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Indian home minister due today

Border management deal tomorrow

REZAUL KARIM

Bangladesh and India are going to sign a border management agreement tomorrow with a view to bringing down incidents of killing and crime along the border.

The agreement styled Coordinated Border Management Plan (CBMP) is expected to be signed during Indian

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PETROBANGLA'S UNSOLICITED DEAL

Russian compressors, drilling job get nod

SHARIER KHAN

The prime minister has approved a proposal of Petrobangla to award the contract for installation of two gas compressors on an unsolicited basis to Russian company Gazprom, which is directly in conflict with an ongoing bidding for the same.

The approval given last week covers drilling of 10 wells in different gas fields of the country with help from Gazprom. It exempts Petrobangla from going for any tender under the special act of 2010 for quick supply increase of power and energy.

Accordingly, Petrobangla hopes to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Gazprom by next week. A team of Gazprom will arrive in the capital for the MoU signing, said Petrobangla Chairman Hussain Monsur.

But the Gazprom deal for both the compressors and the drilling of wells does

not have any financing. It will take more than \$120 million to install the compressors alone, and another \$50 plus million for the 10 wells. If these are to be funded by the government, there is no allocation as yet.

The authorities have also not completed the technical aspects of installing the Russian compressors. Both of these can take many months or even a year to complete, officials said.

Yet, Petrobangla in its July 11 proposal to the prime minister through the energy ministry insists the Russian compressors can be installed much ahead of the compressors being procured under an Asian Development Bank (ADB)-financed tender floated last year.

Officially unaware of this development, the ADB is presently reviewing the evaluation of a tender to award a contract to Korean Hyundai to install two

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AMINBAZAR

Home cell to monitor mob beating, killing case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday ordered inclusion of the case for killing of six students at Aminbazar in the home ministry's list for sensational cases.

The order was given at a meeting of the monitoring cell on sensational cases at home ministry with Home Minister Sahara Khatun in the chair.

The progress of sensational cases is discussed at the cell's meeting in presence of the investigation officers concerned, said an official of the Criminal Investigation Department present at the meeting.

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Bengal Tigers in danger

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of recent recoveries of tiger skin and bones in and around the Sundarbans apparently dooms the government initiatives to save the Bengal Tigers and their habitat.

Experts say though the government has created much hype about conservation of the mangrove forest and the Bengal Tigers, international demands for tiger trophies and its body parts for medicinal purpose remain the same for a long time.

Recent recoveries give a message that the government should increase monitoring on the forest to stop poaching. Besides, ports and the cities should come under vigilance to stop trade and trafficking, said Dr Monirul H Khan of Jahangirnagar University.

Police on Monday recovered four deer heads and 60 kilograms of venison preserved in ice and arrested three poachers in Rampal upazila in Bagerhat.

The poachers confessed to trading tiger skin

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'Mugger' beaten to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

An alleged mugger was killed and another injured in a mob beating at Kachikata village under Chatmohar upazila of the district early yesterday.

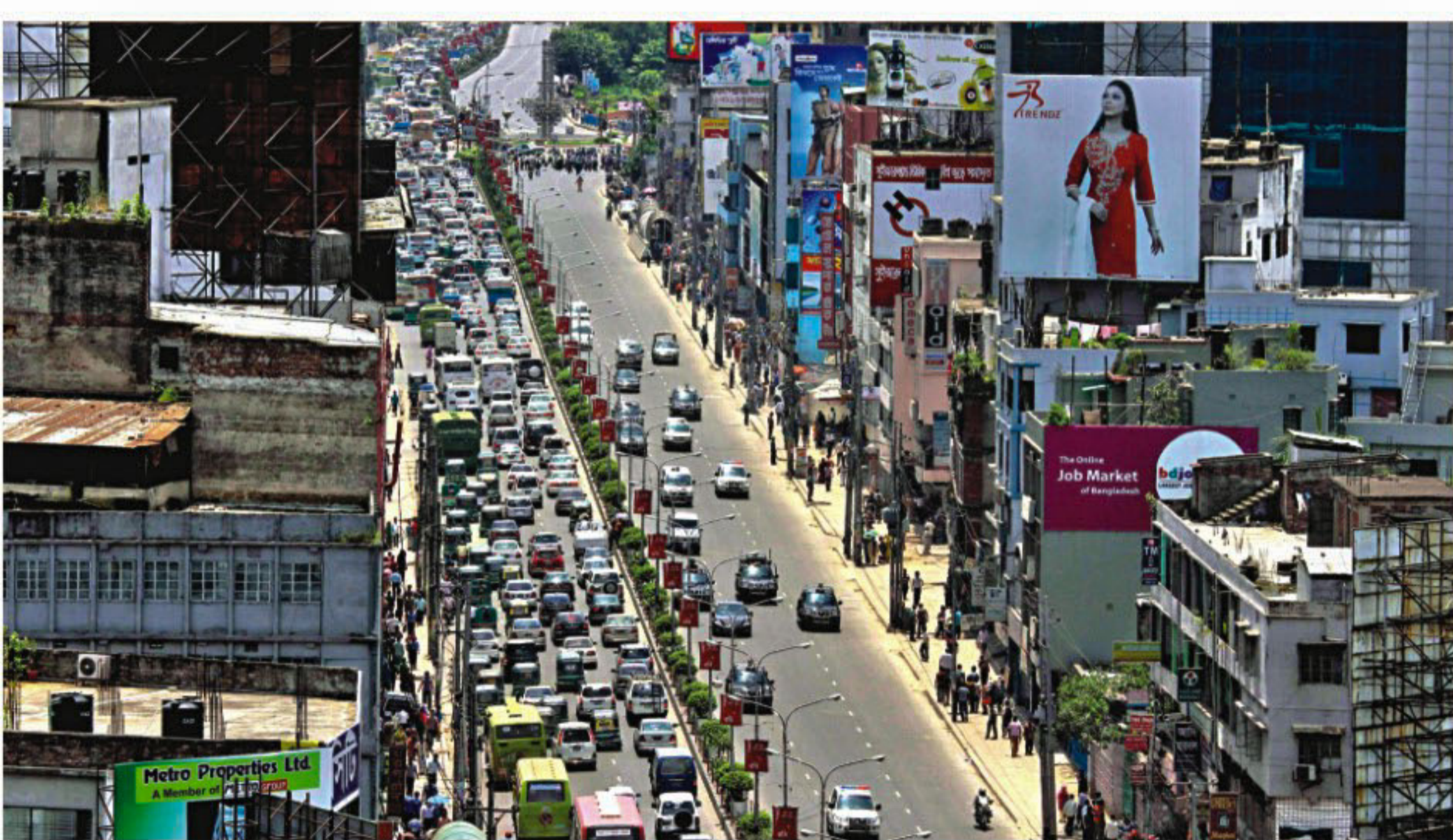
A gang of four to five muggers in the guise of passengers got on a locally-made three-wheeler from Chatmohar around 12:00midnight, police quoted the driver of the vehicle as saying.

When the vehicle reached

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PRAYER TIMING		July 29
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:20	4:55
Juma	12:30	1:15
Asr	5:00	5:15
Maghrib	6:50	6:55
Esha	8:15	8:45

Source: Islamic Foundation



Traffic on one side of Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue is regulated for VVIP movements and the other is heavily jammed with vehicles around noon yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

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Hard time ahead for admission seekers

Public universities can accommodate only half of successful HSC candidates

RAKIB AHAMMED

Over half of the students who came out successful in this year's HSC and equivalent examinations will be denied enrolment at the public universities due to shortage of seats.

According to the latest annual report of the University Grants Commission, 229,491 students this year will get the opportunity to enrol at 31 public universities for honours courses.

Besides, 2,712 seats are available at 18 public medical colleges, 300 in three public dental colleges, 3,350 in 45 private

medical colleges and 680 in 12 private dental colleges, say sources in the Directorate General of Health Services.

The rest of the successful HSC examinees will have to go to private universities, or study honours or degree (pass) courses at government and non-government colleges and vocational institutions, say education ministry officials.

However, all these candidates will have to vie for university seats also with a large number of successful examinees of last year's HSC exams.

With the pass rate increasing every

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

EMS-Tide and EMS-Wave – two multi-purpose ocean-going ships entirely made in Bangladesh by Western Marine Shipyard – are being handed over for sailing to Grona Shipping GmbH of Germany today.

Bangladesh is proud to reinforce its presence in international water: a new signature of the country's excellence to the world!

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ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with the government that the tribal people living in Chittagong Hill Tracts are ethnic minorities not indigenous people?

Yes (48.7%)

No (47.3%)

No Comments (4.0%)

TOTAL VOTES: 501

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the police's recent spree of victimising innocent people shows their disrespectful attitude towards human rights?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

Introduce school feeding scheme

DCs asked to check dropout of students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has directed the deputy commissioners to start school feeding programme to check dropout from primary schools.

"The DCs' conference elaborately discussed checking of dropout. The prime minister asked them to begin the feeding programme in at least one school in each district and monitor it closely," Cabinet Secretary M Abdul Aziz told newsmen after the conclusion of the three-day conference at the secretariat yesterday afternoon.

The meeting also suggested the DCs to take measures to stop coaching business, he mentioned.

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