

**Did you know?** Tropical Islands Resort is an artificial tropical resort in Krausnick, Germany, set inside a disused zeppelin hangar 360m long, 210m wide and 107m high. At 5.5 million cubic meters, it stands as one of the largest buildings on Earth by volume, and is the world's largest single hall without supporting pillars inside.

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**The Daily Star celebrates 19th founding anniversary**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Daily Star yesterday celebrated its 19th founding anniversary through a programme attended by country's leading personalities, including ministers, politicians, academics, celebrities, businesspersons, and members of the diplomatic corps, the media and the civil society.

The leading English daily hosted a reception on the occasion at the city's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, sharing the joy of its success with hundreds of well-wishers and patrons.

The presence of personalities from home and abroad, incumbent ministers, former advisers to caretaker governments, and incumbent and



The Daily Star celebrates its 19th anniversary at the city's Bangabandhu Conference Centre yesterday.

**Mosquitoes rule despite DCC drive**

**'Crash programme' had little impact on the menace**

**HELEMUL ALAM**

The weeklong anti-mosquito drive of Dhaka City Corporation has failed miserably as the city dwellers are still suffering from mosquito bites every hour of the day.

The SSC examinees are the worst sufferers of nuisance, as they are to keep awake till late at night when mosquitoes buzz around in their thousands making their study difficult.

The drive titled "crash programme," which started on February 14, could have little effect as many city areas were out of its purview, residents from different areas complained.

Gulshan, Banani, Khilgaon-Bashabo, Dhanmondi, Kalabagan, Mohammadpur, Mirpur, Jatrabari, Lalbagh and Nayabazar were under the programme. But most parts of the areas could not be covered in the drive, they complained.

The residents of different areas, including Rampura, Mirpur, Pallabi, Shenpara, Kazipara, Shewrapara, Taltala, Uttara, Jatrabari, Mohammadpur, Lalmatia, Azimpur, Rajabazar, Lalbagh, Islambagh, Basabo, Malibagh, Shantinagar, Madartek and Gopibagh, are the main sufferers from mosquito bite.

People at offices, business establishments, bus stoppages, train stations and launch terminals as well as floating people are also easy victims of the stinging insects.

"Although I had rented a house on the fifth floor of a building to save my baby from mosquito bite now I cannot save it even in daytime," said Shima Talukdar, a resident of Senpara.

Yesmin, a resident of Pallabi, said it becomes very tough for her mother who is a paralysed patient as she cannot save herself from the bites even in daytime.

**2 outlaws murdered by 'rivals'**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah**

Two outlaws were killed Thursday night at Ramchandrapur cremation ground under Shailokupa upazila in Jhenidah.

The dead are Shariful Islam, 41, of Mailmari village under Shailokupa upazila and Masud Rana, 33, of Ragunathpur village under Harinakunda upazila of the district. They were relatives.

Officer-in-Charge of Shailokupa Police Station Anwar Hossain said the outlaws were members of Jasod Gono Bahini and working to build an armed group.

A rival faction, Kalu Bahini in Harinakunda upazila has killed them by slitting their throats, the OC alleged.

Police were trying to find out the reason behind the killings, the OC added.

**Prayer Timing**  
February 20

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-20	5-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-03	6-07
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

**Long queues with great enthusiasm**

**DU CORRESPONDENT**

The Amar Ekushey Boi Mela witnessed a huge gathering yesterday as it was Friday.

People of all ages thronged the premises just one day before the gates opened in the morning. From 10:30am to 1:00pm, the premises were reserved for women and children.

In the afternoon, the

**No respite from custodial deaths**

**6 extra-judicial killings even after HC concern**

**ASHUTOSH SARKAR**

At least six people were killed in law enforcers' custody even after the High Court on Tuesday 14 expressed its grave concern over the persistent extra-judicial killings.

Attorney General Mahubey Alam informed different law enforcement agencies about the HC concern so that measures could be taken to stop such killings.

According to Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), a leading human rights organisation in the country, four persons were killed in Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) custody while two in police

**Dredging in Kaptai Lake soon**

**BSS, Rangamati**

Capital dredging in the Kaptai Lake will be carried out soon, said Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdul Latif Biswas yesterday.

The dredging will be carried out to increase fish production, ensure navigability of the lake and smooth electricity generation in the Karnaphuli Hydroelectric Power Plant.

Latif said this at a view exchange meeting with elite, fish traders and fishermen of

**3 injured as train rams microbus in city**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Three people were injured when a train ramed a microbus tossing the vehicle onto to two pedestrians at city's Mohakhali level crossing last night.

The injured were identified as Jahangir Alam, 32, driver of the microbus, and two pedestrians--Moshiur Rahman Mona, 44, and Fayzul

**OBAMA-DALAI LAMA TALKS**  
**China at odds with US**

**AFP, Beijing**

China yesterday bitterly condemned US President Barack Obama's meeting with the Dalai Lama, saying it had "seriously harmed" relations and summoning the American ambassador in Beijing to protest.

The denunciation came swiftly after Obama vowed support for Tibetan rights in his White House talks with the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader on Thursday, a meeting that China had repeatedly warned against.

"The US action seriously interfered in Chinese internal affairs, seriously hurt the feelings of China's people and seriously harmed China-US relations," said a statement released by foreign ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxun.

Ma said the meeting "grossly violated basic norms of international relations" and US pledges to respect Chinese sovereignty.

The White House had meticulously planned the meeting in hopes of containing Chinese protests, inviting the Dalai Lama to a private area of the executive mansion rather than the Oval Office and not allowing cameras inside.

But the 74-year-old Buddhist monk took the unusual step of mingling with reporters afterwards, telling them he was "very happy" with Obama's support and

even engaging in a playful snowball fight.

The White House later put out a picture of the two Nobel Peace Prize laureates in the 45-minute meeting and issued a statement backing the Dalai Lama's goals.

"The president stated his strong support for the preservation of Tibet's unique religious, cultural and linguistic identity and the protection of human rights for Tibetans in the People's Republic of China," White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said.

"The president commended the Dalai Lama's 'middle way' approach, his commitment to non-violence and his pursuit

**US pilot flies into Texas tax office**

**'Grudge against US admin,' no link with int'l terrorism: officials**

**AFP, Austin**

A Texas pilot with an apparent grudge against the US government flew his single-engine plane into a tax office building Thursday, leaving two dead and 13 wounded and setting off a huge fireball.

Officials described the startling incident as a deliberate assault on a US government institution, but authorities stressed the crash did not appear to have connections to international terrorism.

The pilot, who left an apparent suicide note on the Internet bitterly railing against the US authorities, was unaccounted for after the attack, as was one federal employee. Two of those wounded were in critical condition.

"The remains of two individuals have been found in the building," Candice Wade, a spokeswoman for Austin's emergency management office, told AFP, declining to confirm that the pilot was among the dead.

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**OnlinePoll**

Do you think Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal should immediately get rid of the corrupt, non-students and Chhatra Shibir men as demanded by its grassroots-level leaders?

Yes (83.6%) No (12.6%) No Comments (3.7%)

Total votes: 934

TODAY'S POLL

Would you support if BNP forges an anti-government movement?

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