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# Gypsies saying bye to rivers

PANKAJ KARMAKAR and MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

There was a time when they would be found in rows of boats anchored on riverbanks. One morning they would be found huddled in tents at one place and somewhere else the next.

There was a time when these people, clad in their conspicuously different attire, could be spotted at marketplaces and other community hubs in towns and villages, selling trinkets, performing tricks or entertaining people with snake charming or monkey shows.

They were river gypsies, locally known as the Bede community.

However, time has changed and so has their lifestyle.

A floating, happy-go-lucky lifestyle no more attracts the people of this community.

Perhaps fitting themselves to the theory of "survival of the fittest", they choose regular professions rather than being engaged in the traditional ones.

The carpe diem lifestyle is yielding to a planned, secure one.

"It's a myth to us. We want domestic culture. We do not want to roam in jungles and catch snakes. We want to be educated so that we can go abroad [to make fortune]," said Razu Ahmed, a youth belonging to the gypsy community of Savar's Porabari, one of the largest

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



Gypsy Rezaul Ahmed teaching the children of his community at a school in Porabari of Savar. Rezaul left his ancestral profession of catching snakes and graduated and is now looking for a job. Top, a gypsy man running a store in Porabari. Once his life was on boats. Inset, a row of narrow boats belonging to gypsies moored near Bhandaria Launch Terminal in Pirojpur.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN/ ARIFUR RAHMAN



# New hope at hospital

DMCH plastic surgeons try techniques on injured patients to avoid amputation

ZYMA ISLAM

Equipped with new knowledge, surgeons at the plastic surgery department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital practised techniques last week to save the leg of a road accident victim.

The patient, Mohammad Sohel, 27, broke his shin bone in the right leg in a road crash last year.

Known as reconstructive microsurgery, this new knowledge could not only change Sohel's life, but also help thousands of casualty patients avoid amputations.

Microsurgery zooms in on what is nearly invisible to the naked eye -- the thinnest of nerves and capillaries which keep people alive, said physicians.

The surgical procedure cannot be performed without a microscope, said Russell J Corlett, an Australian surgeon brought in to Dhaka to impart the new knowledge to the doctors of DMCH and other public hospitals.

With a microscope fixed on a lot of minuscule tubes and a large screen projecting a magnified image, the surgeons learned how to operate needles thinner than a hair.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

# Plea to PM

Environmentalists want her to free Dhanmondi playground

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Courts felt embarrassed, city authorities dodged responsibilities and the occupiers cared a fig for the laws, labelled their peaceful demonstrations as vandalism and sued them for their rightful demand.

However, the environmentalists were undeterred and continued campaigning for freeing Dhanmondi-8 playground from illegal occupation of Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

# Govt to confirm jobs of 6 additional judges

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Services of six additional judges of the High Court might be confirmed this week as the chief justice has initiated a process in this regard.

Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain might make recommendations to the government within a few days for regularising the additional HC judges, said Supreme Court sources.

Law Minister Anisul Huq discussed the issue with the chief justice at a judicial conference on May 29 at the SC auditorium.

The following day, the law minister told this newspaper that his office will take necessary steps to confirm the jobs of the six HC judges immediately after receiving recommendations from the chief justice.

The judges are Justice Ashish Ranjan Das, Justice Mahmudul Hoque, Justice Md Badruzzaman, Justice Zafar Ahmed, Justice Kazi Md Ejarul Haque Akondo and Justice ABM Altaf Hossain.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

# Schoolboy stabbed to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Misceants stabbed a ninth grader to death in the capital's Kadamtali last night.

Md Shafiqul Islam, a student of Raisuddin Model School, came under attack in front of Merajnagar Madarasah around 9:30pm, said witnesses.

The assailants stabbed the schoolboy in his chest, leaving him critically injured. Two of his friends, Akash and Hridoy, whisked

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



An uncovered truck carrying garbage spreads appalling stench on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue near Bangla Motor around 4:00pm yesterday. Usually, the Dhaka city corporations remove garbage late at night and very early in the morning. A city corporation garbage compactor and another garbage carrying truck, out of frame, were following the vehicle.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

# India to update citizens' register

BJP seeks to know 'influx of Bangladeshis'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Reflecting the seriousness it attaches to the issue of illegal migration from Bangladesh, the BJP-led government plans a special push to updating National Register of Citizens (NRC), a project launched in the northeastern state of Assam to take stock of the influx of Bangladeshis into the state.

The issue had figured during a three-hour meeting Indian new Home Minister Rajnath Singh had with senior officials of the ministry on Thursday when he took charge of the portfolio.

The federal Indian government had recently released Rs 260 crore to the state of Assam for the project with a two-year deadline for completion.

The project had been approved in 2005 and launched as a pilot four years ago, but ran into rough weather due to violence and protests in Barpeta district of the state by All Assam Minority Students' Union (AAMSU).

"The process of the formulation of new guidelines for the project is complete, and money has been released to the state government which has to implement the project. It is being seen as a priority at the moment," according to a senior home ministry official.

The NRC, which was being updated earlier based on the 1951 electoral rolls, will now include names present in the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



# AIRPORT CHECK Priyanka wants no privilege

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Priyanka Gandhi, Congress president Sonia Gandhi's daughter, has urged Indian government to withdraw

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

PRAYER TIMING June 1		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-45	6-50
Esha	8-15	8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		

The Daily Star

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ONLINE POLL

Do you support the TIB's suggestion that the government should include the law enforcement agencies and armed forces in the National Integrity Strategy to ensure transparency and accountability in all spheres of governance?

Yes

(89%)

No

(11%)

TOTAL VOTES: 181

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with the prime minister that it is not possible to disband Rab suddenly?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

# Google offers 'right to be forgotten'

AFP, Berlin

Google received 12,000 requests from people seeking to be "forgotten" by the world's leading search engine on the first day it offered the service, a company spokesman in Germany said yesterday.

The requests, submitted on Friday, came after Google set up an online form to allow Europeans to request the removal of results about them from Internet searches.

The number confirms earlier estimates



given by the German daily Der Spiegel and reported in other media.

Earlier in May the European Court of Justice ruled that individuals have the right to have links to information about them deleted from searches in certain circumstances, such as if the data is outdated or inaccurate.

Google said that each request would be examined individually to gauge whether it met the ruling's criteria.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

# MURDER IN FENI 3 more make confessions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three more arrestees before a Feni court yesterday admitted their involvement in the gruesome murder of Phulgazi upazila chairman Ekramul Haq.

Jahidul Islam Saikat, Sazzadul Islam Patwari Sifat and Shahjalal Shipon made depositions before Senior Judicial Magistrate Khairul Amin, said court sources.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

# Why car? Drive suitcase!

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If you thought suitcases with wheels were handy, wait till you check out this new invention. It's an electric suitcase that not only has wheels, but is also equipped with a small motor -- so instead of carrying or dragging it, and you actually get to ride it wherever you need to go. Getting by in an airport will seem a breeze with this bad boy.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

