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The High Court orders govt to stop illegal construction and earth filling
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Exhibition at National Museum pays tribute to Humayun
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'THE NOTEBOOK' COUPLE
Married for 65 years, they die minutes apart as in the 2004 film
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Close shave

2 boys rescued at Teknaf after ransom demand; abductees were to be trafficked to Malaysia

MOHAMMAD ALI ZINNAT, from Cox's Bazar

Two madrasa students, kidnapped in Teknaf on Friday, were rescued the next day as they were about to be trafficked to Malaysia by sea.

The abduction of the two boys, allegedly by human traffickers, serves as a wake-up call to the authorities.

The incident indicates that whatever steps the government took did little to check human trafficking; rather the crime seems to have been on the rise in recent times.

Trafficking by sea to Thailand and Malaysia has been brought under the spotlight by the international media.

People trafficked through the route



Yusuf

Ibrahim

end up working for Thai fish industry or in Malaysia for a little pay or nothing at all, The Guardian revealed.

The rapidly growing economies of Thailand and Malaysia require a huge labour force that can hardly be met by the manpower the countries have, say

the media reports.

In the latest incident in Teknaf, Border Guard Bangladesh rescued the two boys along with two fortune seekers from the house of a manpower broker, Khuilla Mia, at Quainchori around 10:00pm on Saturday.

The other two victims -- Mohammad Ishaq, 23, and Nurul Islam, 22, from Budhpara in Cox's Bazar -- wished to go to Malaysia for employment.

The BGB arrested Khuilla and two other brokers -- Md Yunus of Quainchori and Nuruzzaman of Ukhiya.

"If the BGB personnel had made

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CELEBRATIONS BEGIN: Smile has been an unknown quantity for the Tigers throughout this year. However, on Sunday they enjoyed their best cricketing moment in Chittagong, where they completed a historic 3-0 whitewash of Zimbabwe. Story on Page 14

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

BURDWAN BLAST
Indian team due today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A four-member team of India's National Investigation Agency arrives in Dhaka today to share information about militancy with Bangladesh and find out a mechanism to jointly fight against the menace.

The team which will be headed by NIA chief

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Pricier, next year

Gas, electricity rates to go up

MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

The new year is likely to begin with a sour note for consumers, from households to businesses and industries, as the prices of gas and electricity are set to go up.

Retailers and wholesalers have submitted proposals to Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) to have the prices adjusted on January 1.

In favour of their proposals, gas retailers argue that the prices are very low in Bangladesh compared to neighbouring countries. The PDB, lone buyer and seller of wholesale electricity, says the production cost is higher than retail tariff.

Depending on users, gas prices might increase between 5 to 122 percent. The bulk rates of electricity might increase by 18.12 percent after a traditional adjustment in retail prices.

"All prices will be finalised through public hearings," Salim Mahmud, a member of BERC, told The Daily Star yesterday. They plan to conduct three hearings next month -- one on gas price and two on electricity tariff.

According to the proposals, power plants will have to buy 1,000 cubic metres

of gas at Tk 84. The price is now Tk 79.82.

For the same amount of gas, fertiliser factories, captive power plants, industries, tea gardens and commercial buildings will have to pay respectively Tk 80 (up from current price of Tk 72.92), Tk 240 (from Tk 118.26), Tk 220 (from Tk 165.91), Tk 200 (from Tk 165.91) and Tk 350 (from Tk 268.09).

CNG stations will have to buy gas at Tk 1,132.67 per 1,000 cubic metres. It's now Tk 651.29.

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Radicals behind father's killing

Says son of RU teacher; Jamaat leader held

ANWAR ALI and MA SAYEED, Rajshahi

A day after the brutal murder of Prof Shaful Islam, his son yesterday blamed radical forces for the killing.

"Religious fanatics have murdered my father," said Soumin Shahrid Javin.

"He was a devoted follower of Baul philosophy. He not only believed in it, he practically lived it. My father would arrange programmes of Baul songs at home and would invite people. Even a professor from India's Kalyani University came and attended such a programme on Tuesday," said the only son of

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POLL

HOW BRIGHT IS YOUR FUTURE?

The Pew Research Center* (based in Washington, D.C., conduct public opinion polling) asked People in 33 countries if they believed their lives would improve in five years. Here's a sampling of who said yes:



81% Bangladesh



78% Senegal



72% Brazil



38% Jordan



29% Poland

Congratulations

Elegant Group Receives The Best Export Client Award

South East Bank Limited has honored Elegant Group with the Best Export Client Award on 15th Nov, 2014 at a ceremony at Radisson Blu Water Garden. Mr. Tanveer Ahmed, the Managing Director of Elegant Group is seen receiving the award from the Governor of Bangladesh Bank Dr. Atiur Rahman.

Elegant Group

KIDNAP OF 2 BROTHERS

Dozens witnessed; cops in the dark

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Though around 30 people witnessed the abduction of two brothers in Mirpur's Darussalam early Friday, police still are clueless about the identity of the perpetrators.

Those who witnessed the abduction pointed fingers at a particular law enforcement agency, saying one of the abductors was wearing a sleeveless jacket with two letters inscribed on its back.

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Nothing wrong

PM's adviser defends his bloopers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister's Political Affairs Adviser HT Imam yesterday said he had not done or said anything that might harm the government's image or make it feel embarrassed, and that there was no question of repenting.

Talking to BBC Bangla, he also claimed his remarks at the Chhatra League programme at Dhaka University on Wednesday were misinterpreted intentionally.



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This is to certify that the **City Bank Limited** was awarded **Best Consumer Internet Bank Bangladesh** in the *Global Finance* World's Best Internet Bank Awards, 2014

GLOBAL FINANCE

Joseph D. Giarraputo, President and Publisher

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