

Did you know?

Christ the Redeemer is a statue of Jesus Christ in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The statue is 39.6 metres (130 ft) tall, including its 9.5 meter (31 feet) pedestal, and 30 metres (98 ft) wide. It weighs 635 tons (700 short tons), and is located at the peak of the 700 metres (2,300 ft) Corcovado mountain.



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Fathimath new Saarc secy general

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Fathimath Dhiyana Saeed of the Maldives has been nominated as the next Saarc secretary general. Official sources said the just concluded Saarc summit has accepted Dhiyana's name for the post. She would hold the post for three years starting from March 1, 2011.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Flyover to end Kuril's jam woes

Hopes PM as she opens construction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The three-kilometre Kuril Interchange at the intersection of Airport Road and Progoti Sarani will significantly ease up the capital's traffic congestion, said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina while inaugurating the construction yesterday.

The interchange, popularly known as Kuril flyover, will have six ramps ensuring free flow of traffic from Purbachal New Town, airport, Mohakhali, Banani and Rampura to pass over the railway level-crossing and an intersection at Kuril. Lengths of the six ramps together make the three kilometres.

Prof Md Shamsul Hoque of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, who was involved with the layout configuration of the facility, said it is an interchange to ensure unin-

errupted traffic movement at the intersection.

An interchange is a road junction that uses grade separation, and one or more ramps, to permit traffic on at least one highway to pass through the junction without directly crossing any other traffic stream.

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) Chairman Md Nurul Huda at the inauguration said Kuril level-crossing halts vehicles at least 60 times every day causing four hours' delay in traffic movement at that point.

The interchange will relieve the city commuters of the suffering due to congestion at Airport Road-Progoti Sarani intersection and save time. It will be the fourth entry route to the capital and facilitate access from northeastern districts, he added.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

1 ship with stranded crew brought to Benin coast

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The seamen stranded offshore Benin started coming to mainland of the West African country, said a foreign ministry official yesterday.

"One ship was brought to the shore yesterday but it could not be known how many seamen were on it," said Saida Muna Tasneem, director general of the external publicity wing of the foreign affairs ministry.

According to earlier information, there were 27 seamen on board the eight ships. Another ship was traced having two more seamen aboard bringing the total to 29, she said.

These ships are around ten

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Jamaat has to amend charter by this month

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Election Commission has decided to ask Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami to amend some provisions in its charter that do not conform to the country's constitution and the RPO and submit the corrected charter by May 31.

The amendments to Jamaat's aim and objectives and a few provisions in its charter are required to retain the party's registration with the EC.

The commission had sent letters twice to Jamaat since this January without specifying any timeframe for completing the task. But the party did not respond to any of the letters, a senior EC official said.

"Under such circumstances, the commission has decided to give the party a deadline to do it," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Another EC official said the letter would be sent to the party today or tomorrow.

Examining Jamaat's charter, the EC found that the party's call for establishing the rule of Islam in the country through

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM Bangladesh improves in US rating

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The latest report of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has commended Bangladesh's achievements in religious freedom, government's persuasion to restore the original secular character of its constitution and initiative to repeal the Vested Property Act.

The latest 11th annual report, which was formally released in Washington DC on Thursday, also said the present government is the most secular and favourably disposed towards minority rights and the parliamentary elections in 2008 has been free of any anti-minority violence.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 5

SSC results likely May 17

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The results of this year's Secondary School Certificate and its equivalent Dakhil and SSC (vocational) examinations held under ten educational

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Huge response to 4 power projects

42 bidders in pre-qualification stage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Power Development Board received response from 42 bidders in the pre-qualification stage of tenders for four private power projects that were opened yesterday.

In the tender for 300 to 450 megawatt Bibiyana-2 gas-fired power project, the PDB received one dozen bids, mostly from foreign companies.

A similar number of bids was submitted in the tender for 150 to 220 MW gas-fired Bhola power project.

The tender for Saidpur 100 MW dual fuel power project drew eight bidders.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

30 kids fall sick after deworming

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

At least 30 kids at Kotchandpur upazila fell ill after taking antihelmintics yesterday.

It was the first day of a government health programme -- the antihelmintic week.

The children started feeling sick after swallowing tablets the Kotchandpur health complex officials gave around 11:30am. These are the drugs

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

3 clubs asked to stop use of floodlights for playing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the authorities of Dhaka Club, Uttara Club and Officers Club to impose restriction on playing at the clubs by using floodlights for three months from now.

The court ordered the managing directors (MDs) of Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd (Desco) and Dhaka Power Distribution Company (DPDC) to ensure compliance with its order within seven days, and submit to it a report in this regard within 30 days.

Upon a writ petition, an HC bench also issued a rule on the government to explain why its inaction in preventing misuse of electricity should not be declared illegal.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Biman lands safely with damaged wing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An aircraft of Bangladesh Biman from Muscat, Oman narrowly escaped an accident and landed safely with its damaged wing at Chittagong Shah Amanat International Airport on Saturday.

Airport sources said a portion of a flap on the right wing of the Dhaka-bound BG-022 flight via Chittagong broke off and fell into a paddy field at Jamalpara under Patiya

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

OnlinePoll

Do you think all illegal billboards will be removed following the High Court directive?

- Yes (34.6%)
- No (64.6%)
- No Comments (0.8%)

Total votes: 491

TODAY'S POLL

Are you content with Bangladesh's performance against Pakistan in the ICC World Twenty20 2010 tournament?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

3 DAY HAIR MAGIC

জবা, মেহেদী, আমলকি ও লেবুর প্রাকৃতিক গুণে সমৃদ্ধ নারিকেল তেল।
সপ্তাহে অন্তত ৩ দিন ব্যবহার চুলের গোড়ায় পুষ্টি যোগায়,
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