



Readymade garment workers of Excel Industries Ltd and Elite Ltd in the capital's Khilgaon area, queue up in front of the BGMEA building yesterday to receive their wages and Eid festival bonus following a pledge made by the owner of the factories to pay them ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha. The factories have recently been shut down, as the owner decided to relocate them elsewhere on the outskirts of the capital. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Gangs giving false hope of asylum in Hong Kong

Official Ronald Fung cautions Bangladeshis

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
The government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has urged Bangladesh to take steps to halt the illegal entry of Bangladeshis into Hong Kong. A four-member delegation of the Hong Kong immigration department, which came here on August 28, met senior officials of the foreign and home ministries and others concerned, expressing their "deep concern" over the gradual increase in the number of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. "I am here with a clear message to innocent Bangladeshis who are being misled by some syndicates in Hong Kong," said Ronald NW Fung, assistant director of the Hong Kong immigration department. Urging the Bangladeshis not to under-

Man strangled, then burnt to conceal death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A supervisor of "Akti Bari, Akti Khamar" (one house, one farm) project was strangled to death and later burnt to conceal the incident when he asked an assistant rural development officer (ARDO) of Nandigram upazila in Bogra to return his money on Thursday night. On information, police recovered the body from Bejigari area of Kodomkuri village yesterday and sent it to a morgue for an autopsy. The deceased was Rezaul Karim, 35, of Bamonpara, who gave Tk 6.5 lakh to Zillur Rahman, an ARDO SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

INDIAN OCEAN Dhaka seeks free, safe navigation

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
To enhance international trade and economic cooperation, Dhaka has called for freedom of navigation as well as safety and security of the sea lines of communication in the Indian Ocean. "We must follow the path of cooperation and collaboration, not competition and conflict in tapping the full potentials of the Indian Ocean," Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali said while speaking at a plenary session of the Indian Ocean Conference in Singapore yesterday. He referred to the pragmatic actions taken by the Bangladesh government in peacefully settling its maritime problems with its neighbours -- India and Myanmar. He cited piracy, terrorism, human trafficking as well as drug smuggling as key security challenges and urged all to cooperate in tackling these menaces.

He proposed that comprehensive security architecture based on mutual trust and partnership could be envisioned in this regard. The minister highlighted the climate change risks and vulnerabilities being faced by the Indian Ocean bordering countries. He called upon the Indian Ocean countries to coordinate their resources in minimising adversities of climate change, with special focus on adaptation measures. Mahmood Ali was leading the Bangladesh delegation. Former president of Maldives Maumoon Abdul Gayoom delivered the key note address. On the sidelines of the conference, Mahmood Ali SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Notice
Due to unavoidable circumstances, the weekly column Tangents is not published today. We regret any inconvenience caused.

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