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PMO high-ups visit 2 victims of molestation

High-ups of the Prime Minister's Office on behalf of the premier yesterday visited two molested children of the city's Uttarkhan and Savar, who are receiving treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. PMO Director General Dina Huque asked police to arrest Nayan of Uttarkhan, who allegedly molested one of the victims -- a three-year-old girl -- on Tuesday. The DG also asked lawyers of One Stop Crisis Centre that sheltered the kids to take the case sincerely to prevent the culprits from getting off the hook.

POWER CRISIS

House, flat owners explore solar answer

Home and flat owners are looking for small solar power systems to get relief from the persistent power crisis and save cost on fuel for running generators. But the wishes of many middle-class people do not come true as solar panels are still very pricey. "It's unbearable. About seven hours of load shedding a day has increased expenditure for fuel. Now we spend about Tk 20,000 a month on the generator," said Tanvir Ahmed, a flat owner in Gulshan. To get a respite from the power outage, Tanvir visited an exhibition on renewable energy at the Mokarram Bhaban premises of Dhaka University last week to get an idea about the costs of installing a solar system capable of running five fans, seven Green lights and a refrigerator for 24 hours. At the stall of Grameen Shakti, he was told that he would have to invest about Tk 28 lakh to get a system capable of generating up to 1 kilowatt of solar electricity. "I am tired of load shedding. That's why I was thinking about installing a solar power system capable of providing electricity for 24 hours," he said. Tanvir was not the only person looking for solar panels. Since the beginning of the expo, many city dwellers visited the fair to get an idea about solar power. "We have had many queries since the beginning of the fair on April 3. We get many calls at our office about setting up solar power systems in urban areas," said Md Waliul Bari, deputy manager of the leading solar home system provider--Grameen Shakti.

250 families in Pabna tortured

Says chief of probe commission on 2001 post-poll violence. About 250 families of the Christian community in Chatmohar and Harirampur areas of Pabna district were subject to cruelty and torture of the winning party activists after the 8th parliamentary election in 2001. The hooligans looted the belongings of the families, damaged properties and set fire on many of their houses forcing them to leave their paternal land. Chairman of the inquiry commission formed by the government to probe into the post-election violence in 2001 and former district judge Sahabuddin told BSS yesterday after returning from Pabna. The government formed the three-member commission at the beginning of this year and started its work on February 2. The commission issued a notification requesting people to

Mirza Abbas' wife lands in jail, then taken to hospital

A Dhaka court yesterday sent Afroza Abbas, wife of former housing and public works minister Mirza Abbas, to jail in two tax evasion cases in which she was earlier sentenced to 16 years' imprisonment in absentia. Later, she was admitted to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) hospital under jail custody as she fell sick. Judge Amar Kumar Roy of the Special Judge's Court-2 passed the orders after Afroza along with her lawyers appeared before it and sought bails in the cases.

City water crisis sparks protest

Mohakhali residents block road. Vehicular movement on Mohakhali-Gulshan link road and Mohakhali Bazar road remained suspended for about an hour yesterday after angry locals blockaded the roads demanding uninterrupted water supply. Severe water crisis for the last three weeks in areas around Mohakhali Cholera Hospital and Titumir College prompted the locals to take to the streets. AKM Hafiz Akhtar, deputy commissioner of Gulshan division, said agitating people blockaded the Mohakhali Bazar road in front of Titumir College from 11:30am to 12:30 pm. He said police struggled to calm the angry demonstrators and restore vehicular movement. Around 100 residents of "block-ga" in Mohakhali took to the streets shortly after 10:30am. The demonstrators carrying banners and empty water containers blocked the Mohakhali-Gulshan link road causing traffic congestion in Mohakhali, Gulshan, Tejgaon and Banani. Abdur Rahman, a resident of "block-ga", said they had no alternative but to come out to the street as they didn't get water supply since March 18. On information, police rushed to the spot and talked the agitators into lifting blockades. Angry locals blocked the same road last week to press the same demand. They called off protests after being assured of a quick solution to the water crisis. But nothing has been done yet, said the residents of the area.



CRICKET-WALK: Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan, 2nd from left, enjoys every bit of it as models in traditional dresses depict the themes of the six participating teams during the colourful opening ceremony of the National Cricket League Twenty20s at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. (Story on page 17)

Fugitive top outlaw held in W Bengal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia. West Bengal police arrested a top Bangladeshi outlawed leader from Nadia district early yesterday. Sahin Alam Rumi alias Sahin Rumi, son of Sultan Rumi of Kalishankarpur in Kushtia, is the military commander of outlawed Gono Mukti Fouz. Police said Sahin has been staying in India with a name of Sohail Ahmed Mondol alias Dipu for last several months. A police team led by Sub-Divisional Police Officer Soumendranath Das raided the house of Mikail at Shantipur in Nadia at about 2:30 am and arrested Rumi. Police recovered his passport, one ration card issued by West Bengal government, two mobile handsets and six SIM cards five of which are Bangladeshi and one Indian. Police Super of Kushtia Sahabuddin Khan confirmed the arrest.

Pinky's stalker still at large

SIX days into the grisly death of 16-year old Mariam Akhter Pinky by burning in Kishoreganj's Tarail, police had yet to arrest the girl's alleged stalker and killer Tabarak yesterday. Before Pinky died on April 5, on her death bed she told her mother Latifa Akhter that Tabarak set her on fire, and he had been stalking her for quite some time. Amid all sorts of rumours being spread by the stalker's family about the characters of the victim and her mother to divert the focus of the case, Latifa visited the district police superintendent (SP) yesterday to seek justice once again.

HC gets 17 new additional judges

SCBA rivals argue over appointment. Seventeen new additional judges were appointed to the High Court Division of the Supreme Court for two years yesterday. President M Zillur Rahman made the appointment as per article 98 of the Constitution. The newly appointed judges are SC Registrar Md Shawkat Hossain, Additional Attorney

Thakurgaon BDR mutiny verdict today

A special court of Bangladesh Rifles today delivers the verdict of a mutiny case against 51 BDR men of 20 Rifle Battalion in Thakurgaon. After the defence and the prosecution completed their arguments around 2:30pm yesterday, the Special Court-2 set today for the judgment. The court was adjourned after

Nuke, terror top Obama's talks with Manmohan

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Washington. India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh yesterday began a four-day visit to the US to attend the 42-nation Nuclear Security Summit that will focus on nuclear security and his first bilateral meeting with President Barack Obama since they met in November last year. Manmohan Singh was warmly welcomed at Andrews Air Force base by White House chief of protocol Capricia Marshall. India's ambassador to the US Meera Shankar, along with senior

'Laughing' in botanical hub after 12 years
ENAM UL HAQUE
A small band of Rufous-necked Laughingthrush has thrilled birdwatchers in the Botanical Garden at Mirpur recently. The birds briefly emerged out of thorn bush and rattan at the extreme end of the garden. They are shy birds of the eastern edge of Bangladesh and not expected to be seen in a crowded garden in Dhaka. Laughingthrushes are not thrushes, but big babblers living in flocks and feeding in the leaf litters of the forests. Bangladesh has only five species of Laughingthrushes occurring mostly in the hill-forests of Chittagong and Sylhet divisions. The

PHOTO: ENAM UL HAQUE

OnlinePoll
Do you think it is necessary to have National Reserve Force with 10 lakh trained civilians as the parliamentary standing committee suggested?
Yes (39.0%)
No (60.0%)
No Comments (1.0%)
Total votes: 495
TODAY'S POLL
Do you think the government should develop open pit coal mine in the country considering the present energy crisis?
Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing
April 12
Azan 4-40, Jamaat 5-15
Fajr 12-45, 1-15
Zohr 4-45, 5-00
Maghrib 6-21, 6-24
Esha 7-45, 8-15
Source: Islamic Foundation

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২৯শে চৈত্র - ২রা বৈশাখ
১২ এপ্রিল - ১৫ এপ্রিল
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