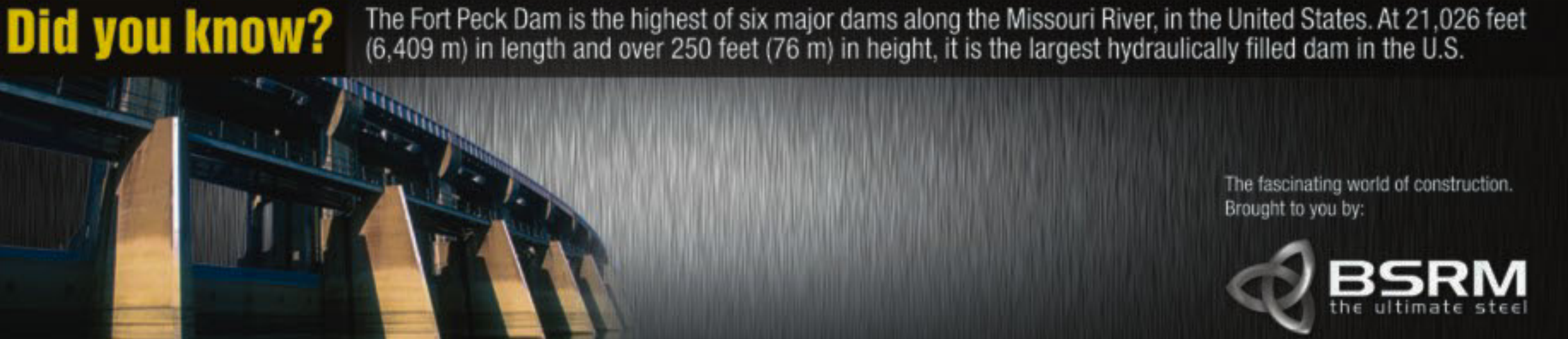


Did you know? The Fort Peck Dam is the highest of six major dams along the Missouri River, in the United States. At 21,026 feet (6,409 m) in length and over 250 feet (76 m) in height, it is the largest hydraulically filled dam in the U.S.



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Malaysia mulls amnesty again

May soon allow illegal foreign workers to return home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Malaysia will soon offer an amnesty to the foreign workers, allowing them to return home without facing any penalties, reported a Malaysian newspaper on May 21.

As part of its plan to control the entry of the foreign workers, the government of the Southeast Asian country will also increase levy from next year, Malaysia's Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said.

Yassin said the foreigners who entered the country illegally or overstayed after their work permits expired would come under the amnesty, reported The Star Online.

The announcement is important for Bangladesh, as around 5 lakh Bangladeshis are working there and a good number of them are believed to have been on irregular status.

However, according to earlier investigations by The Daily Star many workers maintained all

procedures to go to that country and work, but their employers did not help them get work permits ultimately making them irregular.

An integrated biometric identification system will have to be in place before the amnesty programme is implemented, Yassin told a news conference after chairing the Cabinet Committee on Foreign and Illegal Workers meeting in Putrajaya.

This will be the third amnesty programme for foreigners illegally working mainly in plantations, construction sites, factories, restaurants and the domestic maid sector.

Two previous such exercises, conducted in 2002 and 2004, saw hundreds of thousands of such workers heading home.

The Malaysian Trades Union Congress recently urged the government to make another amnesty offer.

Yassin said the government would also be

CCC ELECTIONS RO rejects 53 applications for candidacy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A total of 53 applications, seeking candidacy for mayoral and councillor posts in the upcoming Chittagong City Corporation polls, were rejected in the last two days during scrutiny.

Returning Officer (RO) Jesmin Tuli rejected the applications on different grounds like concealing information, default loans and lack of necessary information.

A total of 18 nomination papers were submitted for one mayoral post while 67 for 14 women reserved seats and 322 for 41 councillor posts to the RO.

Scrutinising those in last two days, the RO rejected five applications for mayoral post, three for reserved seats and 45 for councillor posts.

The mayoral candidates



The national flag flying in the police camp at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport recently is tattered and discoloured, raising questions about the camp authorities' respect for it.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

Tongi flyover opens to traffic

BSS, Tongi

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday formally inaugurated Shaheed Ahsanullah Master Flyover on the southern side of Tongi Rail Station.

The three-lane flyover, constructed at a cost of Tk 23.75 crore, was named after former lawmaker Ahsanullah Master who was killed by terrorists in 2004.

With the opening of the flyover, traffic jam in Dhaka and Tongi will reduce to a great extent.

Now vehicles of Dhaka and North Bengal would be able to go to Narsingdi, Bhairab, Sylhet and Kishoreganj via Tongi by avoiding severe traffic congestion in Dhaka city and Kanchpur bridge.

There is 7.5-metre space in each lane of the two-lane

AIR INDIA PLANE CRASH

Investigation on, black box found

AFP, Mangalore, India

Investigators yesterday sifted through the charred wreckage of an Indian passenger plane that overshot the runway and plunged into a ravine, killing 158 people on board.

The Air India Express Boeing 737-800, carrying 160 passengers and six crew on a flight from Dubai, careered off the "table-top" runway at Bajpe airport on Saturday.

Some of the eight people who survived the crash about 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the southwest coastal city of Mangalore told how they had escaped as the fuselage broke into pieces and filled with thick smoke.

Harpreet Singh, Air India's emergency response coordinator, said at a press briefing in Mumbai yesterday that all 158 bodies had been recovered, and 87 had been identified and claimed by relatives.

Meanwhile, PTI reports, the Cockpit Voice

Recorder (CVR) and the Flight Data Recorder (FDR) of the ill-fated aircraft were yesterday recovered from the crash site and are expected to provide vital clues about the cause of the accident.

The CVR, which provides conversation details between the pilot and air traffic control and within the cockpit, and the FDR or the 'Black Box', containing technical data, were removed from the wreckage of the aircraft yesterday morning, the airline sources said.

Teams, probing the air tragedy had begun their operations early this morning to locate the CVR and the FDR, they said.

Certain other instruments and aircraft portions, which would be of help in the investigation, have also been extricated from the plane's debris, they said.

The probe into the crash resumed at first light yesterday with the wreckage area cordoned off. Immediately after the accident,

Non-students picked for RU unit JCD

A CORRESPONDENT

Central leaders of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal yesterday formed a 12-member convening committee of its Rajshahi University unit in which half of the members completed their university studies years ago.

JCD sources said six leaders of the new convening committee had completed their studies at least three years ago and all of them have been residing outside the campus since the end of BNP-led government's tenure.

The new JCD convener Arafat Reza Ashiq completed his graduation from the department of finance and banking three years ago and is now residing in Bogra district.

Sources said that Ashiq was

DB official, 5 other cops sued for 'extortion'

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A businessman yesterday filed a case against an assistant commissioner of the Detective Branch of police and five other policemen with a Dhaka court on charge of demanding Tk 20 lakh as "extortion" from him.

The accused are DB Assistant Commissioner Motiur Rahman, Inspector Mohammad Kibria of DMP and four unknown DB personnel.

Zahirul Haque Babul, proprietor of Ms Zahir Dairy Farm located at Dakkhin Manda in the city's Sabujbag area, filed the case with the chief metropolitan magistrate's (CMM) court.

After the hearing, Metropolitan Magistrate M Shahadat Hossain recorded the statement of the complainant and fixed today for the court order.

Zahirul in his case statement alleged that a team of DB personnel led by AC Matiur and Inspector Kibria picked him up from his farm at about 9:00pm on May 18 and took him to Motijheel AGB colony ground.

He alleged that the DB personnel demanded Tk 20 lakh from

College teacher falls victim to stalking

Colleagues observe work abstention

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Teachers of Lalmonirhat Government College observed work abstention yesterday protesting stalking and demanding safety of the teachers.

A group of disgruntled students of the college stalked Hosne Lotifa, lecturer of political science department, on Saturday morning, sources in the college said.

The students also assaulted Zakir Hossain, assistant professor of physics department of the college, as he protested the incident. The students also kept Zakir confined before the

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Qamrul makes U-turn on Zia remarks

STAR REPORT

State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam yesterday said he, by his previous remarks, did not mean that former president Ziaur Rahman was against the Liberation War.

"I respect Ziaur Rahman because of his role during the Liberation War as he made an announcement on behalf of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on March 27, 1971 that inspired the whole nation," Qamrul said at a programme at Mahanagar Natya Mancha, reports ATN Bangla television channel.

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Fair probe into war crimes going on

Says Shafique

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday said the trial for crimes against humanity will be completed within the tenure of present government, as a very fair investigation into the crimes is going on.

Shafique was addressing a press briefing after a meeting with the war-crimes investigators and prosecutors at the conference room of the law ministry yesterday afternoon.

Home Minister Sahara Khatun, State Minister for Law

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Prayer Timing		
May 24		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-40	6-45
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Hardrock miners on strike for job regularisation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Miners of Maddhapara Granite Mine Company Limited (MGML) in Dinajpur went on an indefinite strike Saturday midnight demanding job regularisation and payment of arrears.

Meanwhile, the company authorities yesterday afternoon offered talks with them. The authorities are expected to hold talks with the miners today.

Sources said a total of 292 workers of MGML Workers Employees Union staged a demonstration outside the company building yesterday morning to press home their demands.

On May 16, the workers through a press conference placed their demands, and said they would call a strike if their demands are not met by May 18.

The company will have to incur a loss of around Tk 14 lakh

CTG ARMS HAUL CID gets 63 more days for probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday gave the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) another 63 days to complete investigation into the sensational Chittagong arms haul case.

The Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court allowed the extension for the eighth consecutive time upon a prayer by the CID for 90 more days to complete the probe.

The case was filed in connection with the seizure of ten

US to give \$220m food aid in 5yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The US will provide \$220 million food aid to Bangladesh in five years from next month.

It is increasing its food aid from \$32 million a year as part of renewed focus on agriculture and nutrition, USAID Mission Director Denise Rollins said yesterday.

Moreover, the US will help Bangladesh increase agricultural productivity under President Barack Obama's "Feed the Future Initiative". The budget for it however is yet to be finalised, she told a press conference at the American Club in the capital.

Rollins said Bangladesh is one of the 20 countries to get assistance from the Global Agriculture and Food Security Trust Fund to be

managed by the World Bank.

Her statement comes ahead of the Bangladesh Food Security Investment Forum to be held in Dhaka on May 26-27.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to inaugurate the forum aimed to help Bangladesh finalise its investment plans on food and agriculture. USAID Administrator Dr Rajiv Shah, food and agriculture experts and policymakers from home and abroad will attend it.

The USAID chief in Dhaka said, "In last 15 to 20 years, there was almost no assistance from us to Bangladesh in agriculture sector." With its own investments, Bangladesh proved its focus on this sector, she added.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Rare encounter with warblers

DR REZA KHAN

May eighth was a weekend. I hiked through a walking trail leading from the Pallabi housing to the National Botanical Garden at Mirpur. As this garden is full of ups and downs some climbs are definitely arduous.

Many herbs and shrubs in the garden were in full bloom that attracted hordes of local and migratory butterflies of many colours and sheds. When I was too absorbed in watching and photographing these denizens of the jungle I heard a bird soliloquizing from the canopy of a gab tree.

First these calls appeared to have been produced by a lonely Doyel - our national bird - known to imitate calls of several other species sharing its neighbourhood. But suddenly there was a lull in the calling of the bird, which ended in a single note 'shakhh or chakh' that drew my attention.

Tried to pin point the bird. In the meantime, he started moving from his calling post that gave me glance. It was definitely not a Doyel but a Warbler of some kind. I am sure there is no resident or breeding warbler inside the garden. So, my intuition told me that it could be vagrant/migrant warbler on passage through the botanical garden enrouted to some southerly countries.

After following for half an hour, I could just manage two

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5



Radde's Warbler, one of the rarest migratory birds of Bangladesh, was sighted in the National Botanical Garden in Dhaka recently. There are just two records of its sightings in the country in past century or so.

PHOTO: DR REZA KHAN

Khaleda files writ petitions challenging ACC notices

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday submitted two separate writ petitions to the High Court (HC) challenging the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) notices asking her to reply to it on the allegations regarding Ziaur Rahman Charitable Trust and construction of the Bhairab Bridge.

The BNP chief submitted the petitions through her lawyers to the HC for declaring the ACC notices illegal.

Earlier on May 18, Khaleda filed the affidavit for submitting the writ petitions.

The ACC issued four separate notices upon Khaleda Zia in between February 15 and May 2, asking her to reply where and when it should question her regarding the allegations.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

OnlinePoll

State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam said that the late president Ziaur Rahman was a spy of Pakistan during the Bangladesh's Liberation War in 1971. Do you think such statement is:

- Bad political Practice (60.4%)
- Acceptable in our political culture (37.3%)
- No Comments (2.3%)

Total votes: 1161
TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the Rajuk will be able to take strict actions against the realtors and developers who are responsible for violating building codes?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net