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# Protecting our pride

## 2-year national tiger awareness campaign launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-year nationwide campaign was launched yesterday to raise awareness about the importance of conserving tigers and their habitat, the Sundarbans, with the theme "Tiger is our pride- We shall Protect Tiger".

A high-tech tiger-shaped vehicle will travel to 100 strategic locations across the country as part of the programme. A representation of the forest has been created inside the vehicle so that people can have a glimpse of how it looks like while watching exhibitions of pictures and video clips there.

Another vehicle carrying a street theatre troupe and celebrities, including cricketers and film actors, will also travel to the places. They will perform to educate people about the issues endangering Bengal tigers and the necessity of their protection, said Md Yunus Ali, chief forest conservator, forest department.

He was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the campaign, held at Krishibid Institution in the capital's Farmgate.

The campaign is part of Bagh Activity, a joint project of the government and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) implemented by Wild Team with the support from Smithsonian Institution and Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS).

Launching the campaign along with Environment and

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A bus of the TigerCaravan which would visit 100 strategic areas in the country to make people aware of the conservation of critically endangered species and their habitat, the Sundarbans. The photo was taken at Krishibid Institution Bangladesh in the city's Khamarbari yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Tuition Fee Two schools to adjust additional amount

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two private schools in the capital have announced they would adjust the additional money they had collected as tuition fees with the fees for February in compliance with a government order.

Viqarunnisa Noon School and College yesterday sent a letter to the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DHSE), saying that they have decided to adjust the additional money they took from Class-I students with the tuition fees for February.

However, the letter signed by its principal Sufia Khatun did not say anything about other classes, said an official, citing the letter.

Viqarunnisa, one of the most-sought after schools for girls, increased tuition fees from Tk 800 to Tk 1,500 for Class-I to V, and Tk 900 to Tk 1,700 for Class-VII to IX.

The authorities of Willes

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## Rajuk file kept by building owner

Found during demolition drive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The entire Rajuk official records of a building approval was found in the possession of a building owner during a drive to clear illegal occupation of car park on Green Road in the capital yesterday.

The residential-slash-commercial building on plots-227 and -228 had approval for a five-storey structure with shops on the ground floor and car park inside the residential part of the building.

The owner, however, built an additional floor beyond the approved plan and produced a forged plan, said Nasir Uddin, executive magistrate, who conducted the mobile court drive.

When challenged, the building owner Anjoli Mostafa, at one stage, produced Rajuk's original official file with documents and office copy of the original plan, which were supposed to be in Rajuk's record room, he said.

Nasir said the owner failed to give a satisfactory answer as to how she got hold of the office file.

Definitely, they got it from Rajuk, he said, adding that they would report the incident to higher authorities for further decision.

The mobile court penalised the building owner with Tk 3 lakh for the illegal floor and forging the document, said Nasir.

When this correspondent

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## BNP now to elect its senior vice-chair

### Party charter amended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP has amended its constitution to include a provision for electing the senior vice-chairman through an election during the party's sixth national council on March 19.

The party's standing committee at a meeting on Wednesday night brought the change to the charter. Previously, the BNP used to hold an election to the post of chairperson.

During its last national council in 2009, the BNP had created the post of senior vice-chairman and incorporated the provision in the charter. Tarique Rahman was made senior vice-chairman.

Party insiders said incumbent senior vice-chairman is the only candidate for the post.

Speaking at a press conference at the BNP's Nayapaltan central office, party acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said the standing committee members requested party chief Khaleda Zia to bring necessary amendments in section 19-A of the constitution for holding the election.

"The chairperson approved the necessary amendment in line with the standing committee's recommendation," he added.

The meeting also formed a three-member election commission, headed by Jamiruddin Sircar, to hold the polls. Former minister Aminul Islam and Harun Al Rahsid were made the member secretary and member of the commission.

The BNP already got clearance from the Public Works Department to use the Suhrawardy Udyan as the council venue, but it was still awaiting a green



Tarique Rahman

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## HC summons hospital MD

### Hospital accused of charging parents for treatment of dead child

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned the managing director of Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital and the chief of Directorate General of Health Services over allegations that the private hospital charged the parents for the treatment of a child who was already dead.

Issuing a suo moto rule on the duo, the court asked them to appear before it within 10:30am on February 22 to explain their roles in the alleged incident.

The HC also asked the authorities of the hospital and the DGHS to explain in 10 days why a criminal case should not be filed against the persons "responsible".

Deputy Attorney General Shahidul Islam told The Daily Star that the court also asked the authorities to show cause as to why they should not be directed to give appropriate compensation to the family of the baby.

The HC bench of Justice M Moazzam Husain and Justice Md Badruzzaman came up with the rule and the order after two

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## North expels S Koreans from industrial zone

### Cuts hotlines, says South's pulling out of Kaesong 'declaration of war'

AFP, Seoul

North Korea yesterday expelled all South Koreans from the jointly-run Kaesong industrial zone and placed it under military control, saying Seoul's decision to shutter the complex had amounted to a "declaration of war".

Pyongyang said it was seizing the assets of all the 124 South Korean companies operating factories in Kaesong, which lies 10 kilometres across the border inside North Korea.

It also cut two key communication hotlines with Seoul, preventing any further official discussion of the situation at the complex.

All 280 South Koreans ordered to leave Kaesong finally crossed the border back into South Korea shortly before 10:00pm, easing concerns for their safety amid speculation that some might be detained.

After their return, Seoul cut off electric power transmission to the complex, a measure that would also lead to the water supply being stopped, South Korea's Yonhap news agency said citing officials.

The North's aggressive measures marked a significant escalation of cross-border tensions that have been elevated

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## 2 'outlaws' killed in 'gunfight' in Kushtia

STAR REPORT

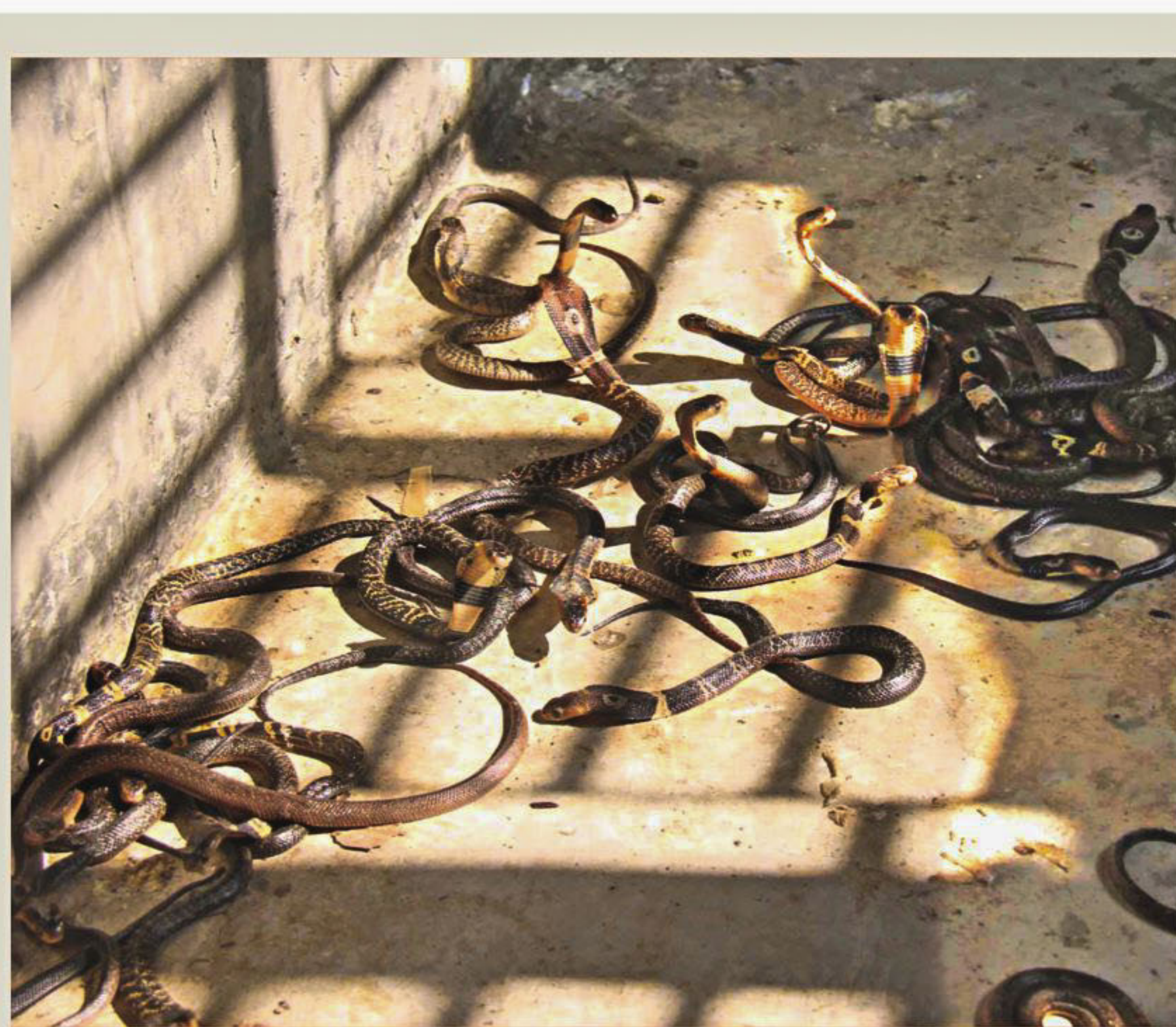
Two alleged outlaws were killed in a "gunfight" with Rapid Action Battalion in Kushtia Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The dead, Akam Uddin Hia, 25, and Liakat Ali, 30, of Mrittikapara village under the upazila, were top cadres of banned Gono Mukti Fouz, according to Rab.

Akam stood accused in four cases, including two for murder, while Liakat in eight cases, including three for murder, reports our Kushtia correspondent, quoting Joyal Abedin, additional superintendent of police in Kushtia.

Maj Mosaddek Ibne Mujib, commanding officer of Rab-12, said acting on a tip-off, a team of the elite force raided Swastipur area around 3:00am when a

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Snakes slither on the floor of Abdur Razzak's farm at Nandipara village in Patuakhali Sadar upazila. A former expatriate worker in Saudi Arabia, he started his farm in 2009 and now it has around 400 snakes. Pharmaceutical companies require snake venom in large volumes. But Razzak is yet to get government permission to sell the item. The photo was taken last Friday.

PHOTO: ARIFUR RAHMAN



## Snake farm awaits govt nod for 3yrs

SOHRAB HOSSAIN with ANDREW EAGLE

As a young man, while working in Saudi Arabia as a newspaper photographer for several years, Abdur Razzak of Nandipara village in Patuakhali Sadar upazila, considered his future. Like many expatriate workers in the Middle East, he wondered what he could do upon returning to Bangladesh. Razzak, now 40, was then a wildlife photographer for the newspaper, and it was through his employment that an idea presented itself: he

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## Nato steps into migrant crisis

### Deploys Aegean patrols to halt people-smuggling

REUTERS, Brussels

Nato ships are on their way to the Aegean Sea to help Turkey and Greece crack down on criminal networks smuggling refugees into Europe, the alliance's top commander said yesterday.

Hours after Nato defence ministers agreed to use their maritime force in the eastern Mediterranean to help combat traffickers, Supreme Allied Commander Gen Philip Breedlove said he was working quickly to design the mission.

"We are sailing the ships in the appropriate direction," Breedlove told a news conference, and the mission plan would be refined during the time they were en route. "That's about 24 hours," he said.

The plan, which was first raised only on Monday by German and Turkey, took Nato by surprise and is aimed at helping the continent tackle its worst migration crisis since World War Two. More than a million asylum-seekers arrived last year.

Breedlove said Nato would also monitor the Turkey-Syria land border for people-smugglers.

Although the plan is still to be detailed by Nato generals, the allies are likely to use the ships to work with Turkish and Greek coastguards and the European Union border agency Frontex.

"There is now a criminal syndicate that is exploiting these poor people and this is an organised smuggling operation," US Secretary of Defence Ash Carter told reporters.

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**SIBL**  
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**PRAYER TIMING**  
FEBRUARY 12  
Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5-25 12-30 4-30 5-57 7-15  
JAMAAT 6-00 1-15 4-45 6-01 7-45

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