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## WIKILEAKS Abul refutes US remarks about him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain has refuted the US diplomatic cable sent by former American ambassador James F Moriarty branding him "less than honest." The minister termed the allegation "totally not true".

"I read the report [the cable]. Except for the phrase 'less than honest,' the rest of the report highly praised me for my

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## Businesses for easier Indian visa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Top business leaders of the country yesterday urged India to ease the visa processing system so economic relations between the two countries grow further.

The call came at a press conference at the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) in the capital.

AK Azad, president of FCCI, said that until

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## 2 robbers beaten to death

STAR REPORT

Two alleged robbers of a gang were beaten to death by a mob when they were fleeing after looting a house in Sonagazi of Feni early yesterday.

Locals said a gang of 10 to 12 entered the house of Zahidul Mokter at Pashchim Char Darbesh village after breaking the door; took the house members hostage at gunpoint and looted valuables worth about Tk 10 lakh.

When the gang was about to escape, the house members gave out a cry. Neighbours came

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**NO RESPIRE  
FROM RIVER  
POLLUTION**

Toxic liquid from different factories flow into this canal linked to the Turag. In absence of proper monitoring and enforcement of environmental laws, irresponsible factory owners thus keep polluting the river day after day. The photo was taken at Bhogra in Gazipur yesterday.

PHOTO:  
RASHED SHUMON

## New KSA rules to cut job for foreigners

PORIMOL PALMA

Many of around 20 lakh Bangladeshis in Saudi Arabia fear job cuts with the introduction of new rules meant to create more employment for locals.

"Nitaqat", a programme announced in June, makes it mandatory for the employers in the kingdom to recruit 20 to 30 percent Saudi nationals.

The so-called "Saudization", which goes into effect from September 10, had raised concerns among the expatriates across the kingdom, largest labour market for Bangladesh.

If a firm completely fails to abide by the rule, it will not be allowed to further recruit foreigners or renew work permits of the existing ones.

Companies partly following "Nitaqat" will be able to renew work permits only to those foreigners who have served less than six years in Saudi Arabia.

Around 2.5 lakh of some 20 lakh Bangladeshis there work as doctors, engineers, accountants and managers. Others are employed in small businesses, construction, maintenance and cleaning sectors.

Mizanur Rahman, Bangladesh mission's second secretary (labour) in Riyadh, said the new programme could affect some professionals and those working in managerial posts, but not the workers. The Saudis would never do the cleaning, maintenance or construction works.

Ali Haider Chowdhury, secretary general of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies, said the country must act promptly to negoti

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*Many expatriate  
Bangladeshis  
face uncertainty  
as employers  
asked to recruit  
more Saudis*



## Ajit Roy no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ajit Roy, a dedicated artiste of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, died at Birdem Hospital in the capital yesterday at the age of 73.

Roy, a cancer patient, was admitted to the hospital after he developed pneumonia. He was on life-support at the ICU and breathed his last at about 1:05pm.

He made major contribution in the Gano Sangeet genre, especially during the Liberation War. His songs ignited the patriotic sentiments of the common people as well as the soldiers on the battlefield.

After independence, he joined Bangladesh Betar (radio) as a music producer.

President Zillur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader

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## Highway turns into death trap

*Around 1,600 people killed in road  
crashes on Bangabandhu Bridge  
approach road since 1998*

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

At least 1,600 people have died and 4,000 others injured in nearly 1,450 accidents on the highway from Mirzapur to Bangabandhu Multipurpose Bridge since the bridge was opened to traffic in 1998.

Of the injured, more than 1,500 have been left maimed, according to the office of the Tangail superintendent of police.

Reckless driving and violation of traffic rules are the main reasons for accidents

on the 75-kilometre two-lane highway that is incapable of taking the load of a large number of vehicles, said experts.

Battered bridges, absence of highway patrol and lack of emergency medical facilities for accident victims add up to the casualties in road accidents on the highway, they said.

The highway takes the load of hundreds of passenger and goods-laden

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## Army to handle driving licences

*New law on cards to deal  
with road accidents*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The communications ministry is planning to involve the army in the issuing of driving licences so nobody can obtain a licence bypassing due procedures.

The attempt is being made so that people with fake driving licences and licences obtained through unorthodox means cannot put people on the country's roads in danger.

"As per the plan, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority and the army will work together to issue licences utilising the army's experience in the national identity card and machine-readable passport projects," said a senior communications ministry official yesterday.

The official said the procedure for getting driving licences will be scrutinised. "Only educated and efficient

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

1971 WAR CRIMES

## Charges against Sayeede placed in tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution yesterday mentioned to International Crimes Tribunal 31 incidents of crimes against humanity allegedly committed by Jamaat leader Delawar Hossain Sayeede in Pirojpur during the Liberation War, 1971.

Prosecutor Syed Haider Ali brought up the matters citing statements of 68 witnesses and some reports of different print and electronic media.

He prayed to the tribunal to frame charge against Sayeede, the nayeb-e ameer of Jamaat-e Islami, who was produced before the court in the morning.

After hearing arguments from the prosecution, the three-judge panel headed by tribunal Chairman Justice Nizamul Huq adjourned the court and fixed September

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## Fight on for Gaddafi's last stronghold

*Italy calls for no repeat of  
Iraq 'mistakes' in Libya*

AFP, Shishan

Fighters advanced on one of Muammar Gaddafi's last remaining bastions yesterday, as Libya's new leaders called for the ousted strongman to stand trial in his homeland when captured.

A commander of the fighters said talks aimed at securing the peaceful surrender of Gaddafi's forces in Bani Walid had been abandoned and an assault on the oasis town southeast of Tripoli was imminent.

"We are getting ready," said Mohamed al-Fassi, checkpoint commander in the village of Shishan, 70 kilometres north of Bani Walid.

"Negotiations between Gaddafi's men and our forces have ended. These people aren't serious. Twice they promised to surrender only to go back on their word," he said.

A local spokesman for the National Transitional Council (NTC) now governing Libya said the frontline stood 15 to 20 kilometres north of Bani Walid and that troops were poised for an advance.

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After celebrating Eid holidays in Bhola, a family arrives at Sadarghat Launch Terminal yesterday and now heads for its Mohammadpur home. With the holidays over, people have started to return to the hustle and bustle of the capital.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

The Daily Star

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**ONLINE POLL**

Do you think the Teesta water sharing will be done in equitable manner?

Yes (15.6%)  
No (82.2%)  
No Comments (2.3%)

TOTAL VOTES: 326

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think WikiLeaks' new revelation that US embassy in Dhaka finds Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain 'less than an honest man' will add credence to demand for his resignation?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT  
[www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

**PRAYER TIMING** September 5

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	5-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-23	6-26
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation