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Train to link Khulna with Kolkata

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

In a bid to attract more passengers, railway officials of Bangladesh and India have agreed in principle to operate a passenger train between Khulna and Kolkata.

This would be the second train link between the two neighbours after the Maitree Express on Dhaka-Kolkata route.

The decision was made at an inter-governmental railway meeting held in Dhaka on January 10-12.

With the launch of this new service, passengers would reach Kolkata from Khulna in about four hours, said Bangladesh Railway (BR) sources.

According to immigration officials, about 1,400 people cross into India through the Benapole-Haridaspur immigration point every day.

Nearly the same number of passengers enter Bangladesh from India. All of them travel by bus. The railway officials are hopeful the new train will attract them.

"At the operational level, we have no problem with running a passenger train between Khulna and Kolkata," Abu Taher, director general of BR, told The Daily Star.

The two governments are expected to reach a final decision in this regard within a couple of months, he added.

Upon receiving the approval, the railway authorities will fix the train fare and service frequency.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



Students of Islamic International School and College perform at "The Daily Star-Dhaka English Medium School Cultural Programme" at the Shilpakala Academy yesterday. See photo feature on page 12.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

ZIA TRUST CASE Khaleda goes to court today

COURT CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will appear before a Dhaka court today to seek extension of her eight-week bail, which expires today, in the Zia Charitable Trust corruption case.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

Savar cop sued for extortion

COURT CORRESPONDENT

An assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of Savar Police Station was sued yesterday on charge of abducting the manager of a garments factory and extorting Tk 50,000 from him by threatening to kill him in a "shootout".

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

DEATH IN CHANDPUR Magistrate, 195 policemen sued

STAR REPORT

The wife of Abul Hossain Mridha, who was killed in police firing during Sunday's clash at Chandpur, has sued a magistrate and 195 policemen in connection with her husband's death.

Fatema Begum filed the case with Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court in Chandpur yesterday noon.

Accepting the case, the court ordered judicial investigation into the killing.

Two rickshaw pullers -- Mridha and Limon Saiyal -- died on Sunday when police opened fire on demonstrating BNP activists on orders of Magistrate Shamimul Haque Pavel in a bid to foil their protest movement in the town.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

SAYEDEE AT WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL 81 yrs old recalls wife's rape in '71

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An old, very ill prosecution witness, lying in bed and in tears, narrated before the International Crimes Tribunal how his wife was raped in the presence of Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee in 1971.

He told the court how a girl was born following the rape, how his wife had to leave the country for good, how he had to live his life without seeing his wife ever again and how Sayedee converted him to

Islam during the Liberation War.

"It was sometime between 4:00pm and 4:30pm. I was not home," said the 81-year-old from his bed covered in a blanket.

"When I returned home, my wife told me she had been raped," he said in an emotionally choked voice. She told him that she was feeling "intolerable pain" and she could not talk much. They got married only a few days before the war began.

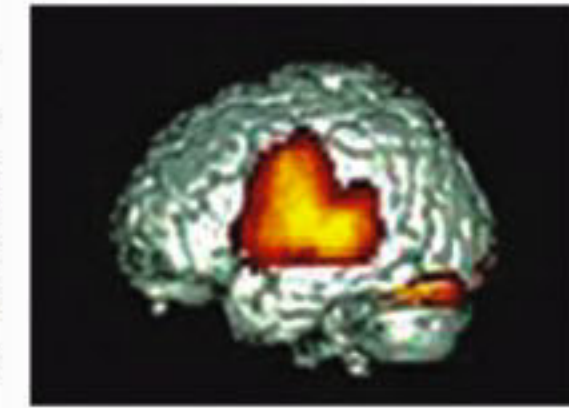
"He who converted you to Islam came here. You don't worry about me, just

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

Thoughts of dying patients decoded

BBC ONLINE

Researchers have demonstrated a striking method to reconstruct words, based on the brain waves of patients thinking of those words.



The technique reported in PLoS Biology relies on gathering electrical signals directly from patients' brains.

Based on signals from listening patients, a computer model was used to reconstruct the sounds of words that patients were thinking of.

The method may in future help comatose and locked-in patients communicate.

A technique called functional magnetic

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

Fake doctor by birth!

Mosharrif treating patients in Dhaka, Ctg for 25 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mosharrif Hossain reportedly had a master's in philosophy. But he is a 'doctor' by profession, being a successor of his late father Raqib Uddin, who also had no degree in medicine.

Mosharrif, 52, had been 'practising' for more than 25 years as a 'specialist' in different parts of the capital and also in Chittagong. He even performed surgery on patients with piles, fistula and anal-fissure complexities before he was sent to jail yesterday.

'Piles Care' is his main chamber located at Chankharpool, just yards away from Dhaka Medical College Hospital. He also runs two other chambers - one at Labagh in Dhaka and the other at Jan Super Market at Kadamtoli More in Chittagong.

Patients paid him Tk 500 as visiting fees and Tk 5,000 to Tk 15,000 per surgery. On average, Mosharrif earned more than Tk 10,000 every day.

Hailing from Muradnagar upazila in Comilla, he lived in



A magistrate looks at the confiscated surgical equipment laid out on the operation table of fake doctor Mosharrif Hossain at his Chankharpool clinic in the capital yesterday. A masters degree holder in philosophy, Mosharrif had been "treating" patients and performing surgeries on them for 25 years.

PHOTO: STAR

SHRIMP CULTIVATION HC asks govt to save agri-farm, forest lands

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday declared illegal harnessing salt water in the agricultural and forest lands for shrimp farming.

It directed the government to take effective steps to sustain the fertility of land and save the environment.

Delivering its verdict on a writ petition, the court ordered the authorities concerned to formulate a policy within three months to determine separate land for

shrimp farming to ensure salt water cannot flow to nearby areas.

It also asked the government to ensure minimum use of salt water in shrimp farming so that the fertility of the nearby agricultural and forest lands is not damaged.

Citing a decision of the Indian Supreme Court, the HC said damaging the fertility of land is against the national interest.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

SAMIUL MURDUR Mother, 'lover' indicted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday indicted six-year-old Samiul Azim's mother Ayesha Humaira and her alleged paramour Shamsuzzaman Arif in connection with the murder of the child, whose body was found in a sack in the city last year.

Special Judge Jasmine Anwar yesterday made the indictment and set March 1 for hearing the witness depositions.

Both Ayesha, 25, and Arif, 38, denied their involvement in the killing after the charges were read out before them in the court.

The body of Samiul Azim, son of KR Azam and Ayesha,



SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

A good gesture to BSF

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

India's border force members will send their school-going children on an excursion to Bangladesh next week in response to an offer made by the Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) as a token of goodwill and good-neighbourly attitude.

The Border Security Force (BSF) of India during a sector-level meeting held yesterday in Benapole accepted the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with BNP chief Khaleda Zia that restoration of the caretaker government system is necessary to ensure continuation of the democratic process?

Yes (84.4%)
No (14.1%)
No Comments (1.5%)

TOTAL VOTES: 780

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir the government showed absolute failure in each sector of the country?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT facebook.com/dailystarnews

PRAYER TIMING February 2

| | Azan | Jamaat |
|---------|-------|--------|
| Fajr | 5:30 | 6:05 |
| Zohr | 12:45 | 1:15 |
| Asr | 4:15 | 4:30 |
| Maghrib | 5:52 | 5:56 |
| Esha | 7:15 | 7:45 |

Source: Islamic Foundation

Coming out Tomorrow, FRIDAY

Unsolved Abductions

The Star magazine's cover story this Friday tells the story of forced disappearances - has the crossfire culture been replaced by the law enforcers in plainclothes abducting people from their homes? It also runs a special feature on a unique initiative taken by the Prothom Alo for recovered addicts. Besides your favourite columnists, this week's Star has write-ups on Sheikh Jamal Sporting Club's recent victory and Dhaka's dodgy antics market.

Ask your Hawker for your Copy