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JUSTICE AT LAST
US man freed after four decades in solitary confinement
PAGE 8

KYRGYZ BOOTERS IN TOWN
Kyrgyzstan will play Bangladesh in World Cup Qualifier tomorrow
PAGE 15

THE 2015 FORD ECOSPORT
With this diesel-powered mini SUV, have fun here and now
SEE SHIFT

Pay more for air travel

Tk 200-500 rise in tax per ticket

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Air travellers now will have to pay more as the government has hiked the excise tax on their tickets.

The tax has been increased by between Tk 200 and Tk 500, which would vary depending on routes. The new tax rate has been in force since June 6, according to a Statutory Regulatory Order issued by the National Board of Revenue recently.

For domestic routes, the tax on each ticket rose to Tk 500 from Tk 300.

There has been a Tk 200 tax-hike on tickets to Saarc countries as well.

On tickets to Asian countries (apart from the Saarc nations), the tax has been hiked to Tk 1,000

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

WB ready with $1b funding

Wants to see Bangladesh as centre of region's connectivity

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The World Bank could lend more than $1 billion to implement a number of regional connectivity projects for boosting trade and investment among Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Bhutan.

A transport team of the global lender presented its detailed plan to bankroll the connectivity projects to Finance Minister AMA Muhith at the WB headquarters in Washington in April.

"By promoting the regional integration, Bangladesh can become the central hub in the region providing connectivity to the neighbouring countries," said the presentation.

Besides, a WB team visited several ports, customs points and India-Bangladesh multimodal corridors this year and last year. Following the visits, the team sent an aid memoir to the finance ministry, ministry officials told The Daily Star recently.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

WORLD BANK assistance for CONNECTIVITY

WB already identifies 3 projects

$120 million for trade, transport facilitation project

$280 million for waterways and corridor projects

$5 million already been provided as grant for conducting study on connectivity

Each hour's delay at borders entails an additional cost of $10-15 and a single day's delay raises the tariff on goods by 1 percent

Eight-year-old Maria silently looks at a photo of her father Sahabuddin at her house in Bhola on May 18. Promised a lucrative job in Singapore, Sahabuddin sold all his cropland and cattle to pay a trafficking broker named Faruk. But he ended up in Saudi Arabia where he earns too little to send any money to the family back home and lives in constant fear of arrest. PHOTO: JAYANTA BISWAS

FIGHTING SEXUAL HARASSMENT, VIOLENCE

Media can play big role

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The media can help change perceptions of gender-based violence, and end the culture of acceptance of such violence and the social stigma attached to the victims.

It can also inform people about the facilities available to get justice, said speakers at a roundtable with media editors on "Sexual Harassment, Gender-Based Violence and the Role of Media" at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

"We need to educate the men in our lives that this [sexual harassment] isn't appropriate, that we don't like it and it is, in the end, criminal behaviour," said US Ambassador in Dhaka Marcia Stephens Bloom Bernicat.

She mentioned a Cornell University study on street harassment in which 31 percent of the men interviewed admitted to perpetuating street harassment. But only 10 percent of them defined their behaviour as harassment.

Eileen O'Connor, deputy assistant US Secretary of State for South and Central Asia, said men should understand the importance of the issue.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Trafficking through Nepal surfaced

One man responsible for turning 52 Bhola families broke

JAYANTA BISWAS, *Bhola*

At least 52 families in Bhola's Charfashion are now broke because of one broker of an international human trafficking gang.

Broker Faruque Hossain, a resident of Charfashion's Uttar Mangal village, had promised them jobs in Singapore, Canada and Sweden to rob them off everything.

Each victim paid Faruque, now arrested, between Tk 5 lakh and Tk 8 lakh in phases since 2012.

Of the victims, 23 men are from Uttar Mangal while eight, 10, five and six are from Anjur Hat, Char Kalmi, Awazpur and Dhalchar, police records say.

According to The Daily Star investigation, an estimated 2.5 lakh people from about 40 districts were lured into perilous sea voyages to Malaysia in the last eight years.

This number is just a tip of the iceberg with Faruque's story bringing forth the fact that traffickers used numerous routes in running the business and sea is just one of many.

Police arrested Faruque after Jahangir Farazi, father of trafficking victim Akhter, filed a case on May 18. Faruque showed up

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

TOP QUOTE

"We need to educate the men in our lives that this [sexual harassment] isn't appropriate, that we don't like it and it is, in the end, criminal behaviour."

US AMBASSADOR IN DHAKA
MARCIA BERNICAT
ADDRESSING A PROGRAMME AT The Daily Star CENTRE

Without any medical education or training, ear-cleaners carry on their activities in Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital. Not endorsed by doctors, the work of these quacks may cause serious damage to ears. PHOTO: STAR

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