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STORIES OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

They come in various shapes and forms, writes Syed Badrul Ahsan

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'TELL THAT STORY'

A group of Israeli filmmakers say the Gaza killings should be depicted as well

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UK CABINET RESHUFFLE

Hague stands down as David Cameron ousts a dozen older male ministers

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No relief on highways

Rain, terrible road conditions to upset Eid home rush

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

The millions of people who will be heading home to celebrate Eid later this month will face numerous hassles, starting with the traffic congestion at the capital's exit points.

The worn-out conditions of some highways and the authorities' inability to manage the heavy traffic are likely to make their journey a painful experience, experts and communications ministry officials fear.

Rain will further aggravate commuters' sufferings, as heavy downpours will damage the roads.

Chittagong-bound passengers are expected to face tailbacks at Kanchpur, Sonargaon, Signboard, Madanpur and Sanarpar crossings after leaving the capital's perennial congestion at Sayedabad and Jatrabari behind.

Once they cross Daudkandi and hit the highway, their journey may turn into a nightmare.

The 192-km highway from Daudkandi is in a sorry state due to not only potholes at numerous points but also the ongoing expansion work. Dumping of construction

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The journey of people during Eid holidays might be as troublesome as it was last year on the Dhaka-Mymensingh route. If the road is not repaired before the vacations, the worn-out surface and potholes at numerous spots will cause a bumpy ride, which means unusually extra travel time and fuel -- not to mention a long tailback. The photo was taken at Masterbari in Gazipur Sadar on Monday. More on page 2. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

TRAVEL TRAVAILS OF EID HOME-GOERS

DHAKA-CTG

220km
Max 8-hr trip takes

12-15 hrs

DHAKA-MYMENSINGH

120km
Max 4-hr trip takes

10-12 hrs

Trouble begins at city exit points

QUADER - SPEAK

Before Eid-ul-Fitr/2012

Repairing the highways ahead of Eid is much more important than constructing Padma Bridge.

Before Eid-ul-Azha/2012

Our goal is to ensure comfort to people. But, we should not dream that people will go home and return safely and peacefully.

Before Eid-ul-Fitr/2013

To reduce public sufferings, I will stay on the roads till the last day in power.

Before Eid-ul-Azha/2013

The roads and highways across the country are much better than at any time in the past.

This year

Earlier, I had talked about giving peace to home-goers, but peace has become elusive. This year we will try to give them comfort.



BASIC BANK ANOMALIES

Board meeting minutes fake!

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and SAJJADUR RAHMAN

Some 106 agenda involving Tk 1,354 crore loan were included in the minutes, but were not at all discussed at the 327th board meeting of BASIC Bank in December last year.

A total of 308 agenda were listed for the meeting, but the number shot up to 414 in the meeting minutes, as found by the Bangladesh Bank-appointed observer in the scam-hit public bank.

His remarks on promoting two bankers to the post of deputy managing directors were grossly distorted in the meeting minutes.

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DEATH IN CUSTODY Family to sue Mirpur cop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The family of Mahbubur Rahman Sujon plans to file three cases, including one for murder, accusing Sub-inspector Jahidur Rahman Khan of Mirpur Police Station of torturing Sujon to death on Sunday.

Victim's brother-in-law Omar Faruk yesterday said they would also accuse Officer-in-Charge Mohammad Salauddin, SI Asad and a few others of

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Police behaviour shames the state

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

It is time for a policing of the police. For years on end, news about the insensitivity of a force whose job is to provide security of life and property to citizens has increasingly added to the worries of citizens. It has now come to a pass where not even the supplications of a five-year-old child, his passionate appeals to the police to stop beating his father, matter. Before a traumatised Rabbi, the police beat his father. The beating would not stop until the life went out of the father.

We speak of Sujon, of the brutal manner in which his

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Rejoinder, our reply

BH Haroon, a director, and Majedur Rahman, managing director of Premier Bank, have issued separate rejoinders to the report headlined, "Tk. 134 crore vanishes" published in The Daily Star on July 4.

In his rejoinder, Haroon, also a ruling party lawmaker from Jhalakathi district, denied his involvement in the money embezzlement from a client's bank account. He said the allegation had caused a fatal blow to his and the bank's image.

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It's not the colour of the sky or the beauty of the clouds. It is sheer terror that impels this little girl to look up as an Israeli drone flies over her home in Gaza City early yesterday. The look in her eyes speaks of the fear and trauma in the lives of Gaza's children, many of whom will endure the scars of war for a lifetime. It is their childhood, their innocence, that is about to be lost.

PHOTO: AFP

Israel resumes Gaza attack; death toll 194

Netanyahu warns of expanding operation after Hamas rejects truce offer; rocket kills first Israeli

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel resumed a punishing air campaign against Gaza yesterday after its Palestinian foe Hamas rejected a truce and fired dozens of rockets over the border, killing an Israeli for the first time.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned the army would "expand and intensify" its Gaza operation after

Hamas rejected the Egyptian truce proposal.

The renewed Israeli strikes killed two Gazans, raising the Palestinian death toll in eight days of violence to 194, medics said.

The Israeli was killed in a rocket attack on an Israeli position near the Erez crossing with Gaza, the army said.

Hamas's Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades armed wing said it carried out the attack.

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