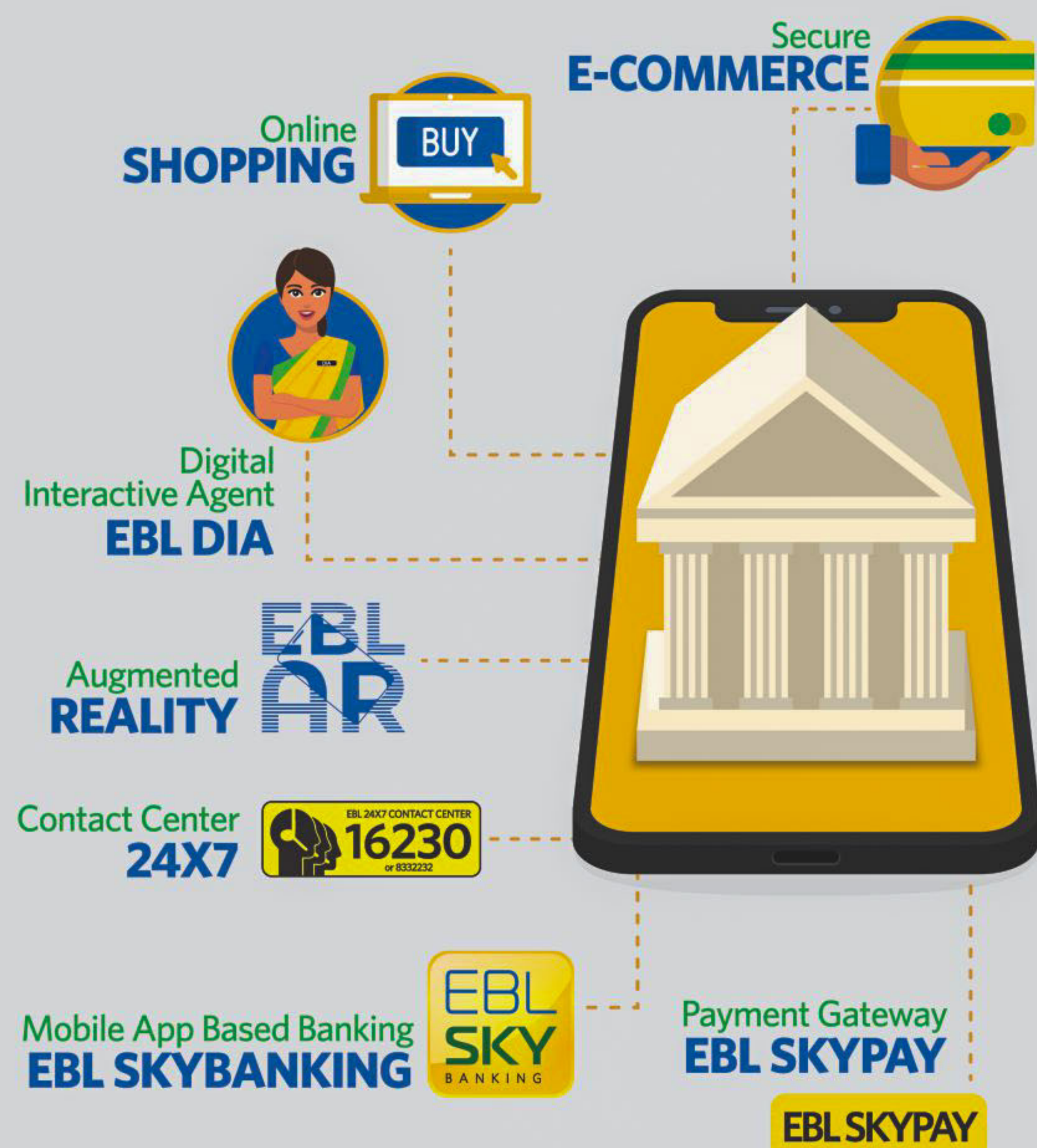




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th public money and foreign loans. On what logic is
 ads? On what moral grounds? There is no answer."
 ER AND RIGHT ACTIVIST JYOTIRMOY BARUA AT A
 PITAL (PAGE 3)



"The longer this takes, the greater the
 risk of the UK never leaving at all."
 UK PM MAY ON POSSIBLE CONSERVATIVE, LABOUR
 PARTY COMPROMISE ON BREXIT (PAGE 13)

BGB deployed at St Martin's after 22yrs

STAR REPORT

Border Guard Bangladesh personnel were deployed with "heavy weapons" to the Saint Martin's island yesterday for checking smuggling and ensuring security of the tiny island in the Bay of Bengal.

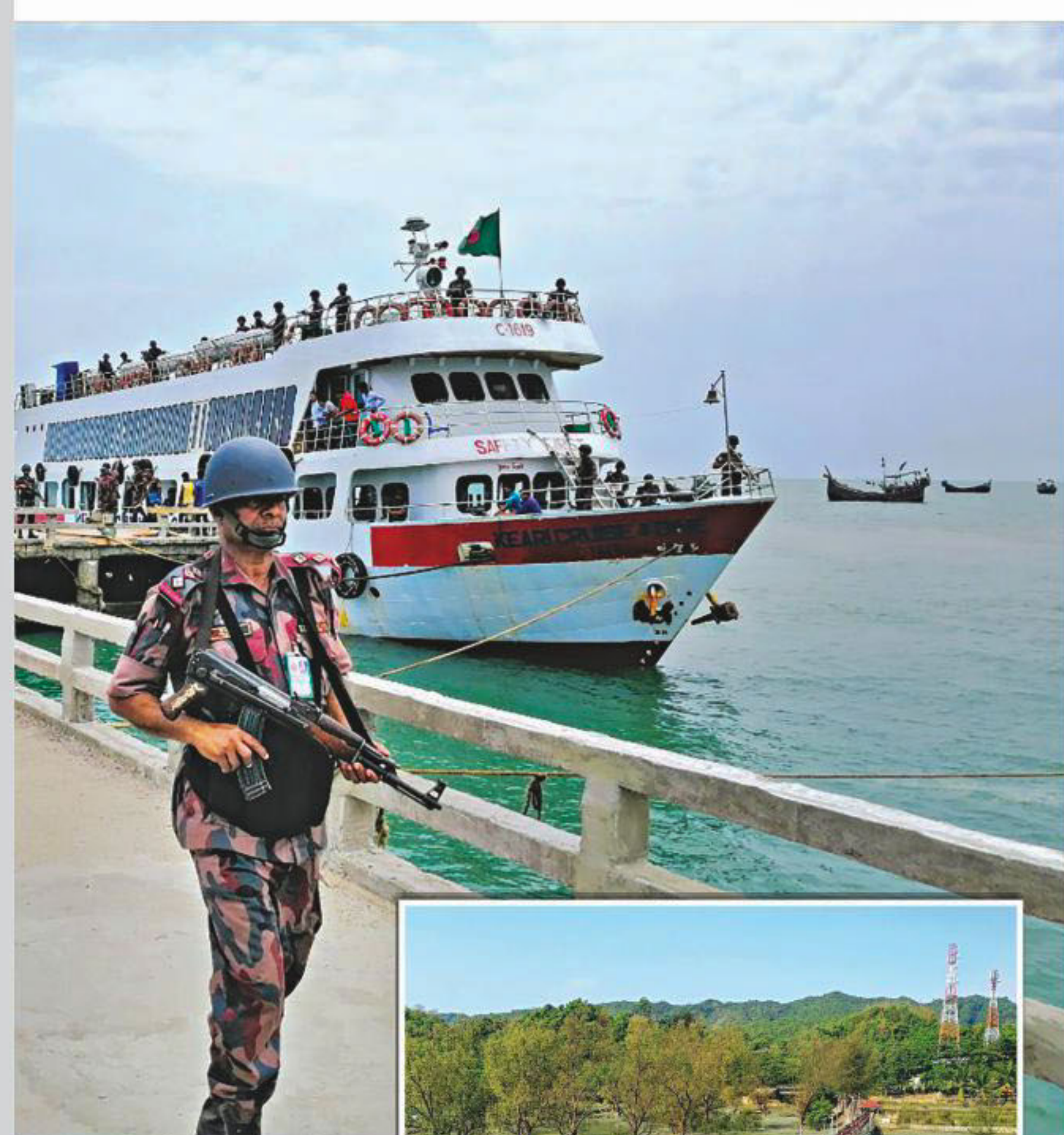
The deployment followed a government directive, according to a press statement issued from the BGB headquarters yesterday. It, however, didn't say what prompted the government to deploy BGB members there after about 22 years.

"As per the government directive, the BGB has been redeployed with heavy weapons to Bangladesh's Southernmost point, the Saint Martin's island, from today ... The BGB had been deployed to the island for its security till 1997," read the statement.

Contacted over the phone, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said the government redeployed the BGB to the island to guard the southernmost point of the country.

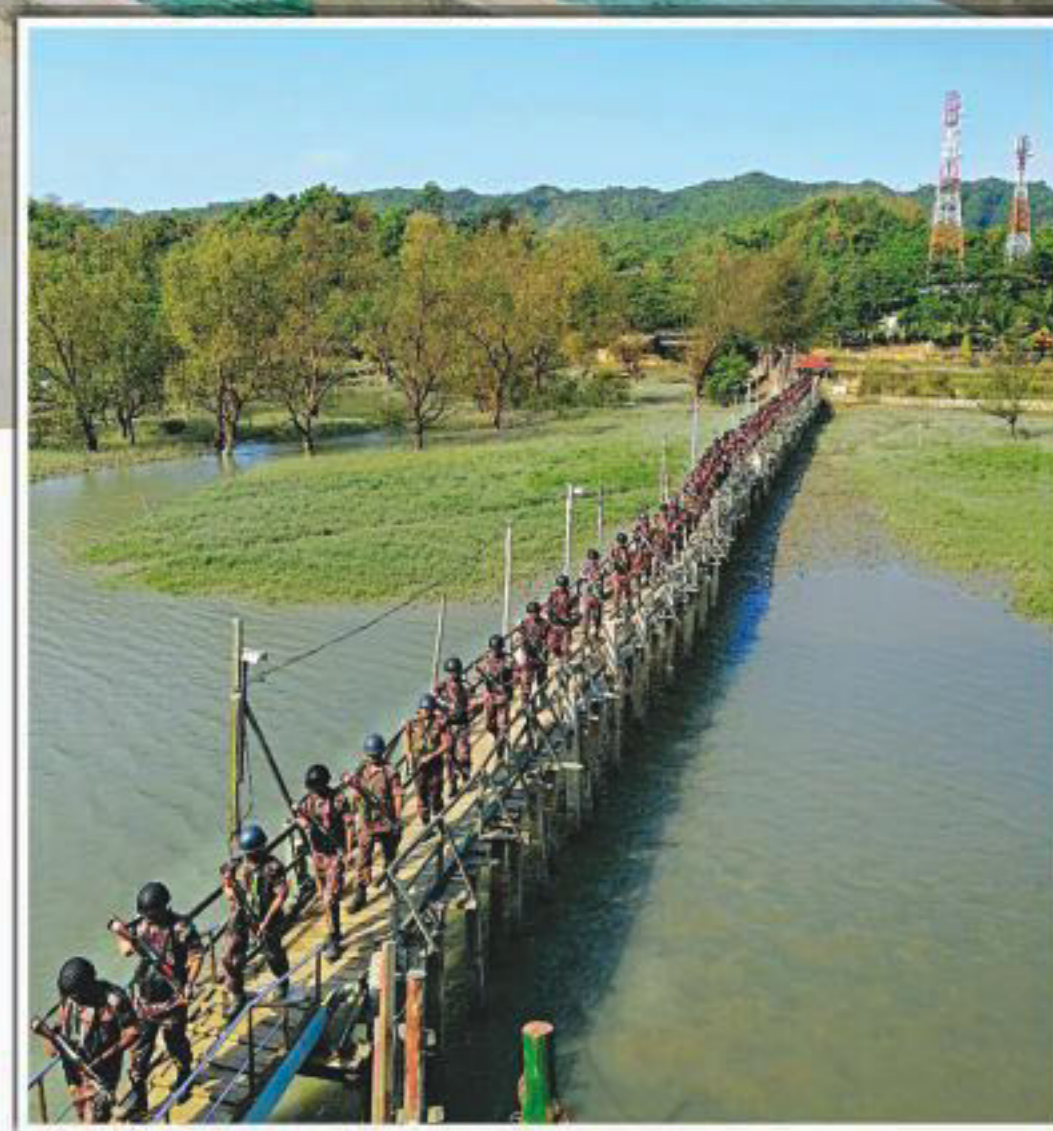
Talking to The Daily Star, Sarker Mohammad Mostafizur Rahman, acting

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



the St Martin's Island in
 ed" deployment comes
 g overall security of the
 rding a vessel in Teknaf to

PHOTO COURTESY: BGB



Relax security checks for MPs, VIPs at airports

S body asks govt

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary body yesterday recommended relaxed security checks for MPs and other VIPs at airports of the country and separate queues for their security checks.

The parliamentary standing committee on the civil aviation ministry came up with the recommendations at a meeting in the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban with ruling Awami League lawmaker RAM Obaidul Moktadir Chowdhury in the chair.

Civil aviation secretary Mohibul Haque, who was present at the meeting, told the committee that his ministry had no authority to relax the security checks

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Mamata losing political ground

Says Modi; West Bengal CM hits back; Rahul takes a swipe at PM over Rafale jet deal

HINDUSTAN TIMES, THE INDIAN EXPRESS

A war of words erupted between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and chief minister Mamata Banerjee during campaigning in north Bengal yesterday before the first phase of Lok Sabha polls in Bengal on April 11.

At back-to-back high-voltage rallies in Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar districts in the afternoon, the two rivals traded charges over a range of issues.

"Mamata Banerjee has made alliance with people who want two prime ministers, one for Delhi and one for Jammu and Kashmir," Modi said at his first election rally in Cooch Behar district.

"Bengal's Didi is losing political ground. The invective being showered on me, her anger with EC expose her fear," he said. Referring to the Saradha scam, Narada sting videos and Rose Valley chit fund scam, Modi said, "You all know who benefitted from these scams. I promise to expose all of that."

An hour later, Mamata returned the compliment at her rally at Moynaguri in Jalpaiguri district.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

BUSINESS STATE OF RETAIL BANKING IN BANGLADESH

Star Business is bringing out a supplement today on the state of retail banking in Bangladesh. The segment is going through massive transformation thanks to fast-changing technology. Today, how banks interact with their retail customers is different from what it was 10 years ago. For many services one no longer needs to pay a visit to a bank branch; it can be done from one's handheld devices. The supplement sheds light on the lenders' plans to make banking more convenient, more personalised, more express -- all with the help of technology.



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