

VAT on Teltalk SIM challenged at HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The levying of Tk 1,200 as VAT on the Teletalk SIM cards has been challenged in the High Court (HC). Hearing on the matter may take place today.

Six Teletalk lottery winners filed a public interest litigation (PIL) in a HC bench yesterday challenging the legality of the notice issued by Teletalk Bangladesh Limited to levy Tk 1200 as VAT on each SIM (subscriber identity module) card according to a Statutory Regulatory

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Cops accused in murder case threaten to kill complainant

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Policemen and an informer accused in a murder case are frequently threatening over the phone to kill complainant Fatema Khatoon in Khulna.

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Women ansars going to Saudi Arabia to do household jobs

UNB, Dhaka

As many as 170 female ansars will be sent to Saudi Arabia 'soon' in the first batch of the auxiliary lawenforcement agency's lady members to do household jobs.

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Baghdad restaurant bomb kills 20

REUTERS, Baghdad

A suicide bomber killed up to 20 people including five policemen and many plain-clothes security guards at a Baghdad restaurant close to the Green Zone government compound yesterday, several police sources said.

A further 20 were wounded after the bomber walked into the restaurant during lunchtime on a street protected by numerous police

checkpoints and a few hundred meters (yards) from one of the main public entrances to the fortified Green Zone.

The Iraqi parliament was in session inside the vast compound, which once housed the presidential palace of Saddam Hussein.

A Reuters employee at the scene counted five bodies laid out on the ground. A Reuters journalist at a Baghdad hospital saw eight corpses brought in. The restaurant was well

known as being popular with police.

The attack came a day after US and Iraqi generals declared success in a month-long campaign, known as Operation Lighting, against insurgent bomb factories and other Sunni rebel activities in the capital.

A wave of suicide car bombings contributed to the deaths of more than 1,000 Iraqis in the weeks following the formation of the Shia-led government in late April. The generals

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Finance Secretary Zakir Ahmed Khan, right, makes a point as Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman listens to him at a dialogue on the State of Bangladesh Economy and Budget Responses 2005 organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue at a hotel in the capital yesterday.

Speaker's 'no' to discussion on Aug 21 grenade attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar in a ruling yesterday said the August 21 grenade attack case is a sub judice and he cannot allow any discussion on the matter in the House.

The ruling came when a BNP

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BABUL MURDER CASE 4 jailed for 33 years

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced four people including the victim's driver to 33 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) for killing Obaidul Haq Babul, an Awami League leader, in October 1996.

The court could not try four-party alliance leader Naziur Rahman Manzur as the High Court

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Cracks appear in Narail village

BDNEWS, Narail

Cracks have developed on land in Simakhali village in sadar upazila after similar cracks were witnessed in Jessore and Jhenidah.

The cracks are 18 to 25 feet deep and about 600 feet long. They are gradually getting bigger, triggering panic among the villagers.

The villagers said initially the cracks were small and they ignored those.

No official from the district administration has come to inspect the cracks, they alleged.

40 Indian crocodiles for Ctg safari park, mazar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Forty freshwater crocodiles of a rare species, collected from Crocodile Bank Trust of Madras in India, will reach Zia International Airport at 11:00pm tomorrow by an Al Italian flight.

Of them, 30 will be released in Dulahazra Safari Park in Cox's Bazar, and five each in the Dhaka Zoo and Khan Jahan Ali's mazar tank in Bagerhat the following day, sources said.

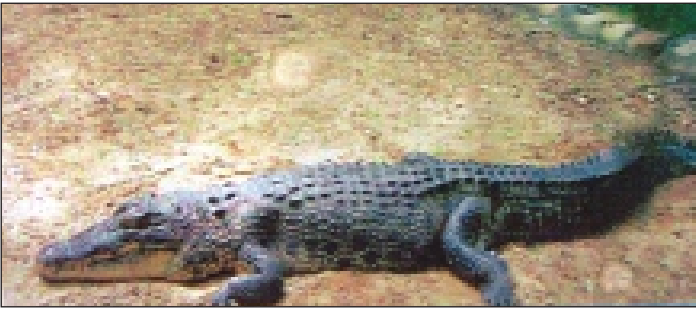


PHOTO: STAR

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A sweet-water crocodile of an endangered species.

2 JCD men held after mugging Tk 12 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested two Dhaka College students and pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists of the college unit and seized a car on charge of mugging Tk 12 lakh in Motijheel.

They are Golam Ohab Liton, science and technology affairs secretary, and Azizul Haq, member, said the duty officer of Motijheel Police Station.

The arrestees admitted their fellow student and Assistant General Secretary Ruhul Amin had escaped with the stolen money and firearms, said the officer.

Earlier, four youths including the three JCD men forced Abul Kashem, employee of Uma Jewellers at Baitul Mokarram

Mosque Market, into the car in Paltan, police and witnesses said. Kashem was going to a bank to deposit the sum at around 2:30pm.

The muggers drove off towards Motijheel when an on duty traffic constable suspected something was wrong in the car.

The constable with the help of passers-by stopped the car at Dainik Bangla intersection. Police rushed to the spot and held Liton and Azizul with a bullet and seized the car. However, Ruhul and the fourth member of the gang fled.

Top police officials and members of different intelligence agencies were interrogating the arrestees.

A special team was raiding different areas in the city to arrest Ruhul, police said.

Mahi barred from entering Bagerhat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The pre-scheduled meeting of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) could not be held at the Bagerhat Pourasava auditorium yesterday as the pourashva chairman cancelled the BDB's booking of the auditorium and the local administration imposed Section 144 of CrPC.

Bagherhat district administration also prevented BDB Organising Secretary Mahi B Chowdhury MP

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Prayer Timing		
June 20		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-50	6-55
Esha	8-15	8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		