiotic used to treat epilepsy.

As her body did not respond to the drug, she checked the prescription with another pharmacy and was told that she was on wrong medicine.

Tonni's case is not an exception. Such negligent sale of drugs is common in Bangladesh threatening lives of patients, pharmacologists observed.

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4 die inside septic tank

STAR REPORT

Four labourers died after inhaling toxic gas while working in a septic tank of an under-construction building in Satkania upazila of Chittagong yesterday.

The deceased are Md Khorshed Alam, 28, son of Nurul Islam, Md Anwar, 27, son of Badshah Mia, Md Sohul, 23, and Md Shawkat, 25, sons of Kabir Ahmed of the area.

Khaled Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Satkania Police Station, and locals said the workers met their tragic end around 5:30pm in a building of one Ismail Sawdagor in Keuchia Burungchhara area of the upazila.

One of the labourers entered the tank and fell unconscious. Later, others met the same fate as they climbed down into the tank one after another to rescue their fellow worker, they added.

They might have died of inhaling toxic gas, the OC said.

On information, Fire Service personnel and police

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Grabbers saved, not the rivers


Environmentalists decry exclusion of foreshore lands in river demarcation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government move to demarcate the rivers of Dhaka without foreshore would be counterproductive, observed environmentalists.

It is also a violation of High Court orders and relevant laws for conserving rivers, they said at a press conference organised yesterday by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan (BAPA) at Cidrap auditorium in the capital.

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সেন্ট্রাল উইমেন্স ইউনিভার্সিটি
(শিক্ষিত নারী ক্ষমতার উৎস)
বাংলাদেশ সরকার ও বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত
স্থাপিত : ১৯৯৩

সম্পূর্ণ নতুন ব্যবস্থাপনায় শাস্রীয় ফি তে ভর্তি চলছে

চার বছর মেয়াদী স্নাতক ডিগ্রী কোর্স <ul style="list-style-type: none">বিবিএকম্পিউটার সাইন্স এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং (সিএসই)ইংরেজীসোশিওলজী এন্ড জেন্ডার স্টাডিজপলিটিকাল সাইন্স এন্ড গভর্ন্যান্স স্টাডিজজিওগ্রাফি এন্ড এনভায়রনমেন্টাল স্টাডিজহিস্ট্রি অফ দি মুসলিম ওয়ার্ল্ড	এক/দুই বছর মেয়াদী স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রী কোর্স <ul style="list-style-type: none">এমবিএইংরেজীসোশিওলজী এন্ড জেন্ডার স্টাডিজঅর্থনীতিপলিটিকাল সাইন্স এন্ড গভর্ন্যান্স স্টাডিজজিওগ্রাফি এন্ড এনভায়রনমেন্টাল স্টাডিজহিস্ট্রি অফ দি মুসলিম ওয়ার্ল্ডবাংলা
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ভর্তির যোগ্যতাঃ এইচ.এস.সি ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ২.৫ ইউনিভার্সিটি অফ লন্ডন অথবা ক্যামব্রিজ থেকে কমপক্ষে ৩টি বিষয়ে জিসিই 'এ' লেভেল।	ভর্তির যোগ্যতাঃ স্নাতক পাস
যোগ্য ও মেধাবী ছাত্রীদেরকে আর্থিক সহায়তা দেওয়া হবে।	
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QUBEE

PM influencing judiciary

Says BNP about cases against Tarique, Koko

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the main opposition BNP yesterday accused the prime minister of influencing the judiciary through her comment at a cabinet meeting that the proceedings of cases against Tarique and Koko should be accelerated.

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