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2 'top human traffickers' arrested

STAR REPORT

Police yesterday arrested two alleged top human traffickers in Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar.

Abdul Kalam, 32, and Zamal Uddin, 33, -- two brothers -- were picked up from their home at Katabuniya village in coastal Sabrang union around 3:45am, police said.

The duo, who stand accused in 12 cases filed in connection with human trafficking, were on the run for a long time, said Shyamol Kumar Nath, superintendent of police in Cox's Bazar.

"The two siblings are not only top-listed human traffickers, they are also known as 'dons'," Teknaf Police Station Officer-in-Charge Aatur Rahman told our Cox's Bazar correspondent.

Katabuniya is locally known as "Malaysia Airport" for the fact that it is the hub of human traffickers, and acts as a gateway to get into rickety boats sailing for Malaysia via Thailand.

Though human trafficking through the Bay of Bengal has been going on for the last few years, the issue came to the fore following Thailand's discovery of mass graves in its southern hilly jungles.

According to survivors, traffickers first take the people to Thai jungles where they hold them hostage and realise

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



For the love of vultures

SAKIB AHMED

The torrents had just stopped and sunlight filtered through the bright green canopy above, forming columns of light spiraling down to the moist forest floor.

The humidity was stifling and the forest eerily silent, as if held under a spell; every living being waiting for something to happen. Not even a leaf stirred; the birds had fallen quiet. We were surrounded by huge trees. The mighty garjans shot up towards the zenith, stood solemnly like silent

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2



Less than 500 white-rumped vultures are left in Bangladesh and other species of vultures are disappearing. The reason is that the scavengers eat carcasses of cows that were injected with harmful chemicals.

PHOTO: SHIMANTO DIPU

LIBYA BOAT TRAGEDY: 31 survivors return home next week

15 Bangladeshis flee Indonesian camp

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirty-one Bangladeshis, who survived after two boats sank off the Libyan coast last month, are expected to be repatriated by next week.

"The IOM [International Organisation for Migration] has agreed to help repatriate the 31 Bangladeshis by next week. We are now waiting for their flight," ASM Ashraf Islam, counsellor (labour) at the Bangladesh embassy in Libya, said yesterday.

He told The Daily Star over the phone that 12 other Bangladeshis, now in a detention camp in Tripoli, were unwilling to return.

They said they had paid hefty sums for going to the North African country and wanted to come back home only after recovering the money they lost.

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A dairy farmer milking a cow in front of a customer (not in the photo) at Rayerbazar in the capital. The idea of giving customers milk as fresh as it can be has caught on in the area.

PHOTO: STAR

From dreams to reality

SUJIT SARKER and ZAHED KHAN

It began as a dream to become an independent woman for Shamsunnahar Begum who was frustrated with her life as a domestic help.

Squeezing her monthly expenses every day, she managed to gather Tk 41,000 from her wages and bought a cow and a calf. She never had to look back since.

Now, about 10 years later, she owns 13 cows and earns her bread selling fresh cow milk to customers at Rayerbazar Beribandh. Her unique way of selling milk has earned her a

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

Single war tribunal from Sunday

Another to be kept dormant

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One of the two war crimes tribunals will function from Sunday while the other will be kept dormant, said Law Minister Anisul Huq.

The government has made the move in consultation with the Supreme Court and considering some relevant issues, including the drop of the number of pending cases at the tribunals, he told The Daily Star yesterday.

A gazette notification will be issued soon in this regard, he added.

Although a single tribunal will work, the other will not be abolished, said a law ministry high official requesting anonymity.

Judges of the non-functional tribunal will work at the High Court, he said, adding that the tribunal, if necessary, would resume functioning.

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Social media killing off visits to friends

BAYNETWORK ONLINE

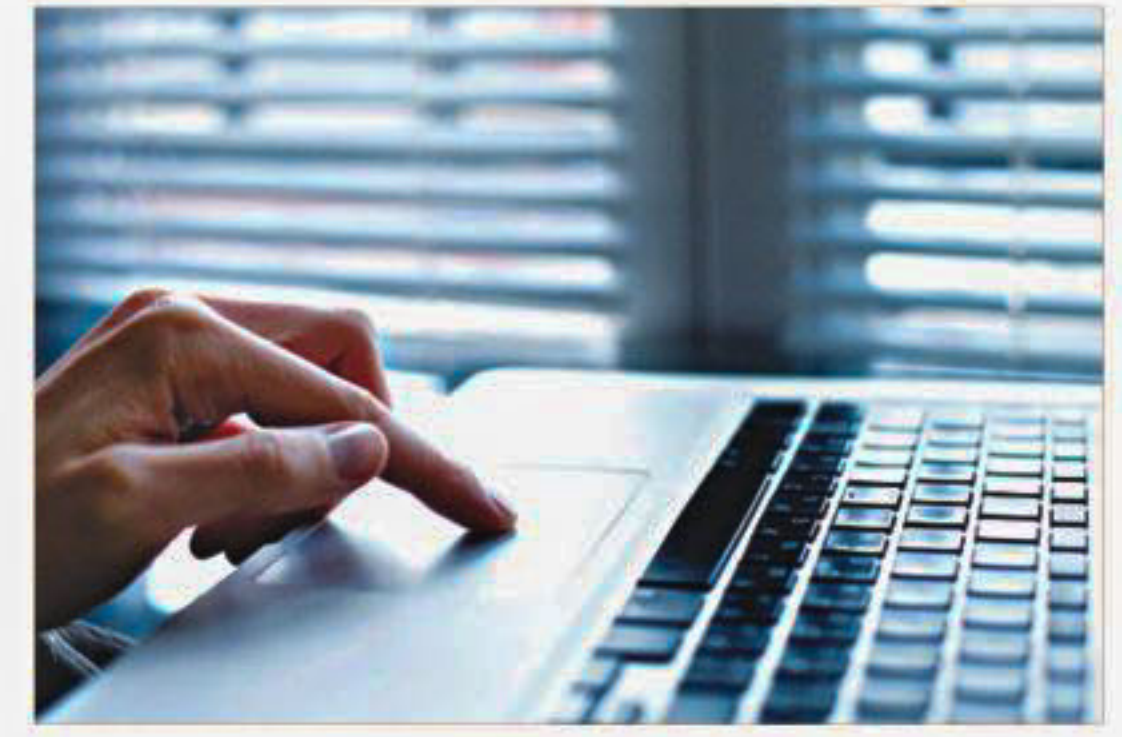
Social media is killing off face-to-face contact with friends, new statistics have suggested.

The average number of visits people pay their mates is down by almost a third in the past 20 years, according to a UK study.

It claims we see our friends far less than we used to because technology means we keep in touch online instead.

The number of trips we make on average has fallen to an all time low, with the growth of online shopping and the popularity of working from home

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



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The Daily Star

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ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with Dhaka South City mayor Sayeed Khokon that the waterlogging problem in the capital could not be resolved due to bureaucratic reasons?

Yes (46%)
No (54%)

TOTAL VOTES: 181

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with a report by the US Department of State that corruption still remains a serious impediment to investment and economic growth in Bangladesh?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING

SEPTEMBER 4

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-30 12-30 4-45 6-23 7-45
JAMAAT 5-05 1-15 5-00 6-26 8-15

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