

Electro
Reliable Power Source



SOLAR PANEL
SOLAR BATTERY

ELECTRO SOLAR POWER LTD.
Hotline: 01755541047
Address: House-009/20, Road-6, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212

The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

Your Right to Know

16 PAGES PLUS SHOWBIZ PRICE: Tk 12.00

REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXIII No. 209 | BHADRA 2, 1420 BS | SHAWAL 9, 1434 HJRI

WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

Star
Showbiz



STANDOFF TELEVISED
Pakistani police snipers shoot a gunman tackled live on TV

PAGE 8

LED ZEPPELIN REUNION
In the era of reunions, vocalist Robert Plant seems less interested

PAGE 9



POSTAL SERVICE

Waiting for a turnaround

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

For centuries, postal services around the world reigned supreme as the most popular mode of communications. But with the advances in communications technologies and emergence of private courier services, people's reliance on the traditional postal service has significantly declined. The only way the postal service in any country can now survive or regain its importance is by introducing new services. But until recently, Bangladesh Post Office (BPO) has not seen it coming. It sat idle as its business dipped below the red. In the meantime, private courier services took over most of its letter and parcel handling, while people turned to the internet for sending emails and making overseas calls. The BPO has a 39,000-strong workforce in 9,886 offices dotted across the country, but these resources have remained mostly unutilised. The BPO has come to such a pass because the authorities did not have any vision for the sector for decades, nor did they show any interest or expertise in redefining the business, insiders observe.

New plans to revitalise post offices

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

In efforts to regain its lost glory, Bangladesh Post Office has launched a number of new services and plans to introduce some more. Co-branding with Sonali Bank, which allows its 60,000 postal cash card holders to use the ATM booths of 26 banks for money transfer, is the latest. A deal to this effect was signed on July 6. Apart from getting to use over 3,000 ATM booths across the country, the card holders can now buy goods from 8,000 shopping malls where Point of sale machines are available. Since its launching in 2010, the uses of postal



A protester supporting ousted Egyptian president Mohamed Morsi carries an injured demonstrator during clashes outside Azbkyia Police Station in Cairo yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

BLOODSHED CONTINUES IN EGYPT

70 more killed

Morsi supporters pledge daily demo

AFP, Cairo

Backers of Egypt's ousted president Mohamed Morsi pledged to stage daily demonstrations as they ended a day of angry protests in which at least 70 people were killed yesterday. The announcement came with Egypt already reeling from the deaths of 578 people on Wednesday when police cleared protest camps set up by loyalists of the deposed Islamist leader.

That crackdown drew strong condemnation from the international community, and EU foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton called Friday for the bloc to adopt "appropriate measures" in response. But Egypt's cabinet issued a defiant statement, saying it was confronting a "terrorist plot". In Jordan, Morocco and the Palestinian territories, meanwhile, hundreds joined demonstrations in support of Morsi's MORE ON PAGE 8

ANSARULLAH TEAM

Cops on hunt for 100 jihadis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mufti Jasimuddin Rahmani, the spiritual leader of Ansarullah Bangla Team, had as many as 3,000 followers and over 100 of them believe in armed Jihad (struggle), detectives said. "Primary investigation suggests over 100 of his [Jasim's] followers are inclined to engage in armed struggle. Some even took part in armed struggle abroad," Mashiur Rahman, additional deputy

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

WILL BPO TURN AROUND?

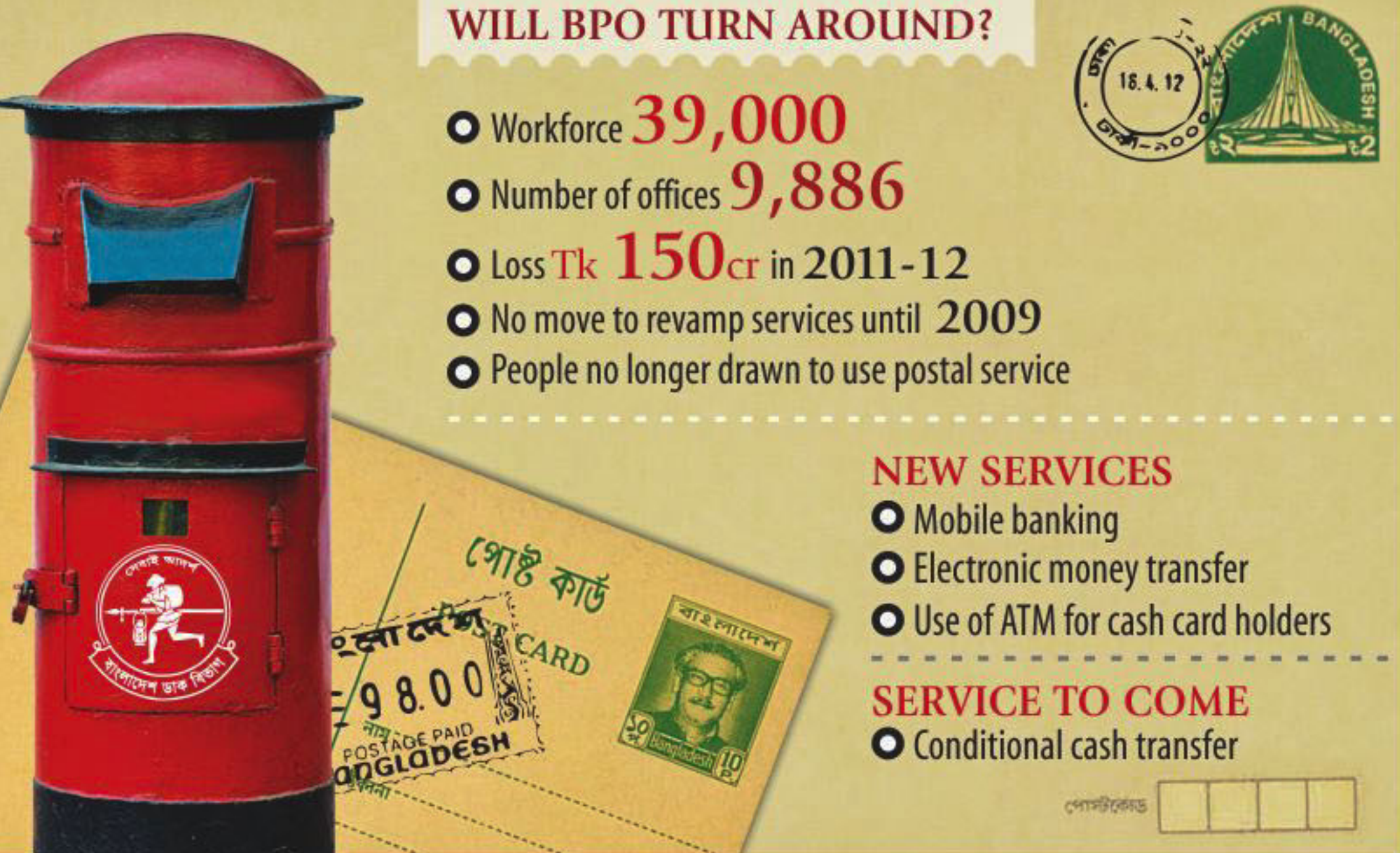
- Workforce **39,000**
- Number of offices **9,886**
- Loss Tk **150cr** in 2011-12
- No move to revamp services until **2009**
- People no longer drawn to use postal service

NEW SERVICES

- Mobile banking
- Electronic money transfer
- Use of ATM for cash card holders

SERVICE TO COME

- Conditional cash transfer



NEWS ANALYSIS

Same old trend

Khaleda again celebrates her 'birthday' on National Mourning Day

SHAKHAWAT LITON

By celebrating her controversial birthday again on the National Mourning Day, Khaleda Zia and BNP have undermined her latest promise to introduce a new trend in running the government, if voted to power in the next parliamentary election. She herself did not explain much about it. However, her party's senior leaders described the promise as an indication of taking measures, if voted to power, to bring qualitative changes in the country's confrontational

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

DB official, wife murdered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An inspector of Special Branch of police and his wife were found dead at their flat in the capital's Chamelibagh yesterday. Police suspect the couple's 17-year-old daughter Oishee Rahman might have killed them in the wee hours of Thursday. The deceased are Mahfuzur Rahman, 48, and his wife Swapna Rahman, 40. On information from Mahfuzur's brother-in-law Rabiul



Mahfuzur Rahman Swapna Rahman

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Manpower export dips

Restrictions in ME countries main reason

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPOB

Manpower export in the first half of this year has dropped significantly compared to the corresponding period of last year, mainly in the fallout from restrictions imposed by some Middle Eastern countries over the years. An estimated 2,08,340 Bangladeshi workers have migrated abroad in the first half of this year as against last year's figure of 3,74,837, according to Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET).

If this trend continues, this year's total manpower export would not exceed the four lakh mark, hinted manpower exporters. Private recruiters blamed the government for its failure to convince the labour recruiting countries to lift restrictions on hiring Bangladeshi workers. Analysts, however, say malpractice by manpower exporters is mainly the reason for the restrictions. Its impact was evident this year after Bangladesh had enjoyed a

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

WORKERS' MIGRATION

January-June 2013	2,08,340
January-June 2012	3,74,837

Recruiters blame govt for failing to negotiate with foreign nations

GHULAM AZAM'S TRIAL

HRW says it's flawed

Statement draws flak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human Rights Watch yesterday claimed that the trial of former Jamaat-e-Islami chief Ghulam Azam at the international crimes tribunal was deeply flawed and it had not met the international standards. In a report titled "Bangladesh: Azam Conviction Based on Flawed Proceedings", the New York-based rights organisation said the "judges improperly conducted an investigation on behalf of the prosecution" and expressed concern over "collusion and bias among prosecutors and judges". Human Rights Watch also expressed concern over the "failure to take steps to protect defence witnesses", and "lack of evidence to establish guilt beyond reasonable doubt". The Human Rights Watch in the report published in its website under

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



A long string of buses stranded on the Dhaka-Tangail highway in Kaliakoir at 1:30pm yesterday. Thousands of Dhaka-bound passengers suffered long delays as a bus broke down on the road around 2:00am.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Hard times on highways

Thousands suffer as tailbacks delay Dhaka bound trips by hours

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A 70-kilometre tailback on Dhaka-Tangail highway that lasted for about 17 hours took a serious toll on the Eid holidaymakers returning to the capital yesterday. The congestion, from Chandra of Gazipur to Bangabandhu bridge in Tangail, began when a bus broke down on a bridge in Kaliakoir upazila around 2:00am, said Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Gorai Highway Police Station Jobaidul Alam. Although the bus had been towed away within an hour, the oncoming traffic, including buses, trucks and pickup vans carrying passengers, created long tailbacks on both sides of the highway, added the OC. Incessant rain and the Jamaat enforced two-day country-wide hartal from August 13 have also been blamed by many passengers for their suffering and the heavy rush. Meanwhile, the passengers stuck on the highway, especially women and children, went through hell for lack of food, water and lavatory facilities, over and above the agonising wait. Faruque Miah, an employee of a sweater factory who went to Dinajpur from the capital to spend Eid holidays with family, said: "I had to wait for several hours on the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2