

Did you know?

The Pentagon headquarters of the US Department of Defense has 610,000 m² (6.6 million ft²) in floor area and is 2 million m³ (77,015,000 ft³) in volume.



The fascinating world of construction. Brought to you by:



Whirlpool Amazing Triple Offer
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** 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 865483



Hunted ruddy shelducks, right, and a gun, bottom, in a boat used by hunters. Hunting is going on unabated in Aulakanti Char, Uttar Koinnamari Char and Geramara Char in Bogra. A team of researcher from the Centre for Advanced Research in Natural Resources and Management (CARINAM) observed rampant hunting by influential and well-off people in the char areas of Bogra and Gaibandha. Officials of the local forest department and law enforcement agencies are aware of the hunting but turn a blind eye to it. The CARINAM team is conducting a survey to search for gharials in the Padma and Jamuna in this region.



PHOTO: COURTESY CARINAM

BNP demands ban on EU, foreign NGOs working in CHT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP leaders yesterday demanded that the government stop the activities of European Union and foreign NGOs in Chittagong Hill Tracts and declare international commission on CHT illegal.

They also protested the arrest of their party leaders and "harassment" of former lawmaker and Khagrachhari district BNP president Wadud Bhuiyan following the recent unrest in the hill districts.

"Conspiracy is going on to create a separate land in that area following the confrontation and violence," BNP vice president Abdullah Al Noman made this allegation while addressing a press briefing at the National Press Club.

Noman said the situation would deteriorate if the army is withdrawn from the hill districts.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5



Girl takes her life for teasing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A teenage girl from Sherpur upazila committed suicide on Sunday by taking pesticide after enduring harassment every day on her way to school.

Reshma Khatun, 18, from Shanti Nagar village, was a class XII student of Salpa Technical School.

Reshma's neighbour Munnaf, 24 and his friend Robin had teased her for the last few days, including last Sunday.

She took pesticide immediately after arriving home from school at around 5:30pm, said members of her family.

Reshma was not sent to hospital and she died at home around 10:00pm.

The victim's father, Abdul Jalil, filed a case with Sherpur Police Station.

He alleges that Munnaf and Robin caused Reshma's death.

Amirul Islam, officer-in-charge of the police station, said that Munnaf and Robin have been in hiding since the case was filed.

Teacher's cruelty sends 8 children to hospital

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Headmistress of a Feni school yesterday beat up 15 students of class-III and IV, as the kids just forgot to bring colour pencils to their drawing class. Eight of them were hospitalised.

Parents of the students were planning to file a case against Ratna Roy, the headmistress of Birinchi Govt

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

JRC meet to focus on Teesta water

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The long pending Teesta water sharing issue is likely to be resolved as minister and secretary level talks of the Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) between Dhaka and Delhi would start on March 17.

The secretaries of the water resources ministries of Bangladesh and India will sit on March 17, while the ministers will discuss the issue for next three days to reach a treaty.

"The ministers from both the countries will discuss a number of water related issues, but the Teesta water sharing is our first priority,"

said JRC member Mir Sazzad Hossain.

Ministry sources say Delhi on March 7 confirmed the dates of the JRC meet. The last minister level meet of JRC was held in 2005.

A delegation led by Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen will fly to Delhi on March 16.

Minister level meet is the highest level of talks under JRC, which was formed to resolve conflicts about sharing of waters of 54 trans-boundary rivers.

It was settled during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to Delhi in January that the Teesta

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Rules ignored in allocating Gulshan house to Khaleda Says JS body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday claimed that laws were not properly followed while allocating Khaleda Zia a house in Gulshan. It asked the housing and public works ministry to prepare an explanation for the allocation.

The parliamentary standing committee on housing and public works ministry also

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Transaction alert Banks told to watch accounts of 'politically exposed important foreign nationals'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank has directed all banks and financial institutions to take special measures to check money laundering, terror financing and financial crimes.

The central bank issued a circular yesterday asking the banks to be more cautious while opening and operating bank accounts of "politically exposed important foreign nationals."

It also directed them to put in place an effective "screening mechanism" for appointing staff.

The directive came as part of Bangladesh government's effort to check money laundering with the help of the United Nations, said a BB official wishing anonymity.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 5



Bigelow first woman director to win Oscar

'Hurt Locker' best film AP, Los Angeles

Kathryn Bigelow played field commander to bring her raw, relentless Iraq War thriller "The Hurt Locker" to the screen.

After her film triumphed at the Academy Awards with six prizes and made her the first woman ever to win the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



A group of people with a made-up banner "Bangladesh Freedom Fighters' Rehabilitation Society" build houses flattening a hill at Kolatoli in Cox's Bazar. They also hoisted the national flag and the flag of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad despite local Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad leaders' request not to use their flags for destroying the hills.

PHOTO: STAR

Grabbers feast on Cox's Bazar hills

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Different groups under real and fictitious banners are seen in a race for grabbing hill land in Cox's Bazar district town.

They are flattening the hills and fencing off the hill land. Indiscriminate cutting of hills is posing a threat to the ecological balance as the soil from the hill cutting is filling up the canals, drains and the Bakkhali riverbed.

A certain quarter on Sunday around 11:00am occupied a hill area at Kolatoli in the town. By afternoon, some 20 to 30 workers built two corrugated tin-shed houses there and put up a signboard inscribed with "Office of

Bangladesh Freedom Fighters' Rehabilitation Society". They hoisted the national flag and the flag of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad.

Hasina Begum, 41, of Chakoria was allegedly playing the lead role in the act.

On information, district command convenor of Muktiyoddha Sangsad Capt (ret'd) Abdus Sobhan, joint convenor Md Shahjahan, former mayor of the municipality Nurul Absar, Jhilongha union parishad Chairman Mujibur Rahman and some local freedom fighters went to the spot around 2:00pm.

They requested Hasina Begum to refrain from occupying the hill and erecting structures

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

Rejoinder

Bangladesh Judicial Service Commission (BJSC) authorities clarified a report published in The Daily Star on March 7 headlined "Judicial Service Commission Runs Without Chairman", regarding quota for children of freedom fighters.

Humayun Kabir, deputy secretary and officer-in-charge of the information unit of BJSC secretariat, on Sunday in a rejoinder said the BJSC at a meeting on February 18 this year considered the government proposal of introducing quota system for the children of freedom fighters and some other groups in recruiting assistant judges and have already transmitted the opinion of the commission to the law ministry.

2 killed in 'shootouts'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged robber and an operative of outlawed Gono Bahini were killed in separate 'shootouts' with law enforcers in the capital and Kushtia yesterday.

The robber Monir Hossain was killed in an encounter with the members of Rapid Action Battalion in city's Jatrabari area at about 2:15am, said Rab officials.

Police said Monir was wanted in at least 20 criminal cases in Demra, Jatrabari and Siddhirganj police stations.

According to Rab officials, a team of Rab-10 conducted the drive when Monir along with his accomplices was gathering beside local Uddipan School at Sutikharpur for committing a robbery.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

TWO DAYS TO GO
PREORDER NOW!
NOKIA Connecting People
02:12:59:00
DAYS HRS MINS SECS

HC asks for details on 172 scrap ships

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to submit by March 18 all documents on 172 ships imported for scrapping since its verdict delivered on March 17 last year in this regard.

It expressed concern over deaths of workers at ship-breaking yards.

The HC directive came after Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (Bela) filed an application in January for court directives, saying the government has been arbi-

trarily authorising import of ships with hazardous substances.

Upon a writ petition filed by Bela in 2008, the HC delivered a verdict on March 17 last year asking the government to close operation of all ship-breaking yards without environmental clearance.

The documents to be submitted by the government include environmental clearance certificates, no-objection certificates and letters of credit on the imported ships.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

PREORDER AND WIN
FREE NOKIA BLUETOOTH STEREO HEADSET BH-503!
NOKIA Connecting People

OnlinePoll
Do you think reintroduction of ambulance by Dhaka Medical College Hospital after 30 years signifies its qualitative improvement?
 Yes (43.6%) No (33.2%)
 No Comments (23.2%)
Total votes: 936
TODAY'S POLL
 Do you think the government should go for 'symbolic' war crime trial as AL General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam said?
 Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing
March 9

	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
NOKIA Connecting People
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