

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 conceal death OUR CORRESPONDENT, BOGT

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 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-

take any illegal entry, he said, "We don' facilitate refugee status requests. Hong Kong is not a signatory to the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol."

Before leaving Dhaka, the delegation chief met journalists at the Chinese embassy yesterday morning and briefed about the delegation's five-day visit to Bangladesh and said that some syndicates were involved in luring people from different South Asian countries including Bangladesh into Hong Kong with a false hope of helping them get an asylum or refugee status.

"Don't believe those agents," he urged the Bangladeshis, warning them about the consequences of illegal entry.

UPTO TV.

THROUGH SCRATCH CARDS

Fung clarified that the illegal immigrants SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

A ZAMAN COMPANY

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Man strangled,

then burnt to

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

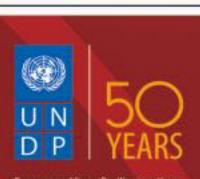
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Indian Ocean

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 Maldives Maumoon Abdul yesterday.

He referred to the prag- note address. matic 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 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

Mahmood Ali was leading the Bangladesh delegation. Former president of Gayoom delivered the key

On the sidelines of the conference, Mahmood Ali

Notice

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



The minister highlighted adaptation measures.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



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