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**Nizami knew it before he was informed**

*Testifies ex-secy in arms haul case*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Former secretary of industries ministry Shoeb Ahmed yesterday said that Motiur Rahman Nizami knew about the arms haul incident before he passed on the information to Nizami.

Shoeb said this to a Chittagong court while giving his deposition in connection with the 10-truck arms haul cases.

In reply to a question of defence lawyer Mohsin Uddin Talukder, Shoeb said that he talked to the then industries minister Nizami on April 4, 2004, after being informed of the incident by the chairman of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) on April 2.

Nizami also talked to the highest authority of the government about the arms haul, he said.

"What do you think...  
SEE PAGE 19 COL 8



Dhaka Wasa, busy installing sewage lines between Mouchak and Malibagh Level Crossing, has left the pipes and other construction materials on the road. The result: day-long traffic jams on the busy street.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

**Why duty-free car for MPs?**

*NHRC boss questions the privilege*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Questioning the lawmakers' privilege of importing duty-free cars, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Chairman Mizanur Rahman yesterday said it should not be allowed in a country where many patients lie on the hospital floors without food and treatment.

"If the difference between the people and the state policymakers cannot be minimised, it would not be possible to establish a welfare state," he told the inaugural session of a national convention on "Role of state and people to protect citizen's rights and public services."

Governance Coalition, an alliance of 35 NGOs, and Oxfam GB jointly hosted the event in the city's BIAM Foundation auditorium.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

**Speaker for effective JS**

*Stresses role of ruling, opposition parties*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Urging the lawmakers to make the Jatiya Sangsad the focal point of all national activities, Speaker Abdul Hamid yesterday said democracy and democratic state system get consolidated only when parliament is effective.

"Role of the treasury bench and the opposition MPs is equally important to make parliament effective," the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

**MOVE TO CHECK TAX DODGING**  
**NBR to use EC's database of voters**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) yesterday struck a deal with the Election Commission to utilise the voters' online database for verifying information before awarding tax identification number.

The deal will help stop people from obtaining fake TIN using fake names and addresses and generate more tax revenues to some extent, officials observed.

Mohasin Ali, a director of the EC, and AKM Badiul Alam, first secretary (Tax) of NBR, signed the memorandum of understanding at the EC conference room in the capital.

"When anyone applies for a TIN, the NBR cannot be certain about their identity only from the submitted papers. So, we seek a photocopy of their national ID," said Alam.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

**Suspend two errant OCs**

*HC asks IG about cops' negligence after 2 girls raped in Barisal, N'ganj*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to take disciplinary measures against officers-in-charge of two police stations for their negligence in taking actions against criminals who raped two girls in Barisal and Narayanganj.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

**KEPZ denies illegal hill cutting**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Authorities of the Korean Export Processing Zone (KEPZ) yesterday denied the allegation of cutting hills in its project area at Anowara in the port city.

Brig Gen (ret'd) Mohammad Hasan Nasir, a KEPZ advisor, made the claims at a press conference at its office when

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

**Aggreko to run its power plant on gas**

*Deal signed on conversion*

STAR REPORT

The government yesterday signed an amendment of an existing contract with a British rental power company Aggreko to convert its 145-megawatt diesel-fired power plant into a gas-fired one.

This conversion would help the government save around Tk 1,100 crore to 1,200 crore a year by not importing diesel for the plant at Ghorashal that started operation in August, 2010.

Although there is severe gas crisis, the Power Development Board (PDB) is getting 30 to 34 million cubic feet of gas per day for Aggreko from its reserved allocation.

Sources said, the PDB has several gas-based power plants in Ghorashal, but some of them have gone out of order in recent years. The gas allocated for these plants remains unutilised.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1



After people on this train were robbed of their belongings on Tuesday night, a mob torched the compartment near Mymensingh Railway Station.

**Train torched after robbery**

*About 200 passengers robbed of valuables*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Passengers incensed by robbery in a local train set fire to its two compartments at Shambhuganj Railway Station in sadar upazila Tuesday night.

A group of robbers swooped on a Mymensingh-bound train, Jaria 275 Local, from Jaria of Netrakona when it reached Gouripur outer signal at 9:00pm, said Abul Kalam Azad, station master of Mymensingh Railway Station.

They looted cash and valuables from some 200 passengers in a compartment and got off the train when it slowed down before entering Shambhuganj Railway Station, Azad said.

The robbers injured at least 10 people while taking away their belongings. Some other passengers were hurt when they jumped off the running train to escape from the robbers, local people said.

As the train reached Shambhuganj Railway Station around 10:15pm, angry passengers torched two compartments. One compartment was damaged completely while the other partially, Azad said.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

**IMF warns of recession**

*Lowers world growth forecast to 3.3pc*

REUTERS, Washington

Europe's debt crisis could tip the world economy into recession and a bigger firewall is urgently needed to keep the damage from spreading, the International Monetary Fund said on Tuesday.

The IMF chopped its estimate for 2012 global growth to 3.3 percent

from 4 percent just three months ago and warned it could drop as low as 1.3 percent if Europe lets the crisis fester for much longer. For 2013, it predicted growth of 3.9 percent.

"The epicentre of the danger is Europe but the rest of the world is increasingly affected," IMF chief economist Olivier Blanchard said at a news conference. "There is an even

greater danger, namely that the European crisis intensifies, and in this case the world could be plunged into another recession."

"With the right set of measures, the worst can definitively be avoided and the recovery can be put back on track," he said. "These measures can be taken, need to be taken, and need

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

**SAYEDEE'S TRIAL Witness dies**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bashudeb Mistri, a prosecution witness in a case against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee, passed away on Tuesday.

Bashudeb, the 10th prosecution witness, gave his deposition on January 8 before the International

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

**PRAYER TIMING** January 26

Fajr	5:35	6:10
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	4:15	4:30
Maghrib	5:46	5:50
Esha	7:15	7:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

**ONLINE POLL**

Do you agree with BNP that constituting a search committee to find out right people for the next Election Commission is meaningless if the caretaker government system is not restored?

Yes (66.5%)  
No (32.7%)  
No Comments (0.8%)

TOTAL VOTES: 734

**The Daily Star**

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**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think the opposition MPs show their double standard when they draw their remuneration and allowances and enjoy all the privileges without attending the parliament sessions?

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