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FINDING BANGLADESH

Let's look for some adventure this week

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CORPORATE GOVERNANCE VITAL

IFC official discusses steps to becoming an emerging market

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French outgoing president Sarkozy decides to practise law

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MAJOR PARTIES AT ODDS

Willing to talk, unwilling to take move

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN

Uncertainty looms large over holding talks between ruling Awami League and main opposition BNP to end the political impasse as both the parties are reluctant to take the dialogue initiative.

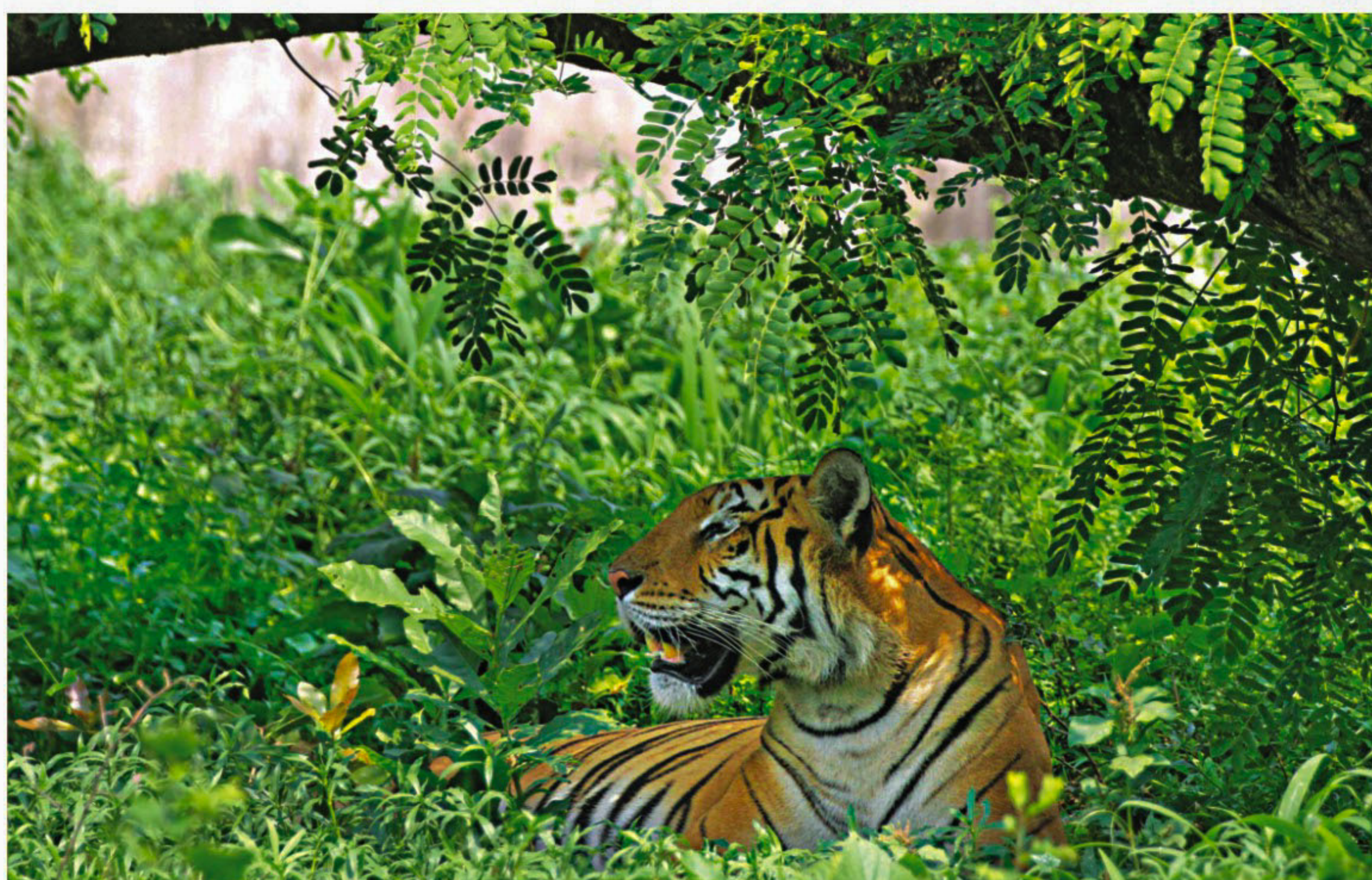
The AL wants BNP come up with their proposal on the agenda of the dialogue, while the main opposition thinks the onus lies on the ruling party as it is responsible for the ongoing crisis.

Interestingly enough, both the rival camps have publicly acknowledged that the crisis should be resolved through dialogue. But analysts believe political activities have been contributing to widening the gap between the two parties.

The scrapping of the caretaker government system from the constitution through the 15th amendment in last June triggered concerns over holding the next parliamentary polls with participation of all major political parties.

The BNP-led opposition parties have rejected outright the constitutional amendment and declared they would

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SEE EDITORIAL



Even this mighty Bengal Tiger at Dhaka Zoo had to take refuge in the shade during the midday heat. The mercury hit as high as 35.2 degrees Celsius in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO:
SK ENAMUL HAQ

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EU presses for talks

Says political unrest sending devastating signal to investors abroad

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's image abroad faces a serious crisis because of political violence, hartals, corruption and disappearances, European Union envoys said yesterday.

They said incidents of street violence, killings and disappearances in Bangladesh give a negative signal to the outside world and discourage foreign investments in Bangladesh despite its huge potential.

Eight EU ambassadors and a high commissioner in Dhaka also called for dialogue between political parties

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No relief for Sohel Taj

Now Speaker declines to accept his resignation from JS

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Speaker Abdul Hamid has declined to "accept" the resignation of Tanjim Ahmad Sohel Taj from the Jatiya Sangsad, claiming he did not follow constitutional provisions and rules of procedure of the House in submitting the resignation letter.

Clarifying his decision, the Speaker said Sohel Taj, now in the US, did not write the letter in his own hand, rather it was typed. Also, he did not submit the letter in person and it did not contain the



phrase "willing to resign," which is mandatory under article 67 of the constitution.

"It seems to me that the resignation letter was not written in line with the constitution and the rules of procedure. Therefore, I did not accept his resignation letter," Hamid told journalists at his JS office yesterday.

Sohel Taj has to come to Bangladesh to submit in person his resignation letter to the Speaker if he desires to quit, he added.

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JS budget session starts May 27

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The budget session of the ninth parliament is likely to start May 27, Speaker Abdul Hamid said yesterday.

"We have sent a proposal to President Zillur Rahman for convening the session on that date," the Speaker told reporters at his office.

He said the last session of the House was prorogued on March 29, and in line with the constitutional provision, the next

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Ilias victim of political rivalry

Says his wife, looks to PM for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Missing BNP leader M Ilias Ali's wife Tahsina Rushdir Luna yesterday claimed that her husband has become a victim of political enmity.

"Political enmity is behind the disappearance of my husband," Luna for the first time made such claim.

She was speaking at a press conference at her Banani home in the capital.

Asked if it was a case of intra-party rivalry, she without elaborating told The Daily Star over the phone, "The government should find out."

Luna said her husband was involved in different things including business and politics but he had no business enemies.

BNP Organising Secretary M Ilias Ali, 51, also a former BNP lawmaker from Sylhet, and his driver went missing in the wee hours of April 18. His car was found abandoned in Banani with all its four doors flung open, giving an impression that he was abducted.

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Tahsina Rushdir Luna

CASH HAUL

4 more BGB men quizzed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four more officers of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) yesterday gave common explanations on the Tk 70 lakh cash haul scandal before the railway probe committee as they were quizzed at the force's headquarters in the capital.

With this, a total of eight BGB officers and jawans have so far been interrogated by the probe body and they gave exactly the same written

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Landslides have claimed the lives of many over the years and the risk shoots up every rainy season at the foot of the hills in Chittagong city. Seminars and symposiums are usually held ahead of the rainy season saying the people living there have to be relocated but little gets done. Yesterday, the Divisional Committee for Hill Management directed all organisations concerned to evacuate people residing at the foot of the hills ahead of the monsoon.

PHOTO:
ANURUP KANTI DAS

JU caught in a VC-ious web

RASHIDUL HASAN and NAJMUS SHAKIB RAFSAN

Since his "politically blessed" appointment as the vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University, Prof Shariff Enamul Kabir earned widespread criticism for not only alleged anomalies in teachers' recruitment but also for his "eco-unfriendly" activities.

Apart from chopping down trees indiscriminately on campus, teachers and students allege the VC in the last three years also leased out the university lakes at the cost of migratory birds, which didn't arrive for the first time last year.

"And that is not the end. Besides his naked patronage of a section of Bangladesh Chhatra League activists to put pressure on his dissidents, the VC leased out a vast area of university land to grow turneric damaging biodiversity," Prof Rayhan Rhyne of philosophy told The Daily Star.

The VC, however, rejected outright all the allegations



Prof Shariff Enamul Kabir

saying he has "done everything according to the university ordinance and as per the decision of the university syndicate".

TEACHERS' APPOINTMENT

In the last three years, the present administration appointed 196 teachers, many of whom were allegedly selected on partisan and nepotism basis, a large section of teachers claim.

"Around 340 teachers were appointed since the university was established 41 years ago. And the incumbent VC has appointed 196 of them, many of whom are comparatively less qualified," Prof Rayhan added.

Insiders say that thanks to unnecessary appointment, several teachers have no courses in their respective departments to teach.

"And one of the main reasons for mass recruitment was to ensure their victory in the teachers' association

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Speaker 'favours' AL lawmaker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speaker Abdul Hamid has questioned the Anti-Corruption Commission's jurisdiction to look into the issue of conflict of interests of MPs as he defended ruling Awami League lawmaker Enamul Haque's alleged violation of electoral laws.

On his directive, the parliament secretariat has recently sent a letter to the ACC chairman seeking explanation for his letter, Hamid told reporters at his office yesterday.

The ACC chief last month sent a letter to the Speaker and the Election Commission to take actions against Enamul Haque of Rajshahi-4 constituency for his engagement in business with the government.

The Representation of the People's Order (RPO) does not allow an MP to do business with the government.

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We Remember

"I find an old photograph and see your smile.
As I feel your presence anew,
I am filled with warmth and my heart remembers love."

We ask for your prayers on the
7th death anniversary of Harun-ur-Rashid
(Loving Husband and Father)

- Fatema Rashid (Wife), Tehsin Rashid (Son) and
Tasnim Rashid (Daughter)



Six Advertising Ltd.

Skylark Point (4th floor), 24/A Bijoy Nagar, Dhaka 1000
Tel: 8352781, 8352782, Fax: 88 02 8315314