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A LOST WORLD

Scientists find ancient landscape beneath the sediment of the North Atlantic Ocean
PAGE 12

COTTON CONCERN

Demand for cotton may shrink this year as consumption slows down
PAGE B8

"BE MORE MODEST"

China's top general slams the US for naval exercises in the South China Sea
PAGE 7

Schoolboys' trip of death

43 students killed as truck plunges into ditch; driver said to be talking on mobile, flees; nation in mourning

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A truck packed with students crashed and flipped over into a ditch in Mirsarai upazila yesterday afternoon, killing at least 43 of them and injuring another 12.

Forty-one of the dead were schoolchildren and two college students. The deceased were aged between 10 and 18. They were returning home

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MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 3

A wrecker tries to salvage a truck that flipped over into a water-filled ditch, with around 60 students on board, at Mirsarai upazila in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: FOCUSBANGLA



Death tears twins apart

DWAIPAYAN BARUA and ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Mohammad Sakhawat, class-V student of Abu Torab Government Primary School in Chittagong, plumbs the depths of pain after a road accident yesterday separated him from his twin brother Mohammad Ferdous for life.

Sakhawat played for his school in a football match yesterday while his brother Ferdous

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RELIGION-BASED PARTIES Hartal ends, agitation Friday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twelve like-minded political parties, most of them Islamists, have announced to continue anti-government agitation if the phrase "absolute trust and faith in Almighty" is used.

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Half of July goes to hartal, weekends

Businesses count losses

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

Iftakher Uddin Farhad, a ceramic product exporter, suffered a loss of Tk 10 lakh failing to ship goods to the US and the UK on July 7, the second day of a 48-hour hartal. "This is unjust. Now I am in trouble... I

have to pay the factory staffs," said Iftakher, chairman and managing director of export-oriented FARR Ceramics.

Anwar-ul Alam Chowdhury Parvez, a leading garment exporter, had to send goods by air at three times the cost of

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NEWS ANALYSIS

A joke indeed

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK AND RASHIDUL HASAN

Jamaat-e-Islami sprang quite a surprise when it accused the ruling Awami League of conspiring to turn Bangladesh into Pakistan.

Many find it amusing since the accuser is the party that collaborated with the Pakistani occupation forces in 1971 to massacre Bengalees, and the accused is the party that led the Liberation War.

At a press briefing on Friday, Jamaat's acting secretary

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AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL WORKERS

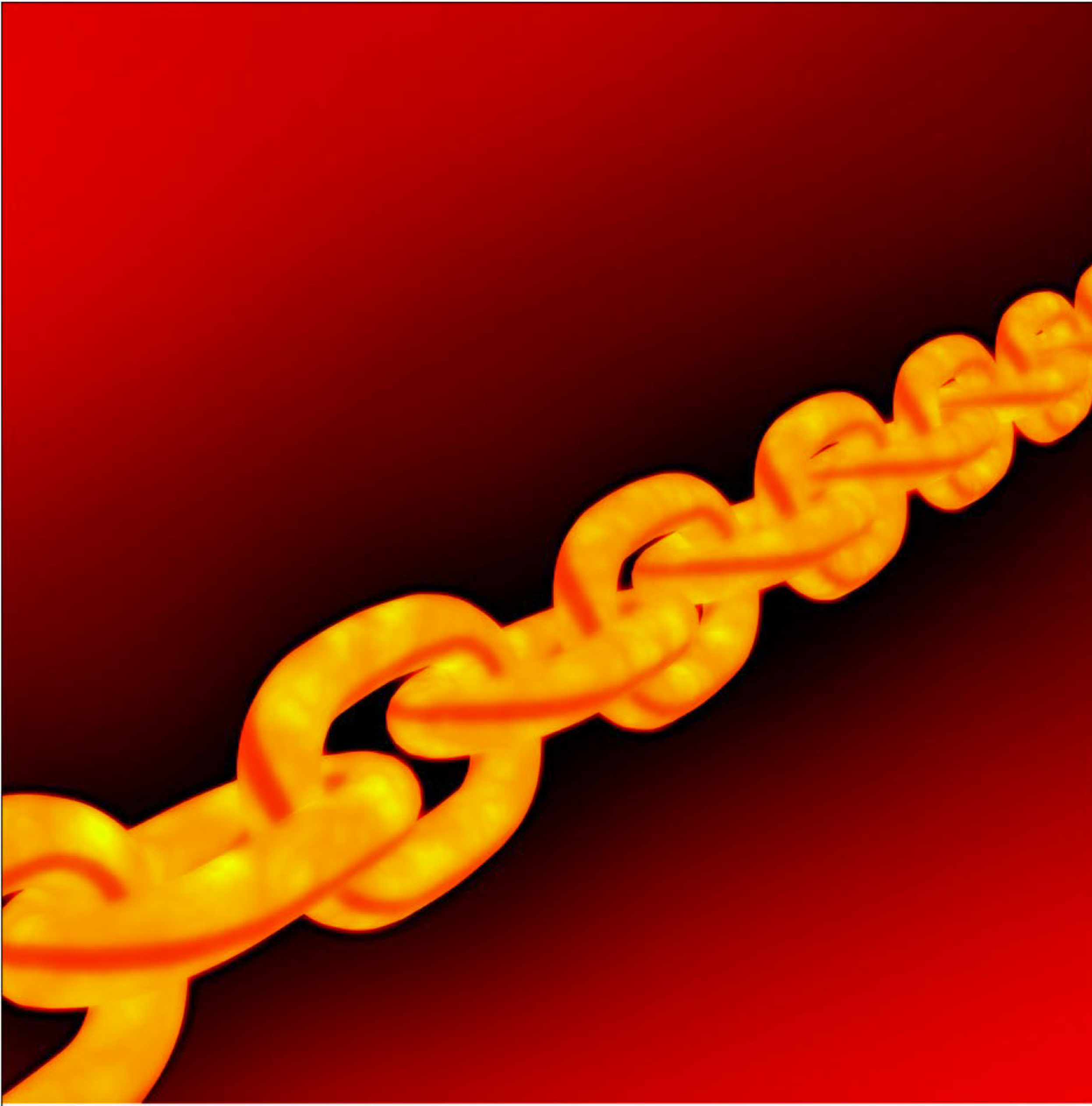
KL postpones registration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Malaysia has postponed registration of irregular foreign workers but said it will start the process anytime soon, the state-run news agency Bernama reported yesterday.

On June 22, the Malaysian home ministry announced amnesty for irregular foreign workers, and said it would

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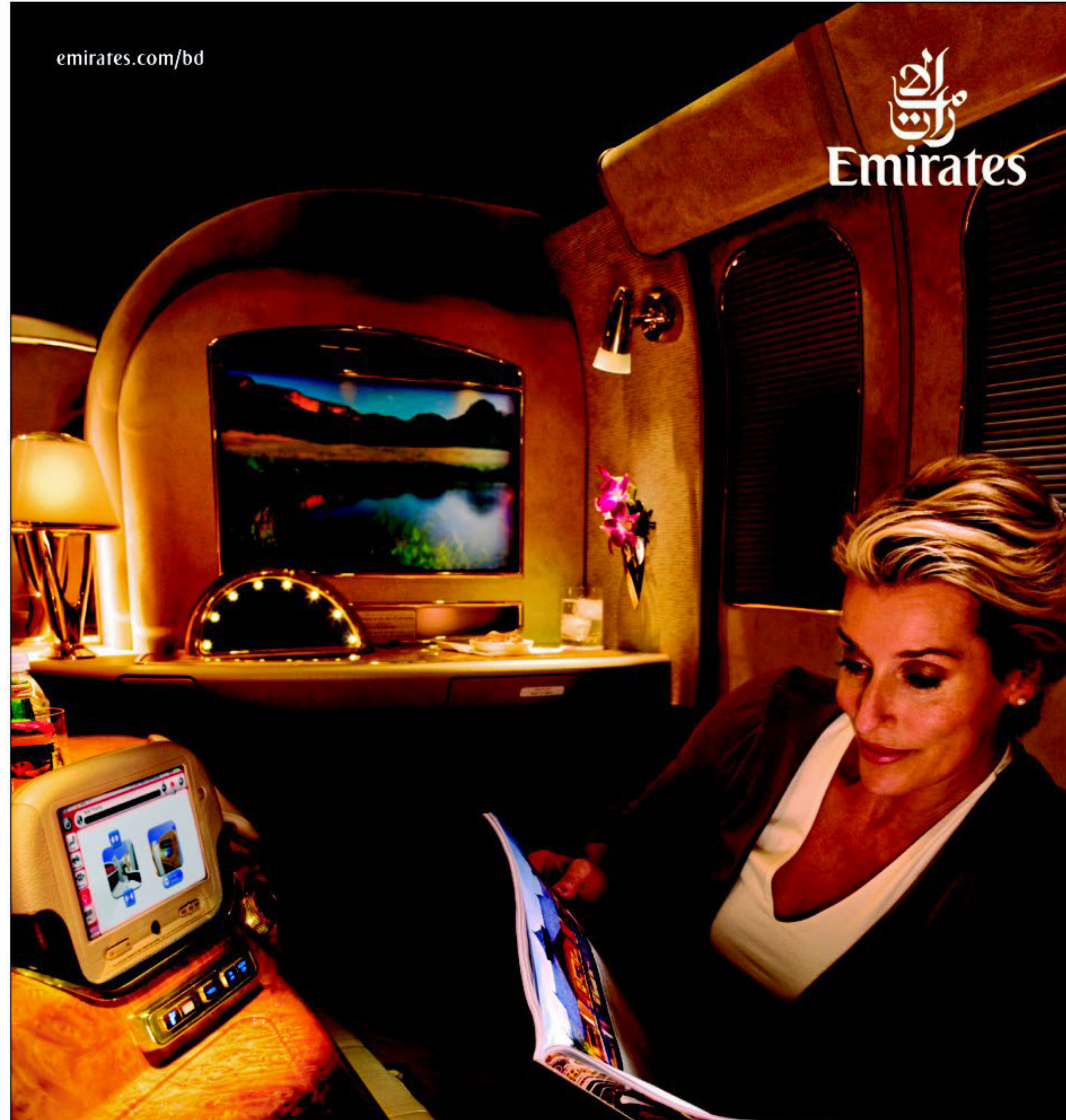
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