

Did you know?

The Potala Palace is located in Lhasa, Tibet. The building measures 400 metres east to west and 350 metres north to south, with sloping stone walls averaging more than 16 ft thick at the base. Copper was poured into the foundations to help proof it against earthquakes.



The fascinating world of construction. Brought to you by:

BSRM
the ultimate steel

Whirlpool Amazing Triple Offer
Unbelievable Saving up to Tk. 17,600* on Whirlpool Refrigerator

First ever in Bangladesh*

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: 8855366-8, 01712 685463

Boro harvest best in decade

Farmers in northern region eye bumper production

REAZ AHMAD

The northern region of the country is eyeing at the best harvest of the decade as the biggest rice season sets at its peak.

For the resilient farmers of northern districts, who suffered erratic power supply and falling of groundwater table, prospect of a bumper boro production is exactly what they deserve.

Farmers of Naogaon, Bogra and Sirajganj had a hard time irrigating lands in the last few months of dry spell. The spell, however, came as a boon as the boro farmers hardly suffered pest infestation this season unlike last year.

Those who started harvesting early--from late April-- are all happy at the prospect of a bumper boro output.

Though dissatisfied with the interrupted power supply, farmers are also very appreciative of the government's policy supports like, subsidy in diesel used in running irrigation

pumps, lowering prices and ensuring adequate supply of urea and non-urea fertilisers and fixing encouraging prices for paddy (Tk 17 /kg) and rice (Tk 25 /kg) for public procurement.

"The agriculture officers told us to run our pumps from 11:00pm to 5:00am. But we hardly had electricity for three hours with frequent interruption. Somehow, we managed it through various alternatives and now expect to reap over 2.4 metric tons of paddy per acre," said Abul Kalam Azad, a small farmer of Hatipara in Sirajganj, on Sunday.

While talking to The Daily Star the next day, Naogaon's Mohadevpur Upazila Agriculture Officer Mostafuzur Rahman admitted of erratic power supply.

He said, "They [farmers] ran pumps during the daytime too. We put our best efforts to help them enhance irrigation efficiency by introducing AWD (alternate wetting and drying)

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



Labourers carrying boro harvest at Raninagar in Naogaon on Sunday. The harvest is in full swing in the northern district, and labourers are happy with the pay they are getting this season.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

No need for past interim govt's ACC

Says MK Alamgir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief of the public accounts committee (Pac) of parliament yesterday said that the country does not need an anti-graft body like the one in the past caretaker government.

"During the two years regime of Moyeenuddin [Moyeen U Ahmed] and Fakhruddin's [Fakhruddin Ahmed] illegal government, the Anti-Corruption Commission misused its absolute power and served interests of a certain quarter," Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir told reporters, emerging from a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

It's now time for 'pro-AL' private universities

JS body plans to relax clauses of the bill, make permission available for people of their choice

WASIM BIN HABIB and RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary sub-committee considers recommending relaxation of some clauses of the Private University Bill 2010 to encourage pro-liberation war entrepreneurs to set up private universities.

The sub-committee of the parliamentary standing committee on education ministry thinks that most private universities are owned by people loyal to the BNP-Jamaat coalition.

Many private universities easily got

permission to run their activities. Now pro-liberation people should be given the chance to set up universities to strike a balance.

Pro-liberation war forces are in power now and they want like-minded people to set up private universities, Mirza Azam, convener of the sub-committee, told The Daily Star after a meeting.

Without mentioning any name, he said there have been allegations of irregularities against a number of private universities. Some private universities are

even alleged to have links with militancy.

The parliamentary standing committee on education ministry formed the sub-committee headed by Mirza Azam to review the proposed bill.

The committee yesterday held its first meeting with the stakeholders of private universities and the representatives of other bodies concerned at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The bill was placed before parliament on March 9 to ensure quality education in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

SCRAPPING DMCH RECRUITMENT Protesters make self-immolation attempt: 12 hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In protest of cancelling appointment of 354 newly recruited class-III and IV employees to DMCH, 12 of the victims set themselves ablaze at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday.

The self-immolation took place on the fifth day of a hunger strike, which was staged demanding withdrawal of the government's decision to cancel fresh appointment on April 29.

An investigation following the appointments revealed irregularities and corruption in the recruitment process of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Victims Beauty Akhter, 25, Ripon Das, 25, Sharif Uddin, 25, Mohammad Joinal, 27, Mohammad Biplab, 22, Mohammad

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

PM's visit to Seoul, KL May 16-21

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to visit South Korea and Malaysia from May 16-21, officials said here yesterday.

During the weeklong visit, the premier will primarily discuss with the South East Asian leaders on bilateral matters of mutual interests.

After a brief stopover in Hong Kong, Hasina will fly to Seoul on May 16 to begin a three-day official visit. This will be the first visit by a Bangladeshi premier to South Korea after 15 years.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

INDIAN MEDIA REPORT Insurgent of Assam handed over to India

STAR REPORT

An Indian court on Sunday sent a top-listed insurgent leader of Assam to 12 days in police custody.

Ranjan Daimary, the founder-chief of National Democratic Front of Bodoland, was arrested and handed over to BSF by Bangladesh at the Dawki sector of India-Bangladesh border in Meghalaya on Saturday, according to several Indian newspapers.

The Assam police later took him into their custody.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Criminal killed in 'shootout'

A CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

An alleged criminal was killed in a 'shootout' between his cohorts and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel in Kaunia area of Barisal early yesterday.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



BNP leader Sadeque Hossain Khoka takes refuge on a motorbike at Bangla Motor, abandoning a protest march towards the Election Commission yesterday. The march was announced by the main opposition to press for cancellation of Bhola-3 parliamentary by-poll result and resignation of the entire EC. It however ended halfway due to senior leaders' exhaustion. (Story on page 1)

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

CCC POLLS Mayoral hopefuls to address voters from same dais

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Election Commission plans to hold two or three projection meetings for mayoral candidates before the Chittagong City Corporation election to have a new culture of electioneering, said a high official in the commission.

All candidates for the mayoral post will be invited to speak and make electoral pledges from the same dais, the official said.

The EC last month formulated a code of conduct for contestants in city corporation polls, banning public meeting and procession during electioneering.

The candidates however are allowed to hold indoor meetings and roadside rallies without disrupting traffic movement, says the code of conduct.

The EC at a meeting recently discussed the number of projection meetings and their venues.

If held, it will be the first-ever projection meeting in the country's electoral history.

Election Commissioner Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hossain told The Daily Star yesterday that the EC plans to organise the meetings next month.

He said an electoral debate with the participation of the mayoral candidates will be arranged by the commission in association with BBC World Service Trust and Bangladesh Television. BTV will broadcast the debate live.

The EC in 2008 organised electoral debates before the August 4 poll to four city corporations.

Projection meetings were supposed to be held for the first

SEE PAGE 7 COL 8

BCL men damage CU-bound vehicles Strike continues for 18 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Three people were injured as the BCL activists of Chittagong University unit vandalised six university-bound human haulers at different spots here yesterday.

The BCL enforced indefinite strike at CU campus is continuing since April 16.

Protesting the violence, drivers and transport workers put up barricade in front of Muradpur intersection halting traffic movement for nearly one hour.

Witnesses said agitated BCL activists in different groups ransacked three human haulers of Tori Service near Sholoshahar

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Jobseekers stage demo against govt's 'negligence'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 500 overseas jobseekers yesterday staged a daylong demonstration in front of state-owned recruiting agency BOESL in the city protesting its "negligence" that allegedly deprived them of jobs in South Korea.

"We qualified in the Korean language tests early 2008 and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Mumbai gunman Kasab convicted

AFP, Mumbai

The lone surviving gunman from the 2008 Mumbai attacks was convicted by an Indian court yesterday of murder and waging war against India for his role in the 60-hour siege that left 166 people dead.

Pakistani national Mohammed Ajmal Amir Kasab, 22, was found guilty on the most serious charges over



Ajmal Amir Kasab

the assault that saw 10 gunmen attack three luxury hotels, a restaurant, a Jewish centre and the main CST train station.

"You have been found guilty of waging war against India, and killing people at CST, killing government officials and abetting the other nine terrorists," judge ML Tahaliyani said as he delivered his verdict.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

5 killed in road crashes

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Separate road crashes left five people dead and seven others injured in Feni yesterday.

Sources said, a human

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Prayer Timing		
May 4		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-31	6-35
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

OnlinePoll ✓

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

- Yes (42.6%)
- No (52.1%)
- No Comments (5.3%)

Total votes: 374

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think it was appropriate of Dr Alauddin to make a public comment about war crime chief investigator's past affiliation with Jamaat without resolving it within the government first?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net