

Conservation of 4 canals starts in Apr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Water Supply and Sewerage Authority will start the conservation work of four canals in and around Dhaka city next month.

The four canals, Khilgaon-Bashabo Khal, Shahjadpur Khal, Shutibhola Khal and Abdullahpur Khal, will be SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Mohila Dal committees announced

Delwar's daughter, Abbas's wife get key posts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former lawmaker Noor-e-Ara Safa has been made the president of Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal while Shirin Sultana, also a **SEE PAGE 15 COL 4**

ARMS HAUL CASE

CID gets two more months to probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday granted Criminal Investigation Department two more months for further SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Prayer Timing

March 23		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-55	5-30
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-16	6-20
Esha	7-45	8-15
Source:	Islamic Foun	dation

China keen to help build deep-sea port

Willing to establish Dhaka-Kunming rail link, says Dipu Moni

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said yesterday China is very much willing to establish direct rail link between Dhaka and Kunming, and help build a deep-sea port at Sonadia island for boosting trade and investment.

"Beijing also assured us of using the deepsea port, which is very important for its viability," Dipu Moni said while briefing journalists at the foreign ministry about Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's just-concluded state visit to China.

Since the planned seaport will require huge investment, assistance from more than one country will be needed, she said.

"When the seaport is built, China will also benefit from it as prices of Chinese products abroad will be less because of shortening of distance," the foreign minister said.

Noting that China has emerged as a very

powerful state and as an economic superpower, the foreign minister said Dhaka and Beijing decided to establish "closer comprehensive partnership of cooperation from the strategic perspective."

Dipu Moni said China decided to write off loans given to Bangladesh till 2008.

Asked about the recent Bangladesh-India Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) meeting in New Delhi, she said the talks were important to strike an agreement on sharing the Teesta waters, and progress was made in this regard.

"There are many realities and stages in the process of reaching an agreement. Not only the central government of India but also West Bengal state government is involved here," Dipu Moni said. She hoped that the two countries would be able to reach an interim agreement on the Teesta shortly.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

DEFAMATION CASES

Farroque asked to surrender

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed opposition chief whip Zainul Abdin Farroque to surrender before the trial courts concerned within eight weeks in connection with six separate defamation cases filed against him.

Local Awami League leaders filed the defamation cases with different courts of Shariatpur, Lalmonirhat, Pabna, Comilla, Faridpur and Chittagong after Farroque alleged that prime minister's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy was involved in illegal VoIP busi-

Upon a bail petition filed by Farroque, the High Court however, directed the trial courts concerned to consider his bail prayers when he will surrender in connection with the cases.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

RID PHARMA CASE WARRANTS

SP asked again to explain OC's failure to report

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday, for the second time, asked Brahmanbaria Superintendent of Police (SP) to explain by April 25 why Sadar police station's officer-in-charge (OC) did not submit any report on execution of arrest warrants against three absconding officials of Rid Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

Earlier, the same court asked the OC to submit report on execution of the arrest warrants against the three on eight consecutive dates.

Judge Mohammad Abdul Majid of the Drug Court passed the order after Special Public Prosecutor Mahmud Hossain Jahangir had appealed for taking stringent action against the OC for his negligence in submitting the report.

Meantime, the same court rejected a bail petition of Rid Pharma Ltd Managing Director Mizanur Rahman in the case filed against him on charges of manufacturing toxic paracetamol syrup.

Rid Pharma Director Abdul Goni and two pharmacists Mahbubul Islam and Enamul Haque have been on the run since the case was filed against them.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Bashar calls it quits

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's most successful captain Habibul Bashar on Monday announced that he was retiring from all cricket.

"It has been a terrific journey for me and after two decades of international, first class and club cricket I feel I have reached the end of the road. The Port City League (PCL) T20 in Sharjah next week will be my last competition as a player," said Bashar in his letter to the Bangladesh Cricket Board.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

DRIVE AGAINST ILLEGAL VOIP

BTRC to switch on legal links

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) is set to switch on private landline operators, which were suspended for their alleged illegal VoIP (Voice SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

Nizami calls journalists 'ignorant'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami yesterday alleged that Islamist militancy in the country is being sponsored by Indian intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), and Israeli intelligence agency Mossad.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Nizami also once again

AL leader held for selling OMS rice in black market

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police yesterday arrested an Awami League leader in connection with selling OMS rice on black market at Baikali bazar under Khalishpur Police Station of Khulna.

The arrestee was identified as Mridha Belayet Hossain, AI general secretary of ward no-14.

Police seized four sacks of rice each containing 50 kg from the possession of the AL leader while he was taking the sacks away from his shop Belayet Enterprise at Mujgunni to Baikali bazar on a three-wheeler van in the afternoon.

The AL leader, who was appointed as an OMS dealer of ward no-14, was later shown arrested.

Belayet admitted to police that he had so far sold fifty percent SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



মার্কেট, দোকান-পাট ও শপিংমল রাত ৮ টার পর বন্ধ রাখাসহ বিদ্যুৎ সাশ্রয় সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দের সদয় অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, প্রচলিত শ্রম আইনের বিধান অনুযায়ী রাত ৮টার পর মার্কেট, দোকান-পাট, শপিং মল, বিপনী বিতানসমূহ বন্ধ রাখার কথা। কিন্তু লক্ষ্য করা যাচ্ছে যে, বারবার অনুরোধ সত্ত্বেও এই নির্দেশ প্রতিপালিত হচ্ছে না। দেশে লোড-শেডিং এর চাপ কমানোর লক্ষ্যে-

- রাত ৮টার পূর্বেই প্রয়োজনীয় কেনা-কাটা সম্পন্ন করুন;
- মার্কেট, দোকান-পাট, শপিং মল ও বিপনী বিতান রাত ৮টার পর বন্ধ রাখুন;
- দোকান ও বাসা বাড়ীতে অতিরিক্ত আলোক সজ্জা পরিহার করুন;
- ২৪° সেঃ এর উর্ধের্ব এয়ারকুলার ব্যবহার করুন;
- পিক আওয়ারে এসি, বৈদ্যুতিক ইস্ত্রি, পানির পাম্প চালানো থেকে বিরত থাকুন এবং বাতির ব্যবহার সীমিত রাখুন;

উপরোক্ত নির্দেশসমূহ প্রতিপালনে সহযোগিতা করতে সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দকে অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে। এর লজ্মনে বিদ্যুৎ বিতরণ কর্তৃপক্ষ তাৎক্ষনিকভাবে বিদ্যুৎ সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্ন করতে বাধ্য হবে। অনুরোধক্রমে। বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ

LEGAL NOTICE

This is to inform that the scheduled land and building was sold to Ittefaq Group of Publications Ltd. on 07.06.1974 by the SA and RS recorded owners but the original deed of sale bearing No. 10404 was lost from the office of the company. If any person, bank or financial institution has any knowledge of the original deed, he/it is requested to contact Mr. Mahmudul Islam, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh at his chamber located at 348/C Malibag Chowdhury Para, Road No. 11, Dhaka-1219 within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. As the said company is going to transfer the schedule land and building if any person, bank or financial institution has any interest, charge or any other encumbrance in or in respect of the said schedule land and building, he/it may please contact the aforementioned Mr. Mahmudul Islam, in the address and within the time hereinabove stated.

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> For: Ittefaq Group of Publications Ltd. 1, Ram Krishna Mission Road, Dhaka.



Law enforcers yesterday bar visitors from entering Drik Gallery in Dhanmondi, saying the show did not have permission. The gallery organised an exhibition on extrajudicial killings. PHOTO: STAR

BHOLA-3 BY-POLLS

BNP for army deployment

EC yet to take decision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP asked the Election Commission yesterday to deploy army personnel to Bhola-3 parliamentary constituency for the April 24 by-election.

no government officials are assigned to poll duties, and urged to engage EC officials in all important elections. BNP standing committee member MK Anwar told reporters that the EC assured them of army deployment in the polls.

At a meeting with the EC, a BNP delegation demanded that

Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda and Election Commissioner Muhammad Sohul Hussein were in the meeting. However, Election Commissioner Sohul Hussein said, "We

have not taken any decision regarding army deployment."

The BNP delegation feared that a free and fair election is not

possible in the current law and order situation. Anwar said, "We demand that the commission engage its

officials at each union under the constituency to monitor each day's situation. The army should be deployed on the polling day". The BNP leaders urged election commissioners to visit Bhola-3 constituency during the election.

EC secretariat officials said the EC wants to hold the byelection in Bhola-3 constituency without deploying army men. BNP leaders also demanded that the EC do not allow local election observers during the polls.

BNP leaders Nazrul Islam Khan, Major (retd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed and Rizvi Ahmed were present at the meeting. On February 3, following a Supreme Court verdict the EC declared that a by-election would be held in Bhola-3 constituency.

Earlier, the SC declared Major (retd) Jasim Uddin's election to SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

(0.78%)

Online Poll

Do you think some progress has been made regarding Teesta water sharing in the India-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission meeting? O Yes O No (60.27%) (38.95%)

Total votes: 1027

No Comments

TODAY'S POLL

Do you support the cabinet decision of permanently canceling the Daylight Savings Time? Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

In this joyful & happy occasion of the successful celebration of our 27 years, we are expressing our heartiest congratulations & gratitude to all of our respected shareholders, clients & well wishers.



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