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MPs term DCC a den of graft

Blame it for failure to tackle problems in talks with mayor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawmakers from the city constituencies yesterday termed Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) a den of corruption, and called for changing this image through its work. They blamed DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka for failure to take necessary steps for construction and repair of roads, proper management of waste and tackling mosquito menace. The legislators had a meeting with the mayor at Nagar Bhaban, organised by him

to discuss gearing up activities of the DCC. They suggested strengthening coordination among different utility organisations to improve their service. State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam said condition of many of the city roads has deteriorated greatly as 80 percent of the funds for various work is pocketed by corrupt elements. Without curbing corruption, it is not possible to make Dhaka a modern city, he said. Rashed Khan Menon said the impression that DCC is plagued with corruption has to be changed. The mayor, officials

and all other staff of the DCC have to work for this, he added. He stressed taking steps to reduce traffic congestion in the city, and building more flyovers. Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin said many roads are found to be in dilapidated condition soon after repair due to poor quality of the work. State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanak said the DCC must have to be free from corruption to render better service to the city dwellers.

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These Rohingya women have infiltrated into the country from Myanmar along with their children. The photo was taken at Kerontoli village in Teknaf.

PHOTO: STAR

Fertility doctor on brink of human cloning

AFP, London

A US-based fertility doctor claimed to have cloned 14 human embryos and transferred 11 of them into the wombs of four women in an interview published yesterday. Panayiotis Zavos told Britain's Independent newspaper that although none of the women had had a viable pregnancy as a result, the first cloned baby could now be born within a couple of years. "There is absolutely no doubt about it... the cloned child is coming. There is absolutely no way that it will not

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Waterways shrinking for lack of dredging

Reduced to 3,800km from 5,200km in dry season

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's waterway network has been shrinking drastically due to inability of the dredging department of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) to remove increased siltation from the riverbeds, causing negative impact on overall economy, says a BIWTA report. The waterway routes have reduced to 3,800 km from 5,200 km in winter season, thanks to the successive governments' indifference to strengthen the dredging department of BIWTA over last three decades though the demand for dredging has been increasing gradually.

In the rainy season, the waterway network has reduced to around 6,000 km from 8,400 km due to siltation, says the report, placed before a meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on shipping ministry yesterday. It means now the country's waterway network is about 6,000 km in the rainy season while about 3,800 km in dry season. But officials at the BIWTA said now the waterway routes might be less than that, as no survey was carried out in the recent years. They blamed acute shortage of budget to strengthen the dredging, as budgetary allocation was not increased in this regard in last five years.

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10 Hizb-ut Towhid men remanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Chief Judicial Magistrate court of Kushtia yesterday placed 10 out of 31 Hizb-ut Towhid men including its regional chief on a four-day remand. Earlier on Sunday, the same court sent them to jail. The Hizb-ut men placed on remand are the outfit's regional chief Mahbubur Rahman, two alleged trainers Anisur Rahman and Saidur Rahman and seven top leaders of different areas in the region - Mirza Jibon, Saiful Islam,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Tension again along border with Myanmar

STAR REPORT

BDR jawans have taken positions at the bank of Naaf river in Palongkhali union of Ukhiya upazila as Myanmar border force Nasaka again started erecting earth embankment within 80 yards of the zero point. The Nasaka has deployed 300 workers to build the embankment without consultation with Bangladesh government though they stopped the work yesterday following a protest from BDR. BDR officials claimed that Nasaka has stopped their work while they blew whistle and showed red flags. But the local people yesterday said, Nasaka did not stop their work. Few days back, Nasaka built around 300 feet of the embankment, they said. On last Tuesday, BDR and Nasaka had a company commander level flag meeting on the issue at Dekhiboniya Nasaka outpost where the BDR requested them not to erect any embankment within the zero point. Meanwhile, a total of 135 Rohingyas whose jail term ended have been staying in the Cox's Bazar jail while the Myanmar government is totally reluctant to receive them. Jailer Anwar Hossain said there were 2,750 detainees, including 440 Rohingyas, on Wednesday in the jail against its 440 capacity. Of the Rohingya detainees, 135 have been staying there though their jail term ended in between December last year to January this year.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



Shazneen's 11th death anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 11th death anniversary of Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, who was murdered inside her Gulshan house in the capital in 1998 at the age of 15. She was a student of class nine of Scholastica School. The five accused -- contractor Syed Sajjad Mainuddin Hasan, domestic help Shahidul Islam Shahid, Hasan's assistant Badal and two maid servants Estema

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PHOTO: STAR

Only the mast of the clinker-laden ship MV Seven Circle-25 is seen as it was sinking at the port channel in Chittagong yesterday. Ships, inset, stranded after the channel was closed.

43 Tamil rebels killed, thousands flee war zone

AP, Colombo

Sri Lankan soldiers have pushed deep into the sole remaining Tamil rebel enclave and killed 43 guerrillas while nearly 82,000 civilians have fled the northern war zone within the last 72 hours, the military said yesterday. Troops in recent months have ousted the rebels from all their former strongholds and hemmed them into what the government previously deemed a "no fire" zone to protect civilians. But troops entered the 20 sq km zone this week to fight remaining rebels and free civilians trapped there. Meanwhile, thousands more civilians fled Sri Lanka's war zone Wednesday as troops pushed deeper into the Tamil Tiger rebels' sliver of remaining territory and the government vowed again that the end to the 25-year-old conflict was near. The latest photographs released by the military showed people arriving at beaches carrying their belongings in bundles on their heads. Mothers held infants and some carried sick relatives as they disembarked from the boats they used to flee the fighting. The navy has been escorting those vessels into

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Deccan move to top of IPL table

AFP, Cape Town

Adam Gilchrist blasted 71 off 45 balls as the Deccan Chargers went to the top of the table with a 24-run win over the Bangalore Royal Challengers in an Indian Premier League match at Newlands Wednesday. Opening batsman and captain Gilchrist and Rohit Sharma (52) propelled the Deccan team to 184 for six in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Prayer Timing		
April 23		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-25	5-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-27	6-31
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

MPS' CONTROL Upazila chairmen for meet with govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Upazila Chairmen-Vice Chairmen Forum yesterday proposed to sit with the government for a dialogue to resolve the 'crisis' centring upazila parishad law. It also demanded some amendments to the Upazila Parishad Act 2009, and cut the authority of members of parliament on upazila parishad. The forum came up with its proposal and demand at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club in the capital. Expressing the hope that the crisis could be overcome through dialogues, the forum leaders also said they are preparing for a legal battle to establish their authority as elected representatives of people. "We have been elected by people of our respective areas as we pledged to them to work for development. But in reality, we are not given opportunities to work for uplift. It seems we are elected just to sit idle in our offices," said Muhibur Rahman, convener of the forum, and chairman of Biswanath upazila (Sylhet) parishad. "We hope the prime minister would soon call us for a

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