

Did you know?

The Parthenon is a temple of the Greek goddess Athena constructed in 431 BC. It is the most important surviving building of Classical Greece and its decorative sculptures are considered to be some of the high points of Greek art.



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First ever in Bangladesh!

Sufferings mount on river fronts

Water transport strike continues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The countrywide indefinite water transport strike entered its second day yesterday with partially disrupting movement of imported goods through Chittagong and Mongla port, as the lighter vessels remained stranded.

Following the strike, the communication through waterways in southern routes was snapped causing untold sufferings to the people.

The Bangladesh Nourjan Sramik Federation called the strike on Friday rejecting the new wage structure announced by the government for water transport workers.

As per the new structure, wages of the workers have been raised by 50 to 100 percent, which makes the minimum salary of a worker Tk.2,850.

Allegations have been raised that pro-ruling party workers in connivance with vessel owners continued to force the pro-strike counterparts to operate vessels in different routes.

Sources in the office of senior deputy director (traffic) of Sadarghat in the capital said that 20 launches, out of scheduled 35, left Sadarghat terminal for different destinations till 10:00pm last night.

Presence of passengers at the terminal was very thin because

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



Mohammad Ibrahim, 70, a recurrent ischemic stroke patient, being nursed by his wife and daughter on a launch at Sadarghat terminal yesterday afternoon. The family boarded the vessel on Saturday, but they were still stranded at the terminal due to the ongoing water transport workers' strike.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

Refrain from repression on opposition

BNP leaders ask govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP leaders yesterday urged the prime minister to refrain from any attempt to repress the opposition.

They made the call from a protest rally at Muktangan in the capital.

The leaders of the main opposition said they would launch a vigorous movement against the government to relieve people of their sufferings.

Party Chairperson Khaleda Zia would announce agitation programmes against the government from May 19 grand rally in Dhaka to "rescue democracy," they said.

"Please try to understand that people have already said no to you," BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir told the rally, referring to the government.

The rally was presided over by Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka.

He alleged that Awami League has turned the country into a "death valley" while the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

New reserve forest opens in Rangunia

ALPHA ARZU, From Rangunia, Chittagong

A new protected forest area namely "Dudhpukuria-Dhupchara Wildlife Sanctuary" was formally opened near Rangunia in Chittagong yesterday.

State Minister for Environment and Forest Hasan Mahmud and US Ambassador in Dhaka James F Moriarty inaugurated the opening ceremony of the forest.

The government on April 6 declared this area and three others as protected forests.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

ACC to quiz Bhuiyan over Khaleda's alleged graft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-corruption Commission will quiz former LGRD minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan today in connection with the probe into two separate allegations against former prime minister Khaleda Zia.

Meanwhile, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday replied to the fourth and final notice of the anti-graft body served on her on April 20 seeking her appointment for questioning on the allegations.

Khaleda in her reply once again wanted to know in detail about the allega-

tions being probed against her.

"It is nothing and intended to delay the investigation. We have informed her about what is required. We cannot give her every detail in a letter. We don't have that scope," said one of the three-member team investigating the allegations.

"Our investigation is almost complete and we expect to submit the report to the commission very soon. We will mention every detail about the letters of Khaleda in our report and the commission will decide on the next step," he added.

In reply to the ACC's earlier three

notices, Khaleda said she needed to go through the documents before being quizzed.

Each time the anti-graft watchdog assured the former premier that it would let her do so before questioning starts.

In the fourth letter ACC said it would not send further letter if she refuses this time and it would be taken for granted that she is not willing to give her statement.

Meanwhile, ACC will question Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in his house today as he is unable to appear before the commission due to illness.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

5 of family die in road crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Six people, including five of a family, died when a speeding truck collided with a car at Madhapur upazila of Habiganj on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway yesterday afternoon.

Police said the victims were on their way to Srimangal, Moulvibazar from Chittagong.

The deceased were identified as Bakul, his brother Faruque, his mother Nurunnahar Begum, his aunts Monwara Begum and Rushnara and car driver Abul Quasem.

Witnesses said the accident occurred in front of Andura High School in Madhapur at about 5:00pm as the truck speeding from the opposite direction crashed into the car killing six on the spot.

The victims were from Sarail upazila of Brahmanbaria, except the driver who was from Komolganj upazila of Moulvibazar district.

AUG 21 PROBE CID seeks two more months

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department yesterday sought two more months to submit the probe report in one of the two August 21 grenade attack cases.

Special Police Super of CID

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Oman to take back workers

BSS, Dhaka

Oman would return the recently deported Bangladeshi workers who would not be found guilty.

This was apprised to President Zillur Rahman yesterday by the newly appointed Bangladeshi Ambassador to Oman Nurul Alam Chowdhury while he was paying a courtesy call on

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

BCL postpones strike at CU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Chittagong University unit yesterday postponed the indefinite strike after the authorities assured them of discussing their demands.

The recent meeting between the BCL and the university authorities ended a 19-day deadlock on campus.

BCL went on an indefinite

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

CTG CITY POLLS Decision on deployment of army today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission sits today to decide on the deployment of army along with police to maintain law and order in Chittagong City Corporation polls to be held by June 25.

The EC Secretariat has

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



A billboard is being installed inside the boundary of Shishu Academy in the capital on Friday. New billboards are springing up in the area amid an outcry from citizens for bringing down the number of those cluttering the city.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

UK Conservatives missed majority by 16,000 votes

Liberal Democrats holding more power sharing talks

AFP, BBC ONLINE, London

Britain's Conservatives would have won a parliamentary majority had just 16,000 people in 19 constituencies voted differently, experts said yesterday as they analysed the election results.

Thursday's vote delivered the first hung

parliament in Britain since 1974, putting the first-past-the-post system in the spotlight.

Despite a strong performance at the polls, getting more than two million more votes than Labour with 10.7 million votes, the Tories came out 20 seats short of getting an overall majority in the House of Commons.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

India destroys records of 1971 war

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA

India has destroyed most of the official records of the war with Pakistan in 1971 that led to the liberation of Bangladesh, leading Indian newspaper The Times of India reported yesterday.

The destroyed files include those on the creation of the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Strike at gas stations called off

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Petrol pump and tank lorry owners and workers yesterday afternoon called off their indefinite strike after the government assured them of meeting their demands.

The strike was enforced in the morning.

The decision came after a three-hour long meeting at the power and energy ministry

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Prayer Timing

May 10		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-34	6-38
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

OnlinePoll ✓

Do you think police will be able to take strict actions against BCL wrong-doers following the home ministry directive?

Yes (14.2%)
 No (84.4%)
 No Comments (1.4%)

Total votes: 424

TODAY'S POLL

What do you think about the current law and order situation in Dhaka city?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

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SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

We miss you!

5 years ago you went into oblivion. But you are with us everyday, every moment. You are unforgettable. You have been our identity. You gave us everything - fame, status and wealth. Your dynamism, vision and farsightedness still remain our guiding force.

Our hearts bleed at your loss. Sleep peacefully. That's our prayer to Allah.

M Madonna Family