

### Indo-Bangla army chiefs agree on need for exchange of stranded fishermen

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Bangladesh and India yesterday agreed on expeditious repatriation of their fishermen who stray unwittingly into each other's territorial waters.

The decision was made when visiting Bangladesh Chief of Army Staff Gen Abu Belal Muhammad Shafiq met Indian Home Minister Rajnath Singh and discussed various issues, including fishermen of the two countries drifting into each other's territorial waters.

It was agreed that the return of such people to their respective countries should be speeded up, an official statement said.

Rajnath appreciated the cordial implementation of the Land Boundary Agreement between the two countries.

On the issue of erstwhile enclave dwellers who want to shift to India by disposing of their immovable property, it was pointed out by the Bangladesh delegation that the joint working group of the two countries was dealing with the matter, it said.

Such people would be helped by the respective deputy commissioners to enable them to sell their immovable property at remunerative market prices, it added.

Rajnath told Shafiqul Haq that the age-old strong relations between the two countries are based on mutual understanding and confidence. The countries are able to resolve issues amicably and the cultural and socio-economic relations are growing rapidly, he said.

Indian Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju, Secretary (Border Management) Anoop Kumar Srivastava, senior officers of the home ministry and Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi were also present.



Easy bikes still operating in Chittagong city defying a recent ban, which causes traffic jam and risk of accidents. More than 2,000 such illegal vehicles currently plying the city streets. The photo was taken on MA Aziz Road in Kathgar area recently.

PHOTO: STAR

# Illegal easy bikes still roaming Ctg city

## Authorities' role contradictory

MINHAJ UDDIN, Ctg

More than 2,000 illegal easy bikes are operating in Chittagong city, violating a recent ban and adding to traffic congestion and the risk of accidents.

Though the battery-run three-wheelers are seen in large numbers, police claimed that they were checking the vehicles' presence.

Introduced in 2012, the three-wheelers do not have the fitness certificate and route permit and are unregistered. These are imported from China, and each costs Tk 1.5 lakh locally.

The easy bikes, powered by electricity, mostly ply MA Aziz Road leading to the airport, the sea beach, Karnaphuli

Export Processing Zone, Chittagong EPZ in the south. Some others operate on KB Aman Ali Road and in Chaktai-Khatunganj, Saltgola, and Halishahar areas.

"The vehicles often take passengers in the middle of the main road, coming in the way of the fast moving vehicles and resulting in long tailbacks," said Zahidul Islam, a bus driver.

In addition, the rickety vehicles often cause accidents. On August 9, locals set fire to two easy bikes in Kala Mia Bazar when a boy was badly injured after being hit by one.

According to the owners' associations and drivers, 2,000 easy bikes run across parts of the port city, with concentration of

garment and other factories.

Mainly workers use them to commute regularly.

Drivers said 1,500 vehicles used MA Aziz Road alone, and of them 700 ran from CEPZ in the sea port area to the sea beach and on the back streets.

The government banned three-wheelers on highways on August 1 to prevent accidents, mainly occurring due to the movement of fast and slow moving vehicles on the same road.

Accordingly, the Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) banned easy bikes in the city, but they are still seen on the streets every day between 7:00am and 9:00am and after 5:00pm when garment workers rush to and from the workplace.

Shahidul Islam, traffic inspector of CMP's Patenga Zone, said whenever police see an easy bike, they seize it but some might escape their watch.

Driver Md Sarwar said they try to avoid police.

But he said, "Easy bikes are there because the government has let them import. We are poor people; if our vehicles run off the street, we would lose everything."

The ban worries passengers as well since few buses operate in the abovementioned areas.

Nazmul Hasan, a graduate student at Osman Gani MES College in GEC intersection area, said after enforcement of the ban, he sometimes had to wait for hours to board a vehicle from CEPZ area.

### Detained Minu in ICU with 'chest pain'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Detained BNP leader Mizanur Rahman Minu was admitted to the intensive care unit of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital with "serious chest pain" yesterday, soon after he was administered "local anesthesia" for his root canal treatment.

Upon physician's advice, Minu, former mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation and city unit president of the party, was admitted to RMCH dental unit from Rajshahi jail around 10:00am and was shifted to the ICU one hour later, said Senior Jail Super Shafiqul Islam Khan.

Minu was shifted to the ICU with "unstable angina," which is a condition in which the heart doesn't get enough blood flow and oxygen, said Associate Professor Roisuddin of RMCH cardiology department. He is still under physicians' observation, said the physician.

RMCH Director Brig Gen Rafikul Islam said the chest pain was "a reaction to the drug."

Minu developed the chest pain soon after he was administered local anesthesia for the root canal, said Assistant Professor Abdul Awal of the dental unit.

His wife Salma Shahadat told The Daily Star that physicians told her that his condition was stable.

On July 13, the BNP leader was sent to jail after he surrendered before a Rajshahi court in seven violence cases filed during the BNP-led 20-party's anti-government agitation this year.

Rajshahi city unit BNP General Secretary Shafiqul Haque Milon alleged that the jail authorities earlier delayed Minu's proper treatment on a plea of taking permission from the higher authorities.



Although about a week has passed since 10 passengers of a human hauler were electrocuted by a low-hanging wire on this spot in the capital's Mohammadpur, the authorities concerned have taken no initiative to untangle this mess of wires above the road. The photo was taken on Tuesday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

### RMG workers

FROM PAGE 4  
Around 10,000 workers of Clifton Apparels, Clifton Deluxe Fashion, and Clifton Textile and Apparels took to the street around 6:00pm, said Sub-Inspector Shamim Sheikh of Bayezid Police Station.

A worker of Clifton Deluxe Fashion, said as per rule, a worker gets a one-day leave after every 18 days.

If they work throughout the period, they will get an allowance for one day, he said, adding, "We demand the dues of 2013." The workers withdrew the blockade when one director of Clifton Group assured them of repaying the dues before the Eid.

### One accused remanded

FROM PAGE 4  
15-day remand prayer.

Blogger Ananta Bijoy Das was hacked to death by a group of masked men in Sylhet city on May 12.

Earlier, Khair was arrested from Sylhet on September 2 and placed on a seven-day remand.

Earlier, Mannan, a student of English department of Sust and another accused in the case, confessed that he, Khair, and three others stabbed Ananta to death for his write-ups on Islam, said Mirza Abdullah Baqui, special superintendent of the Criminal Investigation Department.

### Khaleda to appear in court

FROM PAGE 3  
case, Khaleda and three others abused power to collect Tk 6.19 crore for Zia Charitable Trust during the BNP-led government's tenure between 1991 and 1996.

The statement of Zia orphanage trust graft case says the BNP chief, her son Tarique Rahman and four others embezzled Tk 2.1 crore by forming the charity that exists only on paper.

The Anti-Corruption Commission filed both the cases.

## Cocaine found in second barrel too of Ctg consignment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Contents of a second barrel among the 107 seized in Chittagong port in June have tested positive for cocaine, says a letter of the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) received at the Chittagong Metropolitan Police's Detective Branch yesterday.

Initially, the Directorate General of Drug Administration, and the Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research confirmed the presence of liquid cocaine in only one barrel, numbered 96.

Later, labs of Criminal Investigation Department and the DNC reconfirmed while the latter suspected that another barrel, numbered 59, contained the contraband drug.

A Chittagong court on September 6 sent a sample from barrel 59 for the retest.

The barrels, with labels claiming the contents to be sunflower oil, arrived at the port on May 8 in a container shipped from Uruguay's Montevideo on being brought from Bolivia on a truck, according to investigators.

Customs officials sealed the container on June 6. Police filed a case with Bandar Police Station on June 27 under the narcotics control act and six persons have so far been arrested.



### Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Abduj Jahir Chowdhury Sufian, Sylhet district administrator and district Awami League president, died from cancer in his Sagordighirpar residence in Sylhet city yesterday afternoon. He was 70.

He left behind his wife. He will be buried in Shah Jalal Mazar graveyard in the city after a namaz-e-ajanaza after Zohr prayers today.

Finance minister AMA Muhit mourned his death and expressed sympathy to the bereaved family.

## 3 errant pharmacies sealed in port city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court yesterday fined eight pharmacies and a medicine depot Tk 59,000 in Chittagong city on different charges, including selling of date expired medicines and not having licence.

In Dewan Bazar, M/s Chowdhury Medical was fined Tk 10,000 and M/s Motiar Rahman Medical Store and SM Drug House were Tk 5,000 each while QS Pharmacy in Bakalia was Tk 5,000.

In Enayet Bazar, M/s White Horse Pharma Ltd depot was fined Tk 20,000; M/s Seba Medico and M/s Universal Medicine Tk 2,000 each; M/s Alo Medico and M/s RN Medico Tk 5,000 each.

Meanwhile, Chowdhury Medical, Seba Medico and Universal Medicine were sealed off.

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### SC starts

FROM PAGE 4  
imprisonment.

On October 29 last year, International Crimes Tribunal-1 sentenced Nizami to death on four charges of war crimes, including murder of intellectuals. The 71-year-old was also sentenced to life imprisonment on four other charges.

Nizami on November 23 of the same year filed the appeal with the SC challenging the ICT-1 verdict.

### Govt trying

FROM PAGE 3  
rainfall in the last few days has led to flood in 24 districts where people lost their homes and crops.

Relief from the government has not reached the victims making them frustrated, said Ripon, also a foreign affairs secretary of the party.



With a fresh new format, new writers and a new perspective, the Star Weekend has an array of interesting articles for you. This week our spotlight is about how Hatirjheel remains the dumping ground, a ditch carrying household and industrial waste. There is also an important article on the relationship between teachers and students. Don't forget your copy of Star Weekend tomorrow, Friday!

