NEWS



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understand the biology of the organism," said David Galas of the Keck Institute of Applied Lifes Science, in California. Venter said the company has sequenced 99 per cent of the human genome and "assembled' three billion letters of genetic code using DNA samples from five peo-

FROM PAGE 1

financier

via the internet.

FROM PAGE 1

said

"Putting together that periodic table

doesn't tell you everything about

chemistry. But it gives you a road

map of how nature is composed," he

Human genome analysis has

determined that the genetic makeup

of humans is not radically different

from that of other mammals. Celera

concluded, for example, that there

are only 300 genes that are in peo-

The findings of the research will

"Now we have to learn to use it to

be made available to the scientific

community and to everybody else

ple but not in mice. Venter said

ple, three women and two men. including an African-American, an Asian-Chinese, a Hispanic-Mexican and two Caucasians.

The human DNA code is arranged in 23 pairs of long chains called chromosomes. With the exception of identical twins, every person's genome is slightly different

delay completion of the work which

forced the government to pay liqui-

dated damage worth Tk 6.66 crore

MW Haripur Project, Mott Ewbank

has created a complicated situation

in the evaluation of the bidders. This

has exposed the government to a

situation where it would incur huge

financial loss and is being tremen-

dously pressurised by the project's

that Mott Ewbank, UK should be

immediately blacklisted to stop all its

activities in the country," recom-

mends the report. "In addition, the

government may take steps to

penalise the consultant to pay the

financial losses incurred by the

government in the Meghnaghat 450

Meghnaghat and Haripur projects,

Mott Ewbank's played a controver-

sial role as it was trying to serve its

local agent, who also represented

the Chinese land developer

CWHEC in Meghnaghat project and

Sources said that in both

MW power project.'

"That is why it is being proposed

Further, as consultant to the 109

to AES, the probe report said.

-- a unique combination of DNA letters inherited from their mother

Human genome map unveiled

and father While virtually every cell in the body carries a copy of the genetic blueprint, Venter said about 40 per cent of our genes had unknown functions

The milestone has the potential to revolutionise the practice of medicine. Knowing the human genetic make-up could lead to revolutionary preventive treatments and medicines tailored for each individual. Parents could test their children while still in the womb for genetic defects.

Single-gene conditions such as Huntington's chorea are obvious candidates for testing, which will lead to "nightmare" dilemmas about whether such tests should be permitted by employers, lenders and health insurers, said Peter McGuffin, of the Institute of

Psychiatry at Kings College in London. However, the risk of discrimination in insurance and employment that concerns many people. In a Gallup poll last year, 86 per cent of those polled said doctors should have to ask permission before conducting genetic tests.

"One of the most difficult issues is determining the proper balance

Probe body recommends blacklisting

between privacy concerns and fair use of genetic information. Without adequate safeguards, the genetic revolution could mean one step

forward for science and two steps backwards for civil rights," US senators James Jeffords and Tom Daschle wrote in an article for Science magazine.

> "Misuse of genetic information could create a new underclass: the genetically less fortunate," the lawmakers added

In testimony last year to a US Senate committee, Venter said: "There are more barriers to achieving the era (of personalized and preventive medicine) than the scientific ones that have now been overcome."

"A key barrier is the fear that is pervasive in our society that genetic information will be used to deny health insurance or a job," he added. "Without the enactment of legislation, I fear that this new era will be delayed."

In the United States, 37 states have adopted legislation to prevent genetic discrimination by health insurers and 24 states have barred genetic discrimination in employShazneen: Case adjourned

FROM PAGE 12

1998.

house

murder case.

FROM PAGE 12

the woman added.

Mojibur told the court that Shazneen

had no role in appointing servants at

their house. Shazneen along with

her parents stayed on the ground

the youngest daughter of Latifur

Rahman, Chairman of Transcom

Group, was raped and murdered at

their Gulshan residence on April 23,

case with Gulshan thana on April

24, 1998 accusing Shahidul Islam

alias Shahid, a domestic help at his

rape case with Gulshan thana after

six months' investigation into the

Mojibur Rahman had filed a

Shahidul Islam is the principal

All the accused Shahid, Hasan,

accused in the case while contractor

Badal, Shaniram, Minu and Parvin

were present at the court during the

and hence the fear is even more,"

Government agencies in Guwahati identified 51 high-rise

The seven northeastern states

considered by seismologists as the

1950 measuring 8.5 on the scale.

Guwahati to train volunteers ir

should know the basics of first aid to

tackle disasters effectively," said

Thirty thousand people were

killed and thousands more were

injured when the 7.9 magnitude

quake, the worst to hit India in 50

years, struck Gujarat, razing the

state's Bhui district and its neigh-

bouring towns and villages in

Red Cross doctor Jari Vainio.

Khatunganj

disaster management.

January.

buildings as vulnerable to tremors.

Hasan is the alleged mastermind.

Latifur Rahman filed a murder

Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, 15,

floor of their house, he said.

cross-examination

However, a bail petition on behalf of the accused Shaniram was moved. The lawyer made submissions before the court stating that Shaniram's father died on February 9. As a Hindu, he will have to perform some rites for salvation of his father departed soul . The prosecution sides opposed the petition.

After hearing both sides, the court rejected the bail petition of the accused

Special PP ABM Sharfuddin Khan Mukul and Mahbub Ahmed appeared for the state while Advocates Mosarraf Hossain Kaiol and MA Kamrul Hasan Khan Aslam for the accused.

The murder case, pending with the First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court Dhaka, was stayed order the Supreme Court. The order will remain valid till disposal of the rape case.

Quake jolts Cashier 'missing 'We stay in a high-rise apartment

FROM PAGE 1

dent was reported Rahman admitted to the reports of misappropriation. A section of the bank staff has received money from the depositors with seals and signa-

world's sixth most earthquaketures but did post it on the ledger, he prone zone, experienced India's said. worst jolts measuring 8.7 on the Richter scale in 1897. He also said that some depositors had been given deposit receipts Assam survived a temblor in without any signature of bank officials.

Meanwhile, an expert Red Cross Meantime, authorities of the team has been holding camps in bank formed a three-member inquiry committee headed by AGM of Ramna Corporate Branch Nabi "At least one member of a family

Newaz to probe the incident. Stevedores

Stop FROM PAGE 12 Nazrul Islam.

Situation at the port became tense since noon yesterday as stevedores took decision not to give any gang booking.

The port experienced stoppage of work for 140 hours in last 70 days due to labour unrest that has already threatened its utility to foreigners, said a Mongla Port Authority (MPA) source.

The frequent labour unrests have reduced revenue earning to such an extent that in the near future it would be difficult to bear even its maintenance cost, the source added.

The source further said that foreign ships are unwilling to anchor at Mongla Port due to many reasons including labour unrest, corruption, growing siltation in the Passur river and rampant dacoities in ships.

Even, importers and exporters re losing their interest in using Mongla Port. They now prefer

Shahidul Islam. Shahidul Islam, an employee of an electrical goods shop, was Chittagong to Mongla Port to get rid gunned down by muggers at of both professional and white-collar Khatungani Saturday morning. The criminals, said a high official of MPA. muggers shot Islam when he tried to

Mitsubishi in Haripur project. The bid sought a generator's However, the local agent Sahco, headed by Syed Abul Hossain, a former minister of the present government, earlier denied having Mott Ewbank by his side. Hossain

was completely independent and he had no connection with the consultant However, official sources claimed that Mott's apparent activities proved that it was clearly trying favour both CWHEC and

Mitsubishi in both these projects. While the AES Meghnaghat Project is now going ahead after facing a lot of problems due to the consultant's role, the Haripur project has remained in a limbo from

December last. Sources said while the consultant disqualified one of the bidders --Mitsui and Kawasaki joint ventures -

for not being able to provide enough experience against the power generator it was offering, the PDB experts found that Mitsui-Kawasaki was offering a better power generator at a comparatively lower price and lacked very little in

Judicial body to probe B'baria incident

FROM PAGE 1

(ablution)

She demanded immediate and unconditional release of all political leader and activists and withdrawal of "false" cases against them. Referring to the arrest of Islami

Islamic government. It is construct-

ing sculptures (murti) one after

another in different parts of the

country by spending huge amounts

of money. But it did not hold Iftar

party in the month of Ramadan in

Brahmanbaria for "launching a

vigorours movement against the

government", she said it has now

become "mandatory" for all citizens,

specially Muslims, to build up strong

resistance and intensify the oust-

and the police to discharge duties

She urged the administration

Congratulating the people of

the name of austerity"

government movement.

Oikkya Jote (IOJ) Chairman Azizul General Fazlı down a good number of Haq Amini, she alleged that they madrassahs to stop of Islamic were not given division in jail. They education in the country. can not say prayers in jail as they

League.

neutrally and not to carry out any 'illegal order" of the government. "You should remember that your are servant of people but of Awami

The opposition said the AL government has already closed

Ameer Matiur Rahman Nizami, Acting President of IOJ Moulana Muhiuddin Khan, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and party leaders Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Ziaul Hag Zia Kabir

experience of two years. In case of Mitsui's bid, it proposed a generator developed in 1998. It could not however provide the latest test report of the generator as required by the bid criterion. "If the consultant really wanted to give Bangladesh the service it deserves, it could have collected the latest test report instead of rejecting the bid," said a high official of PDB.

Mitsui's generator is 20 per cent more efficient than the one's offered by other bidders -- Mitsubishi and

When PDB in December last decided to open the bid despite the consultant's reservations, JBIC- the Japanese financier of the projectwrote a strong letter protesting the traders still act and threatening to stop all project financing in Bangladesh.

on strike The project has been in a limbo ever since but the government is trying to convince JBIC the rationale STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cht behind the PDB action.

When contacted, Secretary of Power Division Arabind Kar refused

Traders at Khatunganj business centre continued their strike for the to comment on the issue secondary vesterday protesting the killing of an employee on Saturday. They also held a protest rally at Khatungani in the morning and decided to wear black badges for

told The Daily Star that Mott Ewbank

Marubeni



Namaj-e-Janaza for Tawfiq Aziz Khan, Executive Editor of the Daily Star at National Press Club (Top), in front of his Elephant Road residence (Middle) and a special prayer for salvation of departed soul in front of the daily's Karwan Bazar office (Bottom) vesterday.

Tawfiq Aziz Khan passes away

requested to attend and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Tawfiq Aziz Khan was a part of the core team that launched The Daily Star in 1991.

As the first Managing Editor, he set up the management system of the newspaper and laid the foundation of its subsequent financial viability. He worked closely with the founder-editor, late S. M. Ali and founder Executive Editor Mahfuz Anam to give The Daily Star a very strong administrative and managerial foundation.

His devoted service and professional commitment gave the newborn newspaper a very strong beginning. His extraordinary capacity in creating a team spirit and inspiration gave The Daily Star a brilliant start.

He was always a loving, inspiring and encouraging leader that the entire Daily Star members loved to work with. His colleagues in the Star and in the community will greatly miss him

In a telephonic message from Guwahati, India, The Daily Star Editor, Mahfuz Anam, expressed his deep, deep shock at the sad news. The Editor is in Guwahati

now to attend a conference. The Editor said, "Tawfiq Bhai was a great inspiration for me and all of us in The Daily Star. His tireless efforts to improve professional efficiency and quality of the newspaper were something that we will always remember with pride and gratitude. I will never forget the great contribution that Tawfig Bhai made to bring The Daily Star to where it is today

Born on July 16, 1936, Tawfiq Aziz Khan began his career with the then Pakistan Observer (now The Bangladesh Observer) in 1958 as a Staff Reporter. He was also a student of Dhaka University at that time

In 1968, he temporarily left the media to work in the then East Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation (EPIDC) and then in Titas Gas Corporation as Public Relations Officer

He returned to the world of

media in 1975 and joined as General Manager of the then Dainik Bangla and the weekly Bichitra. In late 1990, S. M. Ali invited Tawfig Aziz Khan to be the first Managing Editor of The Daily Star. He became the Executive Editor of

the daily in 1997. On January 10, 1972, Tawfiq made his mark as a television personality through his live television commentary from Kurmitola Airport on the historic homecoming of Bangabandhu Sheikh Muiibur Rahman from London. Again in 1978, he gave live television com-

mentary from the same airport when boxer Mohammed Ali and his wife came on a visit to Bangladesh. Tawfiq Aziz Khan was well known as one of the first commen-

tators in both Bangla and English in Bangladesh. He worked as a radio commentator from 1958 and as television commentator later. He was the only Bangladeshi

ournalist who covered all the four Grand Slam tournaments of tennis Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and US Open, while working with The Daily Star.

He was the Resident Editor of the Cricketer Asia, Hong Kong and the Sports Times, Lahore. He was also the founder Editor of fortnightly Sports World (Krira Jagat). He had also contributed to the weekly Holiday at the initial stage of its

publication. He was the only Bangladeshi ournalist who was an Associate Member of the Australian Tennis Media Association (ATMA).

Besides, he was six-time president and life member of Bangladesh Sports Writers Association, permanent member of the Jatiya Press Club, honorary member of the Dhaka Club Limited. He was also a member of the **National Committee of Fair Election**

Monitoring Alliance (FEMA), President of Rotary Club of Dhaka North West for two consecutive years (1999-2001) and founder member and president of Bangladesh's first group theatre,

A condolence book has been opened at The Daily Star office at Karwan Bazar in the city. It will remain open from 10 am to 8 pm everv dav. Condolence Messages

Colleagues, friends, ministers and a host fans and well-wishers sent separate condolence messages yesterday at his death and expressed their sympathy with the

bereaved family. Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khasru in a message said through his work Tawfiq Aziz Khan and integrity made his mark not only in journal-ism but also in other fields of national life. He will remain a personality to be remembered and followed by all.

Bangladesh Sports Writers Association (BSWA) expressed deep shock at the death of Tawfiq Khan. BSWA recalled his contribution in the sports world, noting that he was one of the organisers who formed the then East Pakistan Sports Writers Association in 1962.

In a condolence message, Civil Aviation and Tourism. Housing and Works Minister Mosharraf Hossain said, an irreparable vacuum has been created in our national life at the death of a patriot like Tawfig Aziz Khan

M Noorul Quader Foundation condoled his death, recalling his contribution in sports journalism and theatre movement

Jativa Press Club (JPC) yesterday condoled the death of Tawfig Aziz Khan.

In a condolence message, JPC President Khondker Monirul Alam and General Secretary Swapan Kumar Saha expressed their deep shock at the death of Khan, who was a permanent member of the club

They prayed for salvation of the departed soul and expressed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family

She said fall of the government is are not provided with water for oiu imminent and urged the people to intensify the on-going movement. "It (AL government) is an anti-

She said this government is filing "false" cases against opposition leaders. After their fall, genuine cases will be filed against AL leaders and activists for corruption, murder and other criminal activities.

There is no chance for AL to retain power in the next election because of its misdeeds, corruption and oppression on the people, she claimed. Presided over by BNP MP and

convenor of the local committee of APAC Harun-al-Rashid, the meeting was addressed by among others Acting Chairman of Jatiya Party Roushan Ersahd, Jamaat-e-Islami

Foreign diplomats assured

FROM PAGE 1

violence including killing of policeman by zealots and uprooting of train lines that claimed several lives. Azad told the diplomats that it

was his government's opinion that the perpetrators of violence were trying to form a "Taliban Style' government.

The foreign minister assured that his government was determined to fulfil its obligation to safeguard the fundamental rights of the people.

"We'll continue to preserve democratic practices in accordance with the constitutional provisions." Azad said.

After the meeting, Azad told the reporters that the diplomats were convinced by the government's sincere efforts to ensure law and order and preserve religious freedom.

Responding to a guestion about the opposition leader's briefing, he said her statements are not credible at all.

Answering another question he said it is not unlikely that Pakistan's intelligence service (ISI) has connections with religious extremists. He termed the individual attempts to pass death sentences on two judges of the High Court as "audacity". "This has only struck terror in the hearts of the Godfearing people of the country.'

In a statement handed out to the envoys, the foreign minister catalogued a good number of events that speak of subversive activities. He mentioned the planting of bombs

at Kotalipara in an attempt to kill the prime minister only to create a political vacuum, the bomb attack on the Udichi cultural function at Jessore, the CPB rally and the killing of policeman inside the mosque.

Stray incidents FROM PAGE 1

passengers were injured in an attack by pickets at steel mill bazar at 9 am, police and local sources said.

between police and hartal support-ers took place at Bahaddarhat crossing at 10 am, witnesses said.

Anti-hartal rallies and proces-

ague at different points of the city. Road communications between

hartal Train communication to and from

sources said.

rickshaws stayed off the roads. Major shopping arcades, private offices were closed during hartal

Paramilitary BDR and additional police force were deployed at important points.

VIP. Alamqii Hasan Tripty, Ukil Abdus Sattar MP and Amanullah Aman MP, JP Secretary General Naziur Rahman Manjur and party leader Saifur Rahman, Jamaat leaders Ali Ahsan Mujahid and Mohammad Kamaruzzaman, IOJ leader Ahmed Abdul Qader and Moulana Emdadullah General Secretary of Khelafat-e-Majlish and grand son of bara huiur.

Earlier, the BNP Chairperson met family members of those killed during the Feb 6 violence. Parents. wives and children of victims Alauddin, Sujan and Moklehur rahman met her at the local Circuit House.

The BNP Chairperson consoled them and assured that the real killers would be punished when the 4-party alliance will come to power.

Police constable Badsha Mia

IOJ secretary general Mufti

50, was murdered by Islamic zealots

inside Noor Masjid at Mohammadia

Fazlul Hag Amini, his son and 11

others were arrested on Sunday last

in connection with case filed under

PSA with Motifheel thana on

February 4 for instigating violence

after a rally at the Paltan Maidan

where he declared two high court

judges 'murtad' for giving verdict

Housing Estate on February 3.

Azizul Haq

FROM PAGE 1

thanas in the city.

FROM PAGE 1

Bandarban

months

CHT culture

institute and hospital, construction of a

pucca road from Alikadam to

Naikhangchhari in Bandarban, saving

Motia resist them from snatching money from some hawkers.

the next five days from today pro-

testing the killing of shop employee

Immediately after the killing, the traders at Khatunganj went on a wildcat strike protesting the killing and demanding arrest of the killers. Police arrested two persons in connection with the murder.

The traders will hand over a memorandum to police commissioner today.

Rangpur 3 seat

FROM PAGE 12 Mizanur Rahman Choudhury and Communications Minister Ánwar Hossain Manju.

Hazari cadres

Daganbhuivan on Saturdav night.

and putting up barricades on road.

that gives other modern IT facilities.

stood for his clients.

FROM PAGE 1

PM asks

FROM PAGE 12

fax

partymen

Justice Mainur Reza Choudhury gave the order for a full-bench hearing in the APD after a hearing on the petition moved by Barrister Rafiqul Hug, the counsel for Ershad. Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud

after killing Taraj Uddin. The CMM's court on Saturday

Meat shops

'likely' that a good percentage of the animals slaughtered in the city for public consumption is sick. The vets issued a public warning, saying a range of diseases could be transmitted to humans through meat of infected animals.

PSA with Daganbhuiyan thana These infected meats can against eight BCL and Jubo league transmit various diseases including activists for attacking policemen liver cirrhosis, cyst, cancer, mad cow disease, anthrax, tuberculosis, rabies and even impotency," said Dr Fazlul Hague, a Veterinary Doctor now waiting to join the DCC's Health Department.

While the Dhaka City exchange, current 4,200 analogue telephones would be converted to digital phones based on cybernetics Congratulating the people of Comilla, the prime minister said with

the installation of the digital exchange month. a longstanding demand was fulfilled. which she hoped would help boost trade and commerce and interactions among the people at home and abroad with the use of Internet and

Panchhari High School and the adjoin-Hasina said although her Awami ing village from erosion by river League did not get votes from Comilla Chengi, taking up river-training in the last election, her government is programme to protect government implementing various development roads and old Buddhist temple and work for overall uplift and benefit of construction of a bridge at Boroichharithe people in the district.

The government, she said, has Chitmoron point and some roads in plans to set up IT park and science and technology university and It was the second meeting of Larma upgrade Comilla hospital to a 500with the Prime Minister in about two bed one with modern treatment facilities

Dipu moves freely FROM PAGE 1

Dipu have been named in the FIR filed by Tarai Uddin's brother Nurul Islam. Of them, eight have been arrested so far. They include Aleva who allegedly sought help from Dipu and his gang to "grab" a piece of

land that belonged of Tarai Uddin. According to local people, Dipu has been leading a gang of more

than 20 "terrorists" in the area. Meanwhile, police vesterday

interrogated Borhanuddin and Aminul Islam, both FIR- named accused in the case.

They were arrested with a loaded shotgun while escaping in a taxi cab

placed them on two days' remand and sent the rest six to Dhaka Central Jail

FROM PAGE 12

Other veterinary doctors said it is Pro-government BCL brought out a militant procession protesting arrest of Manu and the police action at Our Correspondent from Feni adds: Police filed two cases under

Corporation (DCC) officials blamed lack of manpower and resources for the gross lapse, its Health Department mysteriously prevented four new veterinary officers from joining their posts for the last one

The four senior veterinary officers, sent to DCC on deputation from the ministry concerned, are now moving on the corridors of Nagar Bhaban, uncertain about their future.

For the last ten years or more, the Health Department's Veterinary Section has been manned by only one veterinary officer, Dr Mohammad Azmat Ali. He has so far refused to move out of his post despite orders from above to make room for a senior veterinary officer. He obtained a court injunction on November 19 last year on the post, barring any one from replacing him.

An auto-rickshaw driver and two Chase and counter-chase

parts of the city during hartal hours.

Chittagong and other parts of the country were disrupted due to

Chittagong was as usual, railway

Delivery of goods from hittagong Port remained sus-Chittagong Port remained sus-pended. All kinds of vehicles except hours.

against fatwa Amini was sent to Dhaka central jail with one month's detention. Police have so far arrested 150 IOJ leaders and activists in connection with Badsha murder case and three cases under PSA filed with two

Hartal supporters held rallies and brought out processions in different

sions were organised by the supporters of ruling party Awami