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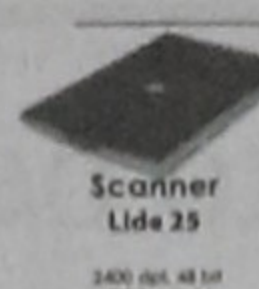
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Bangladesh notches down in ease of business

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh slipped six steps to the 110th position among 181 countries in "ease of doing business", said a global survey report jointly prepared by the World Bank (WB) and International Finance Corporation (IFC).

The country ranked 104th in 2007 and 88th in 2006 in similar surveys.

But Bangladesh has shown a substantial improvement in as many as three indicators for the first time, according to the latest survey released yesterday.

The survey titled 'Doing Business-2009' reveals that Bangladesh improved in three indicators among 10.

READ MORE IN STAR BUSINESS

Achievers thrive on three factors

Competitive attitude, better student care, copy-free exams contribute to extraordinary HSC results

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Competitive attitude among students, better care by guardians and teachers and copy-free examinations contributed to the extraordinary results in this year's HSC exams, educationists said yesterday.

The number of colleges with cent percent pass rate has increased while the number of educational institutions with zero percent pass rate has come down in all the nine education boards, indicating a qualitative change in this year's HSC results.

The number of colleges and

madrasas with cent percent pass rate this year rose to 674 from last year's 434 while the number of educational institutions with zero percent pass rate stands at 41 this year against last year's 60.

Only 21 colleges achieved cent percent pass rate in 2002. But the number increased to 44 in 2003, 83 in 2004, 272 in 2005 and 363 in 2006.

The number of colleges having zero percent pass rate was 86 in 2006, 131 in 2005 and 553 in 2002.

Dhaka Education Board Chairman Prof Monirul Islam said students are now studying more. Besides, monitoring by the educa-

tion boards and better training of teachers have contributed to better results in the HSC exams.

He told The Daily Star that the cancellation of Monthly Payment Order of the colleges with bad results has encouraged teachers to be more attentive to teaching students.

Shahanara Begum, former principal of Ideal School and College at Motijheel, said both teachers and students are now familiar with the new GPA system.

"Since university admissions have become more competitive, students now try to do well in

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Bomb hoax in Ctg-bound flight from UAE

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A bomb hoax created panic among passengers of a Chittagong-bound Air Arabia flight from Sharjah of the United Arab Emirates prior to its landing at Shah Amanat International Airport in the port city yesterday.

Sources said an airhostess on board the plane found a piece of paper at about 1:30pm reading that a bomb had been placed inside the aircraft and it would explode at 12:00 without mentioning whether it was noon or midnight.

The pilot informed the airport authority of the matter immediately after landing at the airport at 1:55pm.

A specialised team from Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and experts from intelligence agencies searched the aircraft thoroughly but did not find anything suspicious.

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PHOTO: STAR

Traffic congestion continues to batter city life despite several steps taken by the DMP. The photo shows a section of Mirpur Road in Dhanmondi area yesterday.

'Big Bang' test gets underway

Historic project to probe origins

AFP, Geneva

Particle physicists were jubilant yesterday after the long-awaited startup of a mega-machine designed to expose secrets of the cosmos passed its first test with flying colours.

Cheers, applause and the pop of a champagne cork -- rather than the cataclysmic suck of a black hole, as doomsayers had feared -- marked the breakthrough at the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN).

Robert Aymar, the organisation's director general, hailed it as a "historic day" for CERN and mankind's thirst for knowledge.

Humans have "a quest for (knowing) where they came from and where they should go, whether the Universe will end, and where the Universe will go in the future," he said.

Just after 0730 GMT, the first proton beam was injected into the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), a massive built 100 metres (325 feet) underground at CERN headquarter.

The mission aims at resolving some of the greatest enigmas in physics: whether a so-called "God particle" exists that would account for the nature of mass; an explanation for "dark matter"

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PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Picture shows the giant set-up at the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Geneva. The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) was switched on yesterday morning.

Tac saved his honour!

EMRAN HOSSAIN

"Allah has just saved me," he said, sighing with relief. "I'd have lost both money and honour if the legal process went on," he sang out safe in the knowledge that he has saved his honour!

He just did an act of penance, disclosing the wealth he built up illegally to the Truth and Accountability Commission (Tac) yesterday. But then, there was no visible sign of repentance in him: just too happy to have avoided time behind bars.

"Everything turned out as I wanted and planned," he gloated on to the three waiting people outside the Tac office. The way he talked to them and over the phone betrayed his sense of escaping an otherwise inevitable personal tragedy.

He went on to talk about better strategies he could resort to, oblivious of the presence of this correspondent nearby. "I should have come here earlier, 25 days at least."

He directed over the phone which door at his home should be repaired, which one needs a replacement and felt the need for parts of the house to be decorated soon, always taking care not to mention his act of penance.

At this point, this correspondent approached the man, casually trying to know about him and his job. But it only fuelled his suspicion; he hopped into a waiting car and left the place immediately.

The Tac yesterday held hearing of six Titas gas officials who disclosed Tk 8 lakh in ill-gotten wealth to the commission. With them, the body has so far heard 18 officials from the gas distribution company who confessed to having ill-gotten property worth about Tk 25 lakh only, Tac sources said.

An accounts assistant told the commission that he earned Tk 25,000 illegally, the lowest amount so far willingly reported by a total of 49 corrupts.

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AUG 17 BLASTS Ctg JMB chief acquitted in another case

14 acquitted in Barisal serial blasts case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A court here yesterday acquitted all three accused Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) members including its Chittagong Divisional chief Javed Iqbal alias Mohammad of the charge in a case filed in connection with countrywide

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Edible oil prices fall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The price of brand soya bean oil went down significantly yesterday in the capital's wholesale markets.

The prices of soya bean oil of all brands fell by Tk 10 per litre in wholesale markets.

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12 MT date-expired milk powder seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel yesterday seized 12.5 tonnes of date-expired powdered milk from the city's Moulavibazar wholesale market.

The powdered milk was seized from three godowns of AK Food Industry Ltd owned by Akkas Ali Bepari, who had been selling the item for long, using the names of different brands and fake seals of Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI).

Besides, the unscrupulous businessmen had been selling the item changing sacks with fresh expiry dates printed on them. Moreover, the powdered milk was stored in the three godowns that did not maintain required temperature.

Acting on a tip-off, a mobile court of Rab-1 raided the business house and its godowns and seized the powdered milk. They also arrested Akkas Ali Bepari

and his manager Jahangir Hossain.

Jahangir Hossain said they purchase the milk powder from Chittagong and later put the item into different packets having the names of various well-known and new brands.

"Akkas Ali has been carrying out the business in such way for the last three decades," Jahangir said.

Talking to The Daily Star, Maj Saiful Islam of Rab-1 said, "Businessman Akkas Ali committed crimes through trading date-expired powder milk and using the names of famous brands."

After seizure of the goods, the magistrate fined Akkas Ali Tk 2 lakh, which he paid on the spot, the Rab official said.

Rab sealed the godowns and will destroy the milk powder in presence of the media men on Sunday.

7 NATURAL WONDERS Cox's Bazar, Sundarbans back in race

KAWSAR KHAN

Cox's Bazar and the Sundarbans reverted to their respective first and second places in the race for new seven wonders of nature yesterday, a week after they were dropped from the list on charges of

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Sehri, Iftar timings

Ramadan	Sep	Sehri	Iftar
10	11		6-10
11	12	4-23	6-09
12	13	4-23	6-08

Prayer Timing

September 11

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-23	4-29
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-10	6-20
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

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- Classes for Fall Semester-2008 commence: Monday, October 06, 2008.
- May apply on-line.



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