



Tagore's birth anniversary today

UNB, Dhaka
Today is the 145th birth anniversary of Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore. Rabindranath, whose multifarious talent enriched all branches of Bengali literature and art, was the

HC stays BTRC's tender invitation for 2 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The High Court (HC) yesterday stayed for two months a process of awarding licenses by Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) to private companies for fixed-phone operation in central zone of the country under two tender notices. Following a writ petition filed by Khandakar Md Sabbir challenging the criteria for the tender bidding, a HC division bench issued a rule on the government asking it to explain within four weeks why the criteria for evaluating the bids would not be declared illegal.

PRICE SPIRAL OF ESSENTIALS

Business leaders want action against syndicate

Minister blames negative politics as main reason for hike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Country's top business leaders yesterday sought immediate measures from the commerce minister against the syndicate responsible for skyrocketing prices of essentials while the minister identified 'negative politics' as the main cause of the ongoing price spiral. "The present price crisis of essentials is not for commercial reason. It is the result of negative politics including strike, barricade and extortion," said newly appointed Commerce Minister Hafizuddin Ahmed, who held a long meeting with the leaders of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) at the FBCCI office. The minister, however, said he will sit with the importers of essential products today to find out the actual situation of supply-demand and syndication. "I have nothing to do against the illegal syndicate who manipulated prices of essentials but I will inform the top brass of the government to



PHOTO: STAR
A bulldozer demolishes a shop during Dhaka City Corporation's drive to remove illegal makeshift structures on the sides of Ahsanullah Road in old part of the city yesterday.

Transport workers assault cop

CU CORRESPONDENT
Angry transport workers yesterday beat up a cop at the city's Madarbari area who allegedly assaulted a truck helper for bribe. The cop identified as Constable Mahub of Double Mooring Police Station of Chittagong Metropolitan Police, also shot thrice to disperse the mob without orders of the patrol team leader, witnesses alleged.

BLACK MONEY IN POLLS

Nagorik Committee to sit with NBR
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Representatives of the Nagorik Committee 2006 will meet the National Board of Revenue (NBR) chairman today to discuss ways to resist the use of black money in elections. At the view-exchange meeting with NBR Chairman Khairuzzaman Chowdhury, the

VEGETABLE EXPORT

Biman's new cargo charge stayed by HC
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The High Court (HC) issued a stay order yesterday on the imposition of Biman Bangladesh Airlines' increased cargo charges for exporting vegetables, fruits, betel leaves and other perishable items for the next two months. The court in a show-cause notice also asked Biman to explain

CONTAINER CONGESTION

Ships' calling at Ctg port may be restricted

RAFIQ HASAN
Failing to cope with the huge pressure of ships, the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) is now thinking of imposing some sort of 'restrictions' on the ships' calling. The chairman of CPA yesterday talked to high officials of the port and shipping ministry to find out ways for checking the number of feeder services plying between Chittagong and other connecting ports, sources said. The number of feeder services recently went up to 50 from 28 earlier. The port authority is also thinking of changing the rule of berthing permission. Under the existing rule, the government allows all ships to call at the ports unless it carries contraband or harmful items for the country's environment. The authorities think pressure of ships went up as some ships come with lower capacity. There are many ships that often come with less than half of their capacity, causing long queue at the

30 killed in Iraq car bombs

43 bullet-riddled bodies found
REUTERS, AFP, Baghdad
Car bombs killed 30 people in Iraq yesterday and wounded more than 70 in one of the bloodiest spasms of violence of recent weeks as political leaders closed in on a deal to form a national unity government. The southern city of Basra was largely calm as British military engineers examined the wreck of a helicopter whose apparent shooting down was followed by clashes between troops and youths chanting triumphal Shia militia slogans. Twenty-one people were killed and 52 wounded when a car bomb went off close to the main central bus station in the Shia holy city of Kerbala, 110km south of Baghdad, police said. Around the same time, two cars exploded in the capital. A suicide car bomber hit an Iraqi army patrol in the mainly Sunni northern district of Aadhamiya, killing eight people and wounding 15. Soldiers and civilians were among the casualties. Iraqi and US forces conducted a sweep for rebels in Aadhamiya on Saturday, the US military said. The area is a stronghold of Sunni Arab insurgents. A second car bomb exploded at a busy traffic intersection in northern

Saifur to be released from hospital today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi
The condition of Finance Minister Saifur Rahman has "improved" and he is likely to be discharged from the Yashoda Hospital in Hyderabad today. "His condition is better... has

Prayer Timing		
May 8		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-34	6-38
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation