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**Tagore's birth anniversary today**

STAR REPORT

The 148th birth anniversary of Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore will be celebrated across the country today.

The government and socio-cultural organisations have taken up elaborate programmes to celebrate the great poet's birthday.

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**China pledges all possible cooperation**

UNB, Dhaka

China assured all possible cooperation in economic, infrastructure and social development of Bangladesh and to help implement the new government's vision to improve the socioeconomic lifestyle of the people.

The assurance came when new Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Zhang Xianyi

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**Slack swine flu screening at ZIA**

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

Shahabul, a migrant worker returning from Malaysia, was coughing yesterday as his relatives helped him away from Zia International Airport (ZIA) after his arrival.

The 25-year-old man said he was forced to give up his job and return home after suffering from continuous fever and coughs for over three months, but on arrival at ZIA he did not report his health

condition at the Airport Health Support Desk.

Shahabul wasn't even aware of the health desk set up to screen inbound passengers to prevent the entry of influenza A(H1N1), commonly known as swine flu, into the country.

Like Shahabul, many other passengers travelling back from Abu Dhabi, Saudi Arabia and Malaysia also are not aware of the necessity to report.

The government has listed 19 coun-

tries -- including Mexico, USA, Canada, United Kingdom, and India -- passengers from which have to report for screening at the airport. The list keeps getting longer every day as new suspected cases are found in different countries.

However, there is no provision for screening of patients coming in from other countries who might be carrying the virus.

"We are handing yellow forms to

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The photo shows the signboard asking travellers at Zia International Airport to report to the Health Support Desk set up in the wake of swine flu fears. However, slack screening leaves many passengers unchecked.

PHOTO: STAR

**Madhav may lead Nepal coalition**

More troops deployed to quell Maoist protests

ANI, AP, Kathmandu

The CPN (UML) is all set to choose Madhav Kumar Nepal as the leader of the next coalition that will form the government.

UML Vice-Chairperson Bidhya Devi Bhandari here on Wednesday said, "Madhav Kumar Nepal has the ability to bring together different parties. UML is going to pick him unanimously as the leader of the next coalition."

Bhandari claimed that a government of national consensus would be formed under the UML's leadership.

Bhandari further said even as Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda's resignation was a democratic act, his party,

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**Akhter Hamid's detention illegal: HC**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday declared illegal the detention of former deputy speaker and BNP leader Akhter Hamid Siddiqui.

The HC bench of Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Quamrul Islam Siddiqui also asked the government to immediately release Akhter Hamid Siddiqui from jail, if he is not wanted in any other cases.

The bench delivered the verdict upon a writ petition filed by his (Hamid) daughter

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**4 killed in Indian polls violence**

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

At least four people were killed--three in West Bengal and one in Rajasthan--as stray violence, police firing and booth-capturing attempts marred the fourth phase of polls to Lok Sabha.

The phase saw a turnout of 57 percent, nearly 95 million voters.

A member of a political party was reportedly shot dead in Nandigram in West Bengal but there was no official confirmation of this, Deputy Election Commissioner R Balakrishnan told reporters in New Delhi.

A CPI(M) worker was killed in a bomb attack in Jangipur where Congress stalwart Pranab Mukherjee is in fray. A voter was killed and eight persons, including three policemen, were injured in Asansol constituency in Burdwan when armed men opened fire.

One person--stated to be a CPI(M) worker--was killed in an alleged Trinamool Congress attack at Amta of Howrah district after the polling. Amta CPI(M) MLA Prattyush Mukherjee claimed the deceased to be his party activist.

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**PADMA BRIDGE Tk135cr given for land acquisition**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain yesterday handed over a cheque of around Tk 135 crore required for land acquisition in Madaripur district for the construction of Padma

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

Source: Islamic Foundation

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