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Regional bus services soon

New passenger, cargo transport services to connect Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Bhutan, says FM

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

New passenger bus and cargo services connecting Bangladesh and India with Nepal and Bhutan will be operational soon, says Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali.

The initiative, taken under the BBIN Motor Vehicle Agreement, will have a huge positive economic impact on the countries.

"This is expected to be a 'game changer' in this sub-region," the foreign minister yesterday said while addressing the inaugural session of a two-day seminar titled "Bangladesh and Indian northeast: Exploring Opportunities and Mutual Interests".

The Asiatic Society of Bangladesh organised the event in the city.

"All these initiatives, put together, would have a huge impact on increasing people-to-people contact as well as on increasing cross-border business activities," he said.

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) signed a motor vehicle agreement in June. The pact was signed to promote safe, economical efficient and environmentally sound road transport in the sub-region.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

There was much to celebrate about the way the Tigers bowled against Zimbabwe in the first T20I yesterday, as Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Al Amin Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman and Jubair Hossain took two wickets each to reduce the visitors to 131. However, a shambolic batting performance saw the hosts struggling to overcome the target, before a final flourish from skipper Mashrafe took his side over the line. Reports on Page 14.

BNP activist shot dead in Chuadanga

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A BNP activist was found shot dead in Bhultia village of Chuadanga Sadar upazila yesterday three days after he was picked up by unidentified criminals.

The victim, Rabiul Islam Robi, 48, was the son of Abul Hasem of Nalbhanga village in Jhenidah's Kaliganj upazila.

Victim's son Rana Hossain, 18, said his father was a fertiliser and insecticide trader. He was a BNP activist, but did not hold any post.

According to Rana, his father along with the other accused was returning home in a microbus on Tuesday noon after appearing before a Jhenidah court in a land-related case.

When they reached near Tetultala Bazar in Jhenidah Sadar upazila, some six to seven armed assailants on

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Regional AIDS congress postponed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 12th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP-12), which was scheduled to be held in Dhaka on November 20-23, has been postponed, apparently on security grounds.

The ICAAP-12 executive committee in its website on Thursday night said the postponement was "due to unavoidable circumstances," and the schedule would be announced later.

Though they did not officially cite any reason behind the decision, a 28 October update on the website says some of the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

US air strike 'kills Jihadi John' in Syria

REUTERS, Beirut

The United States targeted British Islamic State leader "Jihadi John" in an air attack in northern Syria which Britain said would "strike at the heart of Islamic State" if the militant's death is confirmed.

British Prime Minister David Cameron said the death of Mohammed Emwazi, who was known as Jihadi John after appearing in videos showing the killings of US and British hostages, could not yet be confirmed and the Pentagon said it was still assessing the effectiveness of the strike.

But a US official said Thursday's attack in the town of Raqqa, Islamic State's de facto capital, probably killed Emwazi and the



Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a monitoring group, quoted sources in Raqqa as saying he had been blown to pieces.

"A car carrying four foreign Islamic State leaders, including one British Jihadi was hit by US air strikes right after the governorate building in Raqqa city," Rami Abdulrahman, Director of the UK-based Observatory told Reuters.

He initially quoted sources in Raqqa as saying the body of "an important British Jihadi" was in the town's hospital but later quoted them as saying Emwazi's body, and those of his three militant comrades, had been left in charred pieces.

Emwazi took part in videos showing the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

GAS LEAKAGE

Three burnt in explosion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three members of a family suffered severe burns in an explosion in their household gas pipeline at the capital's Wari early yesterday.

Alamgir Hossain, 50, his wife Hosne Ara, 45, and their daughter Shamrin Alam, 20, were in critical condition, and fighting for their lives at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said Partho Shankar Paul, residential physician at the hospital.

Alamgir sustained 95 percent burns, Hosne Ara 40 percent and Shamrin 30 percent, he added.

Quoting Shamrin, her uncle Abdus Sattar told The Daily Star that Hosne Ara went to their kitchen around 12:30am to boil milk. Just as she lighted a matchstick to fire up the gas stove, the room exploded with a loud bang and a huge fireball engulfed the house instantly.

Locals doused the flames immediately and rushed the three victims to the hospital.

Tapan Chandra Shaha, officer-in-charge of Wari Police Station, said gas leaked from what appeared to be a faulty pipeline

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

'Guerrilla grafting' for fruit lovers



ODDITYCENTRAL.COM

There is a group of fruit lovers in San Francisco that practice something known as "guerrilla grafting" -- they graft fruit bearing branches onto fruitless, ornamental trees across the Bay Area city.

Having access to free fruit sounds like a wonderful idea, considering the number of homeless people who can rarely afford a decent meal, but guerrilla grafting is actually illegal.

In many metropolitan areas, urban foresters make sure that flowering fruit trees don't bear any fruit, in order to keep fallen fruit from making a mess on sidewalks and attracting vermin. Most public trees are fruitless, a fact that the Guerilla Grafters obviously don't like.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADIT RUPON

Paban Das baul performing at Dhaka International Folk Festival yesterday. Story on page 11.

Chinese town reborn from ashes of quake

WASIM BIN HABIB, back from Yingxiu, China

The fate of the residents of Yingxiu changed forever the moment an earthquake hit the small town with the magnitude of 8 on a summer afternoon in 2008.

Being the epicentre, the formerly non-descript town, deep inside the hills and mountains in the Sichuan province of China, was thrown into total chaos as mountains split and swayed, buildings reduced to rubble and its infrastructure and communications were destroyed.

About 6,500 of around 12,000 perma-

nent residents of Yingxiu were killed that day and the rest were left to suffer utter devastation as people tried bare-handed to dig relatives and neighbours from the debris.

Seven years on from the nightmare, the town is now reborn from the ashes and its residents have recovered from the tremendous sorrow inflicted on them with the loss of their families in the disaster.

Strolling through the reconstructed town, one may get stunned by sparkling new houses built in combination of the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



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PRAYER TIMING

NOVEMBER 14


Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

5-00 12-45 3-45 5-22 7-00

JAMAAT 5-35 1-15 4-00 5-25 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

‘সুখী স্বদেশ গড়তে ভাই আয়করের বিকল্প নাই’



‘সমৃদ্ধির সোনালী দিন আনতে হলে আয়কর দিন’

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড

রাজস্ব ভবন, সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা-১০০০

শীতকালীন আয়কর মেলা-২০১৫

আয়কর মেলার ব্যাপক সাফল্য ও সম্মানিত করদাতাগণের অনুরোধের প্রেক্ষিতে তাঁদের আয়কর রিটার্ন দাখিলের সুবিধার্থে প্রথমবারের মতো আগামী ১৯, ২০ ও ২১ নভেম্বর ২০১৫ খ্রিস্টাব্দ (বৃহস্পতি, শুক্র ও শনিবার) ঢাকায় ০২(দুই) টি স্পটে এবং ঢাকার বাইরে ০৬ (ছয়) টি বিভাগীয় শহরে মোট ০৮ (আট) টি স্পটে সীমিত পরিসরে শীতকালীন আয়কর মেলা-২০১৫ অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

সময় : প্রতিদিন সকাল ১০:০০ ঘটিকা হতে বিকাল ০৫:০০ ঘটিকা।

| বিভাগ/জেলার নাম | স্থান | বিভাগ/জেলার নাম | স্থান |
|-----------------|--|-----------------|--|
| ঢাকা | অফিসার্স ক্লাব, ২৬ বেইলী রোড, ঢাকা। | চট্টগ্রাম | সরকারী কার্যভবন-২, ১০ তলা ভবন |
| ঢাকা | কর অঞ্চল-৯, ঢাকা এর প্রাঙ্গণ। (৩২ গরীব-ই-নেওয়াজ এভিনিউ, সেক্টর-১৩, উত্তরা ঢাকা) | | সম্মুখস্থ প্রাঙ্গণ, আত্মাবাদ, চট্টগ্রাম। |
| সিলেট | ২৩/এ, বিহঙ্গ, কাজীটুলা রোড, নয়াসড়ক, সিলেট। (কর তথ্য ও সেবা কেন্দ্র প্রাঙ্গণ) | রাজশাহী | কর অঞ্চল-রাজশাহী এর প্রাঙ্গণ। (কর ভবন, হেলেনাবাদ, রাজশাহী) |
| রংপুর | কর অঞ্চল-রংপুর এর প্রাঙ্গণ। (কর ভবন, কাচারী বাজার, রংপুর) | বরিশাল | কর অঞ্চল-বরিশাল এর প্রাঙ্গণ। (কর ভবন, ক্লাব রোড, বরিশাল) |
| খুলনা | কর ভবন প্রাঙ্গণ, বয়রা, খুলনা। | | |

এ মেলায় করদাতাদের নিম্নলিখিত সেবা প্রদান করা হবে

- সম্মানিত করদাতাগণ শীতকালীন আয়কর মেলায় তাঁদের ২০১৫-২০১৬ করবর্ষের আয়কর রিটার্ন জমা দিতে পারবেন।
- মেলায় e-TIN রেজিস্ট্রেশন বুথে প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য প্রদান সাপেক্ষে নতুন করদাতাগণ e-TIN রেজিস্ট্রেশন ও বর্তমান করদাতাগণ রি-রেজিস্ট্রেশন করতে পারবেন।