



A man sits precariously on the foothold of a vehicle, locally known as Nosimon, while another stands beside the driver. People travel on the roof of a similar vehicle, *top right*, failing to find room inside. Passengers are crammed into another Nosimon, *bottom right*. These vehicles, built on water-pump engines, are not permitted on the highways, as they are unfit and prone to serious accidents. In reality, these three-wheelers are a commonplace. Not only do people routinely get on them, they do it dangerously, risking their lives. The photos were taken on the Dhaka-Dinajpur highway at Baneshwar in Dinajpur a few days ago.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Bahrain declares 6-month amnesty

36,000 'illegal' Bangladeshis staying in the Gulf country can now legalise their status

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Illegal Bangladeshi migrants in Bahrain can legalise their stay taking advantage of a six-month general amnesty that comes into effect from tomorrow. Simultaneously, undocumented Bangladeshis staying in the country would be able to return home without facing punishment during the amnesty period. The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) of Bahrain disclosed the amnesty offer for foreign workers in its website yesterday. Currently, around 1,15,000 Bangladeshis are working in different sectors in Bahrain. Of them, 36,572 are believed to be illegal, said

Bangladesh embassy officials in Manama. Maj Gen K M Mominur Rahman, Bangladesh ambassador in Manama, advised the Bangladeshis to avail benefits of the offer. The LMRA also said the foreign workers, who will leave Bahrain during the amnesty period, might return in any future date without obstacles. "We offer this opportunity to all those who may have found themselves on the wrong side of the law to rectify their situation without having to pay penalties or face legal procedures," said Ausamah Alabsi, chief executive officer of LMRA.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

RAMPAL POWER PLANT PM blasts critics

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday criticised those who opposed the construction of a coal-based power plant near the Sundarbans. "Bangladesh is ours -- I don't believe others will show more kindness than me in saving the country as well as the Sundarbans. They [others] are shedding crocodile tears," the PM said while speaking on the proposed budget in parliament. The government would not have gone for the plant, if it would cause harm to the Sundarbans, she observed amid thumping



SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Wheat from Brazil substandard

Finds BCSIR tests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) has found the imported Brazilian wheat substandard, raising questions about the results of the tests carried out by the food ministry. "All the supplied samples contained higher amount of shrunken and broken kernels than the required specification," said the state-run agency in its test report submitted to the ministry on Sunday. The test results came a couple of days after the food ministry said the wheat was found "within the quality parameters or within specification of contract". Meanwhile, a writ petition was filed with the High Court yesterday challenging the legality of the import and distribution of the "substandard" wheat from Brazil. The ministry last week conducted the test in its labs after collecting samples of the wheat from district warehouses following media reports on the import of two lakh tonnes of "substandard" wheat. Two contractors -- Netherlands-based Glencore Grain and Singapore-based Olam International -- supplied the grains to the food directorate earlier this year.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Latif Siddique gestures, declining to talk to journalists yesterday.

Latif freed on HC bail

Joins Sangsad today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sacked minister Abdul Latif Siddique was freed from jail yesterday days after he had obtained bail in cases filed against him for hurting religious sentiments of the Muslims.

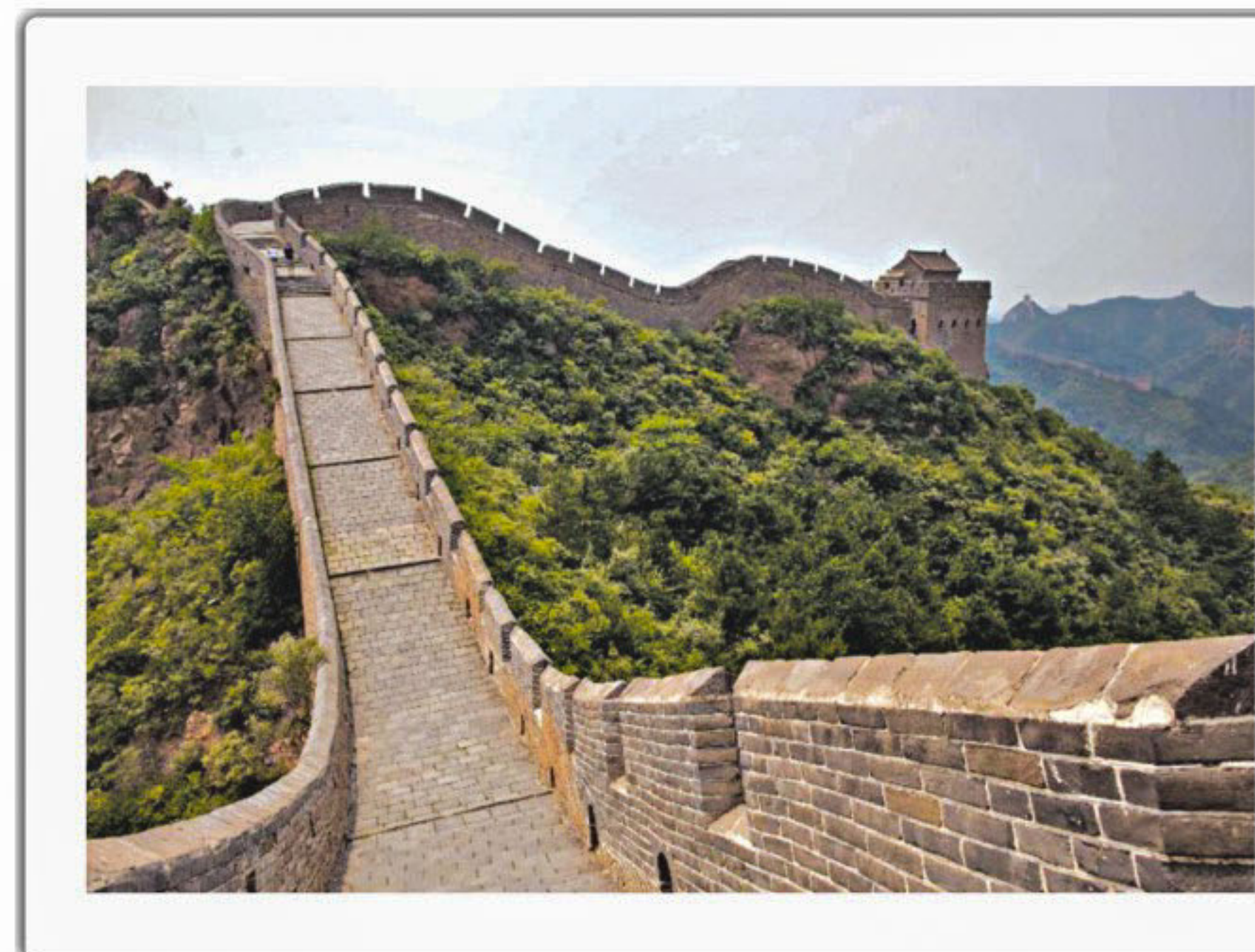
SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Cops kill 'mugger' in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police shot dead a man and injured another in the capital's Paltan area last night. The dead is Shamim, 30, and the injured is Abdul Karim, 32. Police said the two were shot when they were fleeing after mugging Tk 1 lakh from one Saiful Islam around 9:30pm. Saiful was on a rickshaw when the two snatched the money, according to police. As Saiful screamed for

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Is Great Wall disappearing?

AFP, Beijing

Around 30 percent of China's Ming-era Great Wall has disappeared over time as adverse natural conditions and reckless human activities -- including stealing the bricks to build houses -- erode the Unesco World Heritage site, state media reported. The Great Wall is not a single unbroken structure but stretches for thousands

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Framework signed for China-led int'l bank

Bangladesh, 49 other countries from 5 continents join initiative

STAR REPORT

Countries from five continents formally signed up yesterday to the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank -- a potential rival to the Washington-based World Bank -- as Beijing steps up its global diplomatic and economic role. Australia, followed by 49 other founding members, was the first country to sign the articles of association creating the AIIB's legal framework at a ceremony in Beijing's Great Hall of the

People, AFP reports. Seven more are expected to do so by the end of the year. The bank will have a share capital of \$100 billion, with \$20 billion paid in initially, the document showed. The signing "is an embodiment of the concrete action and efforts made by all countries in the spirit of solidarity, openness, inclusion and cooperation", Chinese President Xi Jinping said after the ceremony. Signalling China's central role at the bank, he added: "Now we are willing

to listen to your views and proposals." BANGLADESH TO PAY \$132M Bangladesh will have to initially pay \$132.1 million in five instalments to become an AIIB member, The Daily Star reported on June 22. Once the bank is functional, Dhaka will apply for project loans and technical assistance, MA Mannan, state minister for finance and planning, said, adding that the rate of interest would be competitive with those of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA)
 Prime Minister's Office, Level 15, BDBL Bhaban 12, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka 1215 Bangladesh
 Phone: +8802 8180119 | Fax: +8802 8180172 | E-mail: info@beza.gov.bd | Web: www.beza.gov.bd

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS

Ramadan	June	Sehri	Iftar
12	30	6-53	
13	July 1	3-42	6-54
14	2	3-42	6-54

PRAYER TIMING
 JUNE 30
 Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
 3-42 12-45 5-00 6-53 8-17
 JAMAAT 3-52 1-15 5-15 6-63 8-45
 SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION