



HOME AFTER 30 MONTHS

Five trafficking victims return from India, reunite with parents

PAGE 13

MEGHMALLAR AT TORONTO

Film based on Elias' short story goes to prestigious festival

PAGE 9

JAZEERA JOURNOS JAILED

Egypt court verdict a deliberate attack on press freedom, TV station says

PAGE 8

UN chief calls for refugee action

AGENCIES

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appealed yesterday to governments to step up their response to Europe's migrant crisis following more drowning at sea and the discovery of migrant bodies in an abandoned truck in Austria.

Ban praised leaders and communities who were taking action to cope with the flow of migrants, but added: "Much more is required."

"I appeal to all governments involved to provide comprehensive responses, expand safe and legal channels of migration and act with humanity, compassion and in accordance

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

LIBYAN BOAT CAPSIZE

Twenty-four Bangladeshis likely dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 24 Bangladeshis were likely among those who perished in the Mediterranean Sea when two rickety boats sank off the coast of Libya on Thursday, a Bangladesh embassy official said yesterday.

"Survivors confirm that a total of 24 persons are dead or still missing. It is assumed that they are no more," said Mozammel Haque, chargé d'affaires of Bangladesh embassy in Libya, in an email received by The Daily Star around 9:00pm.

The mission interviewed all survivors at the detention centre in Tripoli, he said.

The email also read: "As you are aware that out of 78 Bangladeshi who were on board when two boats were capsized, six of them are reported to be dead."

Regarding the repatriation of 54 rescued Bangladeshis, he said, the embassy was in touch with all ministries

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

REFUGEES FROM 'BANGLADESH, AFGHANISTAN AND SYRIA' ON NEW MIGRANT TRUCK -- PAGE 2



NILOY MURDER

Witness identifies one of 4 suspects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A witness yesterday identified one of the four suspects held in connection with the killing of blogger Niladri Chattopadhyay Niloy, police said.

Police, however, refused to disclose the identities of the suspect and the witness.

"We cannot divulge the names of the suspect and the witness at this stage," Muntasirul Islam, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police

(DMP), told The Daily Star yesterday.

Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested two alleged members of banned Islamist outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team in connection with the blogger's murder in Dhaka on Thursday. The two -- Kausar Hossain Khan, 29, and Kamal Hossain Sardar, 29 -- were placed on a five-day remand.

Earlier on August 14, detectives arrested two others -- Saad al Nahyan and Masud Rana -- also alleged members of Ansarullah

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

FOOL'S OIL

Trickster makes good money at the expense of rare animals

ANISUR RAHMAN with TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

"Are you suffering from rheumatic fever? Scratching your skin off for eczema? Writhing in pain with fractured bones? Battling asthma? Fighting diabetes? Enduring indescribable pain and shame due to piles or sexual diseases?"

"One bottle of these oils will rid you of all these ailments," guaranteed Babul Mia Sapuria after a well-rehearsed speech, holding up a small vial of his "miracle oils" before a horde of curious onlookers near Khilgaon Matir

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Babul Mia with his 'shop' spread out on a street in Khilgaon in the capital. He collects animals, some endangered and rare, and uses their dried carcasses to make different kinds of medicinal oil that, he claims, can cure all known diseases. He has been tricking people in this way for over 30 years now.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Boots made by Leatherex in its Dhanmondi showroom in the capital. Starting in the early '90s, the company is now one of the country's top export-oriented footwear manufacturers.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

CHANGE MAKERS

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

GROWING BIG with little trick

Story behind Leatherex's success

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In 1992, Nazmul Hassan began to export crushed leather and other leather products in his humble way, with Japan his major buyer. Before long he noticed that the leather he would export would return to Bangladesh in the form of class, expensive footwear.

Nazmul quickly discovered the trick -- it is the Japanese technology that transforms his crushed leather into high-quality products. So, he decided to bring that technology home and venture into the footwear industry.

Looking to make high-end footwear, he set up Leatherex Footwear

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Unjust, illogical Industries, political parties react to power-gas price hike

STAR REPORT

The price hike of natural gas and electricity would increase the cost of production and the country's export business would lose its competitive edge, said industry insiders.

They said increasing the cost of doing business, by hiking energy prices, was unjust and illogical at a time when the prices of almost all basic commodities and fuel have been dropping across the world.

They demanded that the government reconsider the decision of the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) to hike the prices of natural gas and power by 26.29 percent and 2.93 percent respectively.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, meanwhile, hinted at higher transport fares against the backdrop of hike in energy prices.

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority would sit in a meeting soon to adjust transport fares following the price hike of energy, he told The Daily Star over the phone last night.

Political parties, including the BNP and Jatiya Party, denounced the price hike decision and demanded its immediate withdrawal.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



TOP QUOTE

"If the impact of gas and power tariff hike is not tolerable for the people, the prime minister may reconsider this

ROAD TRANSPORT MINISTER OBAIDUL QUADER AT A DISCUSSION IN THE CITY

Molester so mighty?

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A group of village arbitrators ostracised her along with family members just on the basis of a totally unfounded claim that she appeared in a nude video clip.

The arbitration, held on January 3 this year in Kachaldanga village under Chirirbandar upazila, was headed by Abu Bakkar Siddique, father of Md Ohidul Master.

The victim's family members said it was Ohidul who spread rumours about her appearance in the clip after she, a housewife, had turned down his illicit proposal in December last year. Interestingly enough, none of the arbitra-

tors had seen the clip before they meted out the "punishment", one of the arbitrators told The Daily Star last month.

However, that was only the beginning of a series of attacks on her, some physical, some sexual and some verbal.

Ohidul and his men first allegedly assaulted the 27-year-old housewife on July 10. The victim's father filed a case against Ohidul and eight others in this connection with the Chirirbandar Police Station on July 27.

On August 25 evening, Ohidul's brother Shahidul Master and his cohorts allegedly tied the victim to a tree, beat her up and sexually assaulted her when she refused to

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2