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SECURITY CHECKS AT AIRPORTS

MPs to get no special privileges

RASHIDUL HASAN

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh has turned down a parliamentary body's request for relaxed security checks for MPs and former ministers at airports of the country.

The parliamentary standing committee on civil aviation and tourism at a meeting on April 7 recommended "relaxed security checks" and separate queues for them.

During a meeting of the parliamentary watchdog on Wednesday, CAAB said Bangladesh is a member of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). "Therefore, it is mandatory for Bangladesh to take security measures at all airports, specially at international airports as per the ICAO rules."

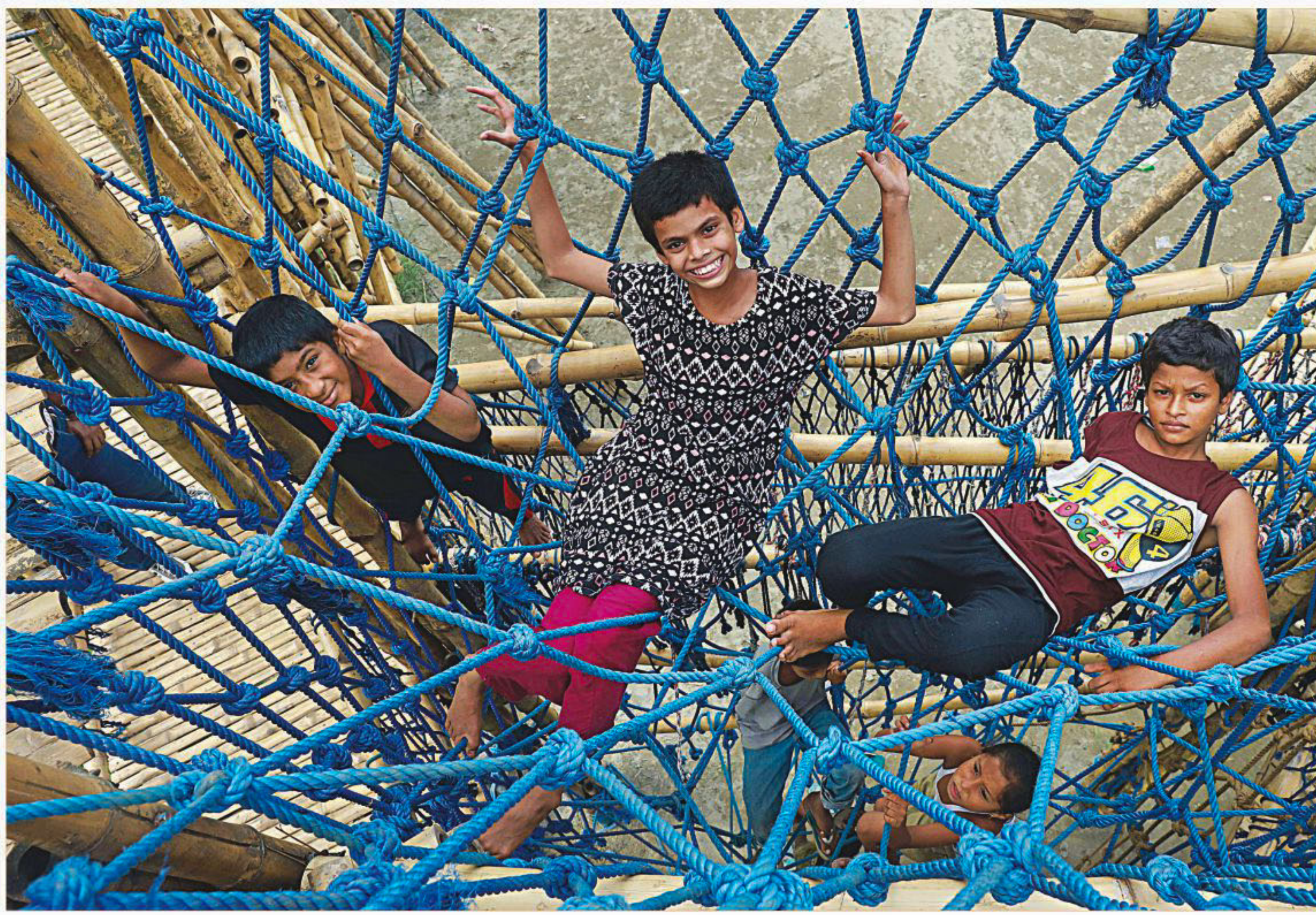
The meeting was held with ruling Awami League MP RAM Obaidul Muktedir Chowdhury in the chair and The Daily Star obtained a copy of the meeting minutes.

CAAB said there was no scope for exempting anyone other than those allowed by the National Civil Aviation Security Programme (NCASP) from screening at airports.

NCASP only exempts the president, the prime minister, their families and the UN secretary general, it told the committee, adding that the NCASP was formed because of ICAO's requirements.

However, CAAB said it has sought the Prime Minister's Office's consent to including in the NCASP exemption list family members of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6



Children play on a spider climber at a park in Washpur Garden City in the capital's Basila recently. The playground, managed by non-profit organisation Local Education and Economic Development Organisation (Leedo), was built by students from Buett and Brac University and now brings joy to children, many of whom have physical or intellectual disabilities. See more on 16.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

ACQUITTING ACCUSED HC orders keeping Narail judge off duites

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the law ministry to take necessary steps to keep Narail District and Sessions Judge Sheikh Abdul Ahad away from discharging judicial duties in criminal cases for one year for exempting the prime accused in a murder case.

The HC asked the ministry to take the steps in consultation with the Supreme Court. It also directed the ministry to assign another Narail sessions judge to hold a fresh hearing on the charge framing of the murder case after cancelling the previous order in this regard, Deputy Attorney General Sarwar Hossain Bappi told The Daily Star.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman passed the order after hearing a petition, filed by one Nazmul Huda, seeking its necessary orders in this connection.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6

Three killed in 'gunfights'

STAR REPORT

Three men were killed in "gunfights" with police and Rab in Chattogram, Cumilla, and Gazipur yesterday.

All three of the dead were suspected criminals, the law enforcers claimed.

In Chattogram, a patrol team of Rab encountered with a group of armed criminals around 3:00am, said Mashukur Rahman, assistant director of Rab-7 (media wing).

Sensing their presence, the criminals opened fire on Rab members, forcing them to retaliate. At one point of the "gunfight", the criminals fled the scene. Later, Rab members recovered the body, he added.

The body could not be immediately identified and was sent to Chattogram Medical College for autopsy, he further added.

Rab also claimed to have recovered an AK-22 rifle, two magazines and 63 bullets from the spot.

Three cases were filed in connection with the "gunfight".

Meanwhile, a suspected drug peddler was killed in a "gunfight" with Detective Branch of police in Cumilla Sadar upazila around 1:30am yesterday.

The dead -- Rasel Mia, 30 -- was accused in at least eight drug-related cases, said Mainuddin Khan, officer-in-charge of DB

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

Oceans turning from friend to foe

Warns landmark UN climate report; fish stocks may dwindle, rising sea level due to melting polar caps

AFP, Paris

The same oceans that nourished human evolution are poised to unleash misery on a global scale unless the carbon pollution destabilising Earth's marine environment is brought to heel, warns a draft UN report obtained by AFP.

Destructive changes already set in motion could see a steady decline in fish stocks, a hundred-fold or more increase in the damages caused by superstorms, and hundreds of millions of people displaced by rising seas, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) "special report" on oceans and Earth's frozen zones, known as the cryosphere.

As the 21st century unfolds, melting glaciers will first give too much and then too little to billions who depend on them for fresh water, it finds.

Without deep cuts to manmade emissions, at least 30 percent of the northern hemisphere's surface permafrost could melt by century's end, unleashing billions of tonnes of carbon and accelerating global warming even more.

The 900-page scientific assessment is the fourth such tome from the UN in less than a year, with others focused on a 1.5-Celsius (2.6-Fahrenheit) cap on global warming, the state of biodiversity, and how to manage forests and the global food system.

All four conclude that humanity must overhaul the way it produces and consumes almost everything to avoid the worst ravages of climate change and environmental degradation.

Governments meet in Monaco next month to vet the new report's official summary. While the underlying science -- drawn from thousands

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

TIB report on 10th JS is motivated

Says information minister

BSS, Dhaka

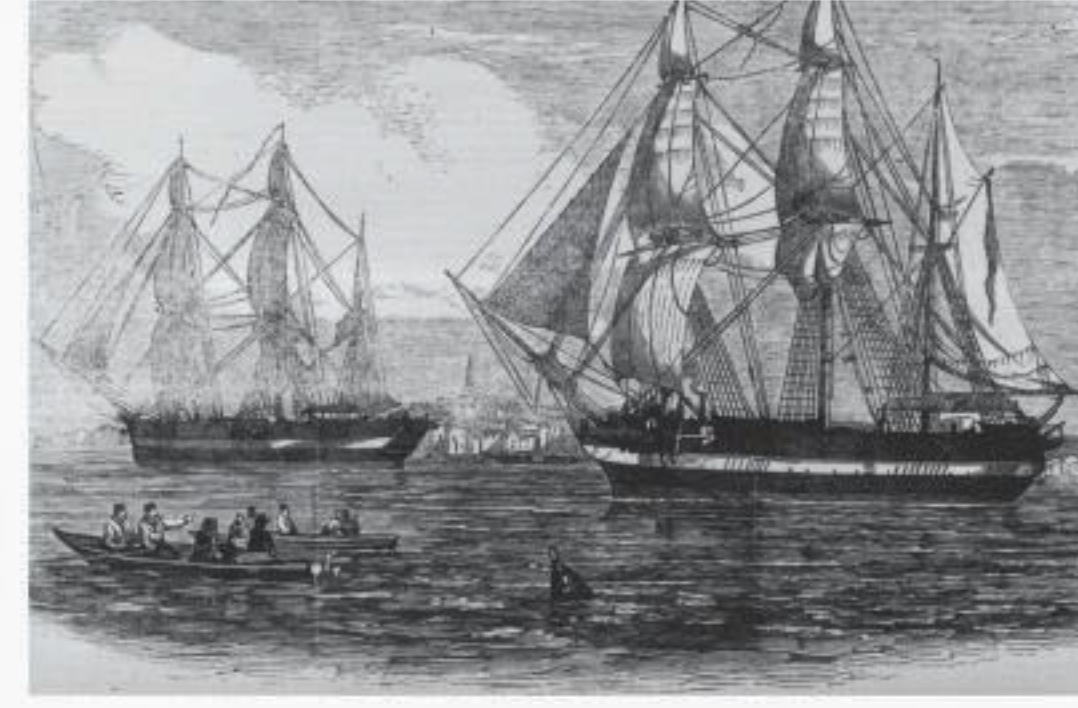
Rejecting the report of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) on the 10th parliament, Information Minister Hasan Mahmud yesterday said the report was totally one-sided and ill-motivated.

"They gave a lot of wrong information and data in the report. . . TIB published such provocative reports, including one on the Padma Bridge, in the past too," he told a discussion at an auditorium of Jatiya Press Club.

Trinamool BNP organised the discussion marking the 44th martyrdom anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with its Chairman Barrister Nazmul Huda in the chair.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

Arctic shipwreck 'frozen in time'



CNN ONLINE

Researchers in Canada have released new images of a remarkably well-preserved shipwreck that will shed new light on the ill-fated 1845 Arctic expedition in which famed British explorer John Franklin died.

The wreck of HMS Terror has effectively been "frozen in time" thanks to the cold, deep waters of Terror Bay in Nunavut, Canada, and a layer of silt which has preserved artifacts such as maps, logs and scientific instruments, according to a study by Parks Canada in conjunction with Inuit researchers.

HMS Terror and HMS Erebus set off from England in 1845 in search of a route across the North-West Passage but got stuck in sea ice, forcing the 129 crew members to abandon ship in 1848. The men died one by one attempting to

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

TOOLS FOR ROHINGYAS? NGO Mukti's 6 projects halted

STAR REPORT

The NGO Affairs Bureau has suspended six projects of Mukti Cox's Bazar, a local NGO, on charges of making and distributing weeding tools to Rohingyas.

"All the activities of Mukti Cox's Bazar were suspended following the allegation. An investigation is underway," Cox's Bazar Deputy Commissioner Md Kamal Hosen told reporters yesterday.

A letter, signed by Sirajul Islam Khan, assignment

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6



PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 30

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-30 12-30 4-45 6-33 8-00
JAMAAT 5-05 1-15 5-00 6-36 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



SANCTUARY FOR STORKS

Asian openbill or Asian openbill storks on a raintree in Bihar Bazar of Bogura's Shibganj upazila. Experts say this migratory bird makes nests on large trees for breeding between July and September and leaves Bangladesh before winter. The photo was taken a couple of days ago.

PHOTO: ALI ASHRAF BHUIYAN

Top two Indian ports on alert

Attack fears from 'Pak commandos'

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's two main port authorities yesterday said they had been warned by the coastguard and intelligence officials that Pakistan-trained commandos have entered Indian waters to carry out underwater attacks on port facilities.

The Mundra Port, run by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd, and the state-owned Kandla Port had asked their employees and ship operators to be vigilant, port officials and the ports said in advisories seen by Reuters.

Tensions between India and Pakistan have escalated since India revoked the special status of its portion of the Himalayan region of Kashmir on Aug 5 and moved to quell objections by shutting down communications and clamping down on local leaders.

Pakistan reacted with fury to India's decision, cutting trade and transport ties and expelling India's ambassador. Both countries claim Kashmir in full but rule it in part.

Yesterday, Pakistan successfully carried out a training launch of a surface-to-surface ballistic missile, an exercise viewed as hostile by some in India.

In recent weeks, both countries have repeatedly accused each other of violating ceasefires and seeking to provoke conflict in what is one of the world's most dangerous nuclear flashpoints.

Intelligence inputs shared by government officials suggested that "Pakistan-trained commandos" had entered the Gulf of Kutch on the west coast to foment violence, the Kandla Port said in an advisory.

Venu Gopal, secretary of a trust that runs Kandla Port, confirmed it had received the intelligence inputs.

"We've reviewed the situation and instructed our

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1