

Did you know?

The Leaning Tower of Pisa in Italy, 55.86m (83.27ft) high, began leaning to the southeast soon after construction started in 1173 due to a poorly laid foundation and loose substrate that had allowed the foundation to shift direction. Following recent restoration to stop it from completely toppling over, it currently leans at a steady tilt of 3.97 degrees.



The fascinating world of construction. Brought to you by:



Whirlpool Amazing Triple Offer First ever in Bangladesh! Unbelievable Saving up to Tk. 17,600* on Whirlpool Refrigerator

With specific models of Whirlpool Refrigerator:

- Cash Discount up to Tk. 3,200*
- Free Whirlpool Microwave Oven worth Tk. 6,900
- Exchange Offer: Trade in used refrigerator** and get cash discount up to Tk. 7,500*
- Unbelievable Saving up to Tk. 17,600*

TRANSKOM DIGITAL
Your Trusted Electronics Retailer
For More Information: 8855368-8, 01712 885483

Bribery rules kidney instt

Patients have to pay Tk 500-5,000 for non-paying bed

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

Patients at the 100-bed National Institute of Kidney Diseases and Urology have to pay to hospital employees for a non-paying bed. The payment ranges between Tk 500 and Tk 5,000. Sometimes it goes beyond that. The hospital is indulging in such malpractice in utter violation of the government rule that says that a government hospital must have 40 percent no-paying beds so that poor people are not deprived of treatment.

"I got a non-paying bed for my father after waiting for long three months. I had to pay Tk 500 to one Imran who sits at the counter and demanded the money," said Sayeed Wazed, a homeopathic doctor.

"I myself have seen Imran taking Tk 5,000 from a poor chap with the promise of managing

a non-paying bed," he said.

Some of the doctors said, as the hospital couldn't accommodate the increasing number of patients the corrupt employees take full advantage of it.

When asked, Director of the institute Dr Firoz Khan said he had never received any complaint from the patients about it.

"If any patient files complaints and it is proved, the employee concerned will certainly lose the job their next day," he said.

In addition to that, this top kidney diseases hospital has shortage of nurses that hinders the activities of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and round-the-clock dialysis of poor patients.

There is no CT scanner at the institute and the unfortunate patients have to go to another hospital for CT scan. Patients sometimes have

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



A heron's leg is freed from a ring. The forest department started using this kind of rings to carry out research on birds. Different shapes of satellite transmitter, inset, are also used in the tracking.

Forest Dept starts first-ever 'bird ringing'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the first time, the forest department has started bird ringing and strapping satellite transmitter to migratory birds to carry out a study on them.

The study will be conducted to determine if migratory birds spread avian influenza virus from one country to another. It will also be able to locate their migration routes.

Experts of US Geological Survey will follow the migration routes of these birds and provide information to the forest department officials.

A team of experts catch migratory birds by using mist net and wire funnel traps and attach this small satellite device to their backs and rings to their legs at Hakalooki Haor of Kulara, Moulvibazar.

The expert team has so far strapped such devices to a ruddy shell duck, a garganey and a gadwall. Three kinds of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Ministry okays rental power plant changes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The power ministry has conditionally approved changing rental power plant configuration as proposed by two local rental power companies last month after winning the contracts.

Although such proposals are considered as violation of contractual terms, local companies Rahimafrooz and Otobi last month sought to change the configuration of their Thakurgaon 50MW and Noapara 105MW power plants.

Upon receiving their applications, the Power Development Board (PDB) forwarded those to the power ministry for approval.

The ministry last week approved the two proposals but said the change in plant equipment would be acceptable as long as it did not affect the power plants' heat rate or require extra land to install the plants or the deadline to begin commercial operation and would not cause a hike of power tariff.

Rahimafrooz bagged a 30MW power project in Jamalpur for five years and a 50MW diesel-fired project in Thakurgaon for three years. But after winning the deals, Rahimafrooz backed out from the Jamalpur project by paying a penalty.

The company signed its contract for the Thakurgaon project on February 4. But on February 17, it wrote to PDB about changing its diesel engine generator.

The company wrote that in the tender schedule it had quoted

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Govt to import 25,000 tonnes of rice from Myanmar

UNB, Dhaka

The government will import 25,000 metric tons of sunned rice from Myanmar to meet the domestic demand for the staple.

To this effect, the cabinet committee on public purchase at a meeting yesterday, with Finance Minister AMA Muhith in the chair, approved a bid proposal.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Criminal shot dead by cohorts in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A criminal was shot dead by his cohorts last night in the city's Hazaribagh following an internal dispute.

Deceased Omar Khan alias Sajib, 27, an associate of listed

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

CU prof confined as BCL's choice not recruited

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh Chhatra League activists of Chittagong University (CU) kept one of its teachers confined in an office room yesterday for around 45 minutes as a candidate after their choice was not appointed as teacher.

Later, the CU authority rescued Professor Dr Hasanuzzaman Chowdhury of sociology department, also a member of the recruitment committee.

Sources said that five candidates were appointed lecturer at the sociology department through a recruitment test held at the university on March 4.

Munshi Tania Afser Champa, joint secretary of BCL CU unit, also appeared at the test, but was not appointed.

Angered by the news of their leader, a group of BCL activists went to the office of sociology department's Chairman Professor Dr Indrajit Kundu at around 12:30pm.

Failing to find the chairman as he was outside of the office, they directed Professor Hasanuzzaman to leave the room in a bid to keep it under lock and key.

As the teacher refused, the BCL men left the room locked confining him inside at around 12:45pm.

The CU authority with the help of police rescued him breaking the lock open at around 1:30pm, said CU Proctor Professor Dr Mohammad Jasim.

The BCL activists later submitted a memorandum to CU Vice

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Detained Jaish man tells of 3 more Pak militants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detained Pakistani national and suspected Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) coordinator for Bangladesh Rezwan Ahmed has disclosed to investigators the 'identities' and 'whereabouts' of three other Pakistani militants who are his accomplices.

Rezwan said the three -- Sohel, Ali and Zawad -- came

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

HC told of ship-breaking monitoring committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A high-powered committee has been formed to monitor ship-breaking activities in the country, a deputy attorney general told the High Court yesterday.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Govt to rethink future of NU

Education minister unhappy at graft, irregularities

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

The government might have to shut down the National University if the allegations of corruption and irregularities against its authorities were proved, said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday.

"Investigation is going on into the corruption and irregularities which were brought against the university authorities," the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

THREE DAYS TO GO

PREORDER NOW!

NOKIA Connecting People

03 12:59:00



Lolita Chakma of Khagrachhari breaks down while sharing her experience of last month's hill violence. She was giving her deposition before a three-member jury in a public hearing on the situation of Chittagong Hill Tracts at the city's Cirdap auditorium yesterday.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

Ansar-like force can be formed for CHT peace

Justice Rabbani says at public hearing on CHT incidents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A force with members from indigenous communities should be formed on the model of Ansar to establish peace in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Justice Mohammad Golam Rabbani said yesterday.

It is essential to implement the CHT peace treaty without any delay to bring back peace in the hills, Rabbani said at a "public hearing" on the Chittagong Hill Tracts at the Cirdap auditorium in the capital.

"Peace cannot be restored in the hills unless a congenial atmosphere is established there allowing people to make decisions for their well-being. A fully-functioning local government system can create that atmosphere," he said.

Eight indigenous people affected in violence at Baghaihat in Rangamati and Khagrachhari gave depositions in a public hearing

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Iraqis vote defying threat, bomb attacks

38 people killed in rocket strikes, bombing

AFP, AP, Baghdad

Iraqis defied waves of bomb, mortar and rocket attacks that killed 38 people to turn out yesterday in huge numbers to vote in elections seen as a test of the war-shattered state's fragile democracy.

Polls closed at the end of a day that saw long queues at polling stations in Baghdad, in Sunni towns that mostly boycotted the 2005 parliamentary vote, and in other centres across the conflict-ridden country.

Partial results were not due until Thursday, with full results expected on March 18, according to the United Nations.

But most observers said it would take at least a couple of months of political horse-trading before a new government was formed as no political bloc was set to emerge dominant from the vote.

The capital bore the brunt of Sunday's violence, with around 70 mortars raining down on mostly Sunni areas as people voted in the second parliamentary ballot since US-led forces ousted dictator Saddam Hussein in 2003.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

PREORDER AND WIN

FREE NOKIA BLUETOOTH STEREO HEADSET BH-503!

NOKIA Connecting People

OnlinePoll

Do you think government's Employment Generation Programme will benefit the ultra poor?

Yes (70.4%) No (27.7%) No Comments (1.9%)

Total votes: 1228

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think reintroduction of ambulance by Dhaka Medical College Hospital after 30 years signifies its qualitative improvement?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

March 8

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-15	5-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-05	6-10
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

BE AMONG THE FIRST TO EXPERIENCE THE NEW NOKIA X6

Preorder your Nokia X6 now, and WIN a FREE Nokia BH-503 Bluetooth headset!

The first 150 buyers to preorder will win the free headset from the following Nokia Stores: Nokia Store Bashundhara City, Nokia Store Gulshan, Nokia Store Uttara (50 from each store)

Visit nokia.com.bd/x6preorder