

# THE DAILY Star ON FRIDAY

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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

A Weekly Publication of The Daily Star  
**theSTAR**  
 stories behind the news



## PRINCESS IN DISTRESS

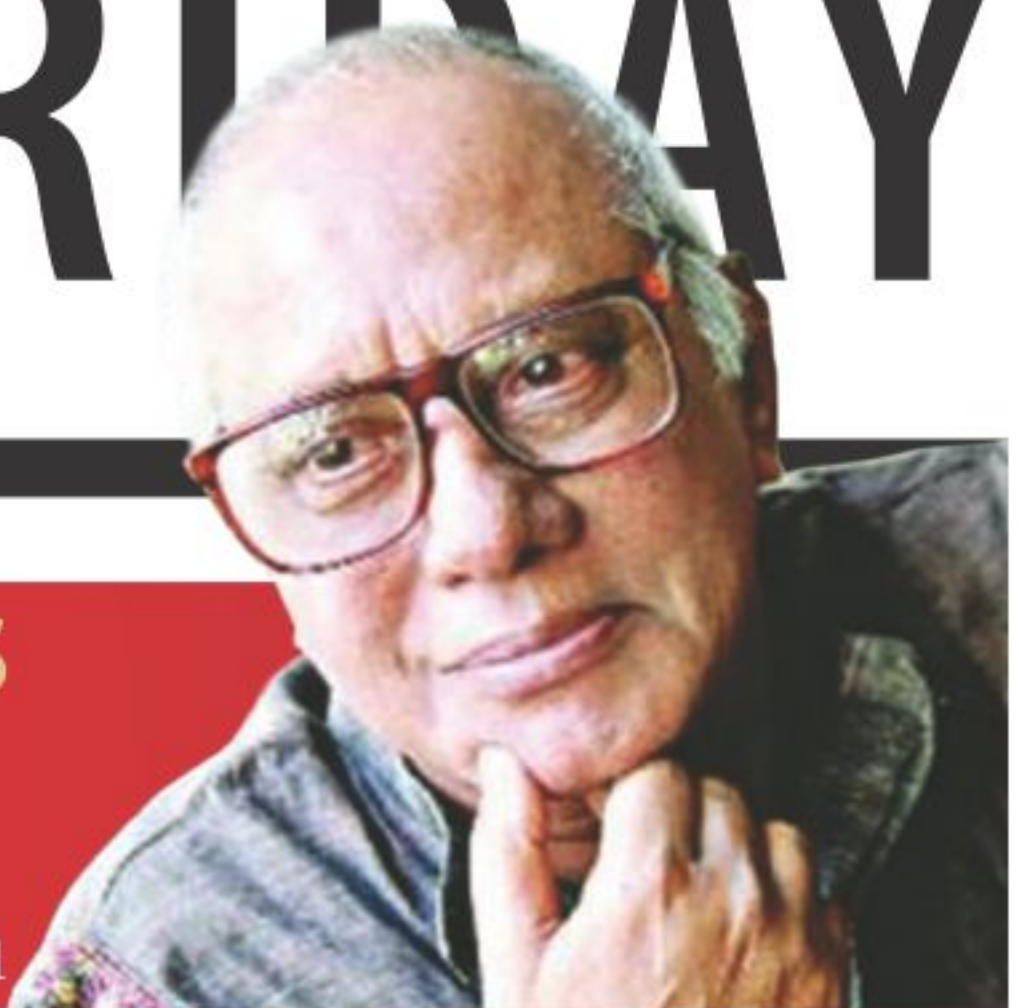
Great grand daughter-in-law of the last emperor of India lives in a slum

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## THE NATURAL, TIMELESS

Remembering versatile film actor  
 Anwar Hossain

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# Two killed, 3 drivers burnt

*Brutality marks Jamaat's second day of hartal*

STAR REPORT

Pro-hartal pickets beat an auto-rickshaw passenger to death and inflicted serious burns on three transport workers, while a Jamaat man was killed in clashes between pickets and law enforcers yesterday, the second day of the Islamist party's 48-hour shutdown.

Police said Jamaat-Shibir men attacked a CNG-run auto-rickshaw at Chondidasgati in Sirajganj around 1:00pm, leaving one of its passengers dead and another wounded.

"The driver lost control of the vehicle while trying to save the passengers from brickbats. The vehicle skidded off the road and fell into a ditch," said Rafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Sirajganj Police Station.

"Showing no mercy to the passengers, the pickets beat them up and vandalised the vehicle," said Rafiqul.

Seriously injured Masud Hossain, 27, of Raiganj upazila was later taken to Sirajganj General Hospital where he succumbed to his wounds around 4:30pm, said the OC.

Another injured, Shah Alam, 38, of Solonga upazila is receiving treatment at the same hospital.

In Meherpur, a Jamaat activist was killed and at least 45 people were wounded in a clash between Jamaat men and law enforcers at Gourinagar in Meherpur in the morning.

The Jamaat called the shutdown protesting Tuesday's Supreme Court verdict that sentenced Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah to death for committing crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War. The hartal ends at 6:00am today.

The three seriously injured transport workers are now fighting for life at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

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**Clockwise from left, bus driver Nazrul Islam, with his wife weeping at his bedside; truck drivers Shamsul Alam and Sekandar at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital. Meherpur Sub-Inspector Abdul Mannan being taken to Combined Military Hospital in Jessore yesterday. They suffered severe injuries in attacks by alleged Jamaat-Shibir pickets during the 48-hour hartal that ended 6:00am today.**



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



**Mohammad Badiuzzaman**  
**Abul Hasan's name is there as suspect**  
*Says ACC boss on Padma bridge graft*

STAR REPORT

The latest developments on the Canadian side regarding the Padma bridge graft allegation will help the investigation being conducted by the Anti-Corruption Commission in Bangladesh, its chairman said yesterday.

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## CYBER CRIMES TRIBUNAL

# Maiden case filed against teachers

COURT CORRESPONDENT

In the first-ever case filed with the Cyber Crimes Tribunal, 37 teachers of a leading Bangla-medium private school in the capital have been accused of maligning the school's assistant headmistress.

The assistant headmistress's husband Abu Sayeed Mostafa Jamal filed the case yesterday, saying the accused teachers conspired to insult, demean and harass her wife (name of the school and that of the teacher not given considering the sensitivity of the matter).

After recording the case statement, Judge AKM Shamsul Alam of the tribunal, formed in July, ordered Shabbagh Police Station's officer-in-charge to investigate the matter.

The complainant stated that in a June 22 letter to the education ministry the teachers alleged the assistant headmistress takes bribe and abuses her power in appointment of teachers and admission of students, and misbehaves with fellow teachers.

Later, they posted that complaint in the social media and online newspapers along with a picture that showed a teacher giving the assistant headmistress a foot massage.

Talking to The Daily Star, the school's headmistress, also one of the accused, said that following complaints against

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## Amended ICT bill placed

*Highest punishment 14-year jail*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite drawing huge criticism from different quarters, the government yesterday placed the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) (amendment) Bill-2013 in parliament.

The amendment seeks to empower law enforcers to arrest anybody who broke the ICT law without warrant and increase the highest punishment to 14 years.

ICT Minister Mostafa Faruque Mohammed tabled the bill that also seeks to increase the minimum punishment for any offence covered by the act to seven years.

According to the proposed legislature, destroying computer data with malicious intent, transferring data without proper authorisation, hacking and releasing vulgar and defaming information in electronic form will be considered as serious offences.

The bill has later been sent to the parliamentary standing committee on ICT

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## Weekend traffic to go haywire

*Experts react to Home's move to allow trucks in capital during daytime*

M RAHMAN

Traffic congestion and road accidents might hit a new level, making city life perilous, if the government goes ahead with the plan to allow trucks in the capital during daytime on weekends, fear experts.

The capital, which nearly reaches a standstill due to jam caused by excessive number of vehicles, will become even worse if hundreds of trucks ply the roads.

In the face of pressure from transport leaders, Home Minister MK Alamgir on Wednesday said they had decided to lift the daytime ban on truck movement in the city for the weekends.

First imposed at the fag end of Gen Ershad's tenure to reduce traffic congestion and road crashes, the embargo now does not allow trucks to enter the city from 6:00am to 10:00pm.

When introduced the restriction was in effect for seven hours a day, from 6:00am to 10:00am and 3:00pm to 7:00pm. But over the years, the timing had been changed several times, said transport leaders.

According to Bangladesh Road Transport Authority, the country has 96,348 registered trucks, of which more than 35,000 are registered in Dhaka. A large portion of these trucks enter the capital with goods.

Defending the restriction withdrawal, Humayun Kabir, president of

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## INDIAN HR ACTIVISTS

**Foreign office unaware of visa denial**

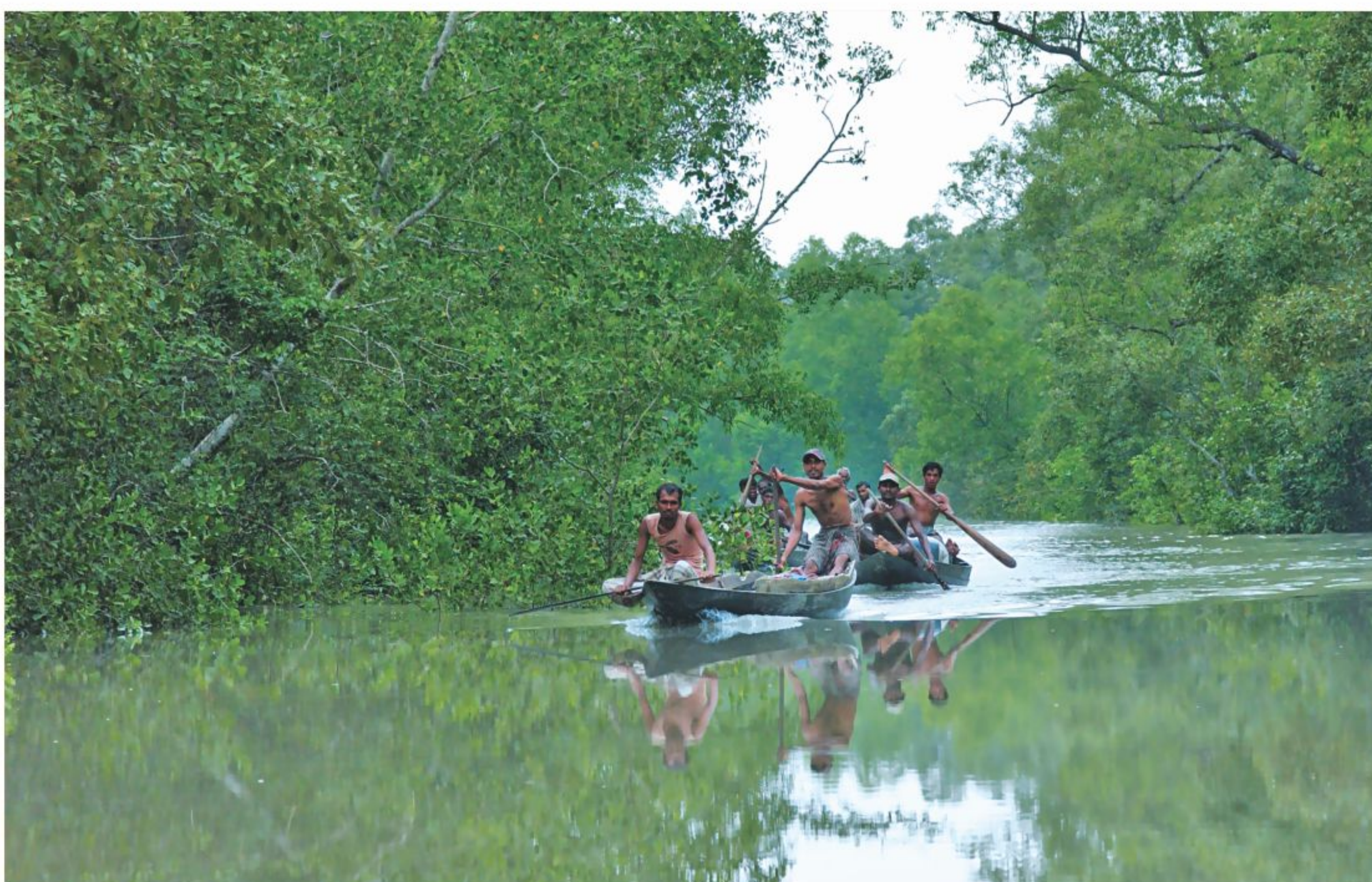
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The foreign ministry has expressed ignorance about the denial of visas to two Indian rights activists by the deputy high commission of Bangladesh in Kolkata.

The two wanted to visit Bangladesh to gather information and meet the family members of Felani Khatun to file a public interest litigation with the Indian Supreme Court, reported BBC.

On returning from Delhi and on her way home, Felani, 15, was crossing the border illegally and was shot dead by members of Indian Border Security Force as her clothes got stuck in the barbed-wire fence at Anantapur border

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## SPARE SUNDARBANS

Life thrives in the Sundarbans, but only just. The intricately intertwined waterways, the mangrove forest and brackish water, all of them together have created the one and only ecosystem in the world where fishermen (as in the picture) find abundance of livelihood, and a variety of species, including the Bengal Tiger, rule supreme. But with two power plants set to be built and numerous industries waiting to sprout, the future of this unique forest is now hanging by a thread.

PHOTO: FILE

## NEWS ANALYSIS

POWER PROJECT NEAR SUNDARBANS

# It's not worth taking the risk

INAM AHMED

The consultant was drawing a perfect picture. One could easily get swamped by the plan of how big vessels would offload coal at Akram Point off the Sundarbans, how dust would be controlled and how the community would soon prosper.

As the Rampal 1320 MW power plant will start churning out electricity 14km off the Sundarbans, a unique mangrove ecosystem of the world, the consultant said mother vessels will come with 80,000 tonnes of coal at Akram Point, a spot tucked in the belly of the forest. Every day, the plant will require 10,000 tonnes of coal, which means two to three lighterage vessels will ply the Pashur river slicing through the forest.

The consultant went on to say how a most modern vessel would pump in coal through a funnel into the bottom of the lighterage vessel and how fine water mist would be sprayed to contain any dust pollution. In his view, only 1 percent of the total dust will spill out to the river which will sink to the bottom causing no harm to the forest.

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