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Berjaya Times Square KL is a twin tower complex containing a shopping centre and two 5-star hotels located in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Both towers are 203 meters (666 ft) tall, with 48 floors.



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Nazrul's birth anniversary today

DU CORRESPONDENT

The 111th birth anniversary of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam will be celebrated across the country today.

Nazrul, the rebel poet of Bengali literature, was born at Churulia in Burdwan district of West Bengal on this day in 1899.

Through his poems, Nazrul had inspired people to fight against injustice and repression during the British colonial rule. His songs and poems were also a major source of inspiration for the freedom fighters during the Liberation War in 1971.

The government and various socio-cultural organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to celebrate the birthday of the national poet in a befitting manner.

President Zillur Rahman, SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

480 rare starred tortoises seized

A Malaysia-bound Indian held at Shahjalal Airport for the smuggling bid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs officials seized 480 rare starred tortoises from a Malaysia-bound Indian national at the capital's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport early yesterday.

A species native to South India, starred tortoise is much-coveted in pet trade across the globe. Collectors fancy keeping one in their garden for elegant patterns on its shell.

In July 2006, police recovered 1,600 tortoises of this kind at Rajshahi land port.

At Shahjalal airport, customs staff unearthed the consignment in the baggage of Nagoor Meeran, a 42-year-old South Indian, at 2:30am.

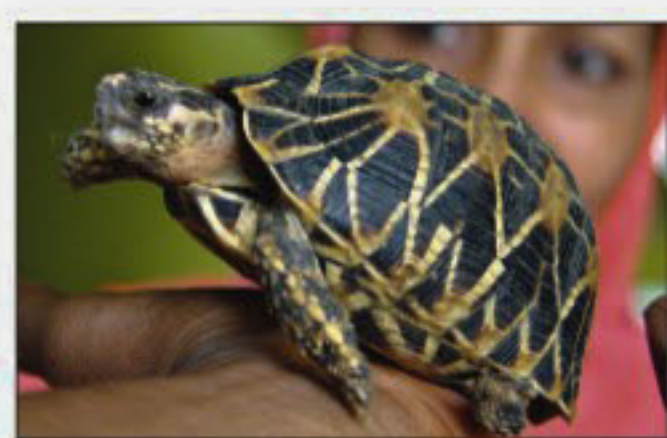
Meeran was to take Kuala Lumpur-bound Malaysian Airlines flight MH-197.

Mostafa Jamal, the officer who checked the luggage, said, "He had declared his baggage to be full of food items, and successfully got across the scanning gate-4."

But as the luggage felt heavier, Mostafa asked him to open it and found the live tortoises.

Meeran, who is from Kavalkara Street in Manachanallur of Indian state Tamil Nadu, came to Dhaka from Bangkok on May 22 and checked in at Hotel Uttara Inn.

He admits this was not his first time. He had smuggled tortoise and other live animals out of India before, SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



Immigration officials at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday recovered these starred tortoises from an Indian national heading for Malaysia.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Go for int'l arbitration for blowout compensation

JS body asks Titas
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday asked Titas Gas Transmission Ltd to go for immediate international arbitration to get compensation for the Magurchhara gas explosion in 1997 from Niko.

The parliamentary public accounts committee also asked Titas and power and SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

RAMNA BLAST Case sent back to sessions judge's court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A speedy trial tribunal yesterday sent the Ramna Batamul carnage case back to the previous court as it failed to try within the stipulated 135 working days.

Judge Kaniz Akter Nasrina Khanam of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-3 returned the case to Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court to dispose the trial.

The case was transferred to SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Complete MPO review in a week

PM asks her adviser
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked her education adviser and education minister to finalise within a week the revised list of non-government secondary and higher secondary educational institutions which will be brought under monthly pay order facilities (MPO).

The directive came after a cabinet meeting chaired by the premier. SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

DRAFT PERSPECTIVE PLAN FOR 2010-21

Govt wants judiciary to be more independent

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government is planning some major initiatives to promote democratic political culture, make parliament effective, streamline the judiciary to make it more independent and combat corruption.

This was contained in the draft perspective plan for 2010-2021 which was placed at the cabinet meeting by the Planning Commission yesterday.

However, the recent appointments of

judges in higher court and the government move to amend the anti-corruption act sparked controversy.

The perspective plan said, "There are complaints about the attempts at politicisation of higher level of the judiciary, especially through judicial appointments."

It said the process of appointments in higher level of the judiciary could be revamped through open parliamentary hearing where members of the parlia-

mentary committee concerned could question aspirants for such posts about their qualifications, and fitness.

The process of appointments should be so designed that the media also could raise questions about the aspirants' suitability.

Appointments of judges often gave rise to controversy. The present government appointed 17 judges in the High Court but following objection from the SEE PAGE 7 COL 8

ASSAULT BY PATIENT'S ATTENDANT: RMCH interns on wildcat strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Interns at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) yesterday went on wildcat strike to protest the assault on one of their fellows by a patient's attendant.

The strikers demanded immediate removal of the RMCH director Brig Gen Abdul Latif and an investigation into the incident.

They also asked for exemplary punishment of those involved and for ensuring security of the doctors.

Sources said the patient's attendant, Raihan Rubel Feroz, grew frantic in the hospital for his grandmother's treatment who was injured in a road accident.

Witnesses said a group of interns along with some Bangladesh Chhatra League activists beat up Feroz for his SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

KIDNAP OF DOCTOR: Specialist docs keep chambers closed in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Specialist doctors in Dhaka city yesterday kept their private chambers closed as part of their protest against the abduction of a former professor of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

The closure caused sufferings to many patients who went to consult with the specialists by appointment.

Prof Dr Rafiquddin Ahmed, a former medicine specialist at DMCH, was kidnapped at SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



Awami League-backed CCC mayoral candidate ABM Mohiuddin attends the namaj-e-janaza of rival candidate Manjur Alam's mother at Kottali in the port city yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

CCC ELECTION Manjur musters Noman's support

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

BNP-backed mayoral candidate for Chittagong City Corporation polls M Manjur Alam finally succeeded in mustering support from a local group loyalist to BNP vice-chairman Abdullah Al Noman.

Manjur made a late-night visit to Noman's Kazir Dewry residence in the port city on Sunday when Noman loyalists have been opposing the BNP's decision of throwing its support to an ex-Awami League man.

During the two-hour-long discussion, Noman asked Manjur to take initiatives for minimising the gaps among SEE PAGE 6 COL 7

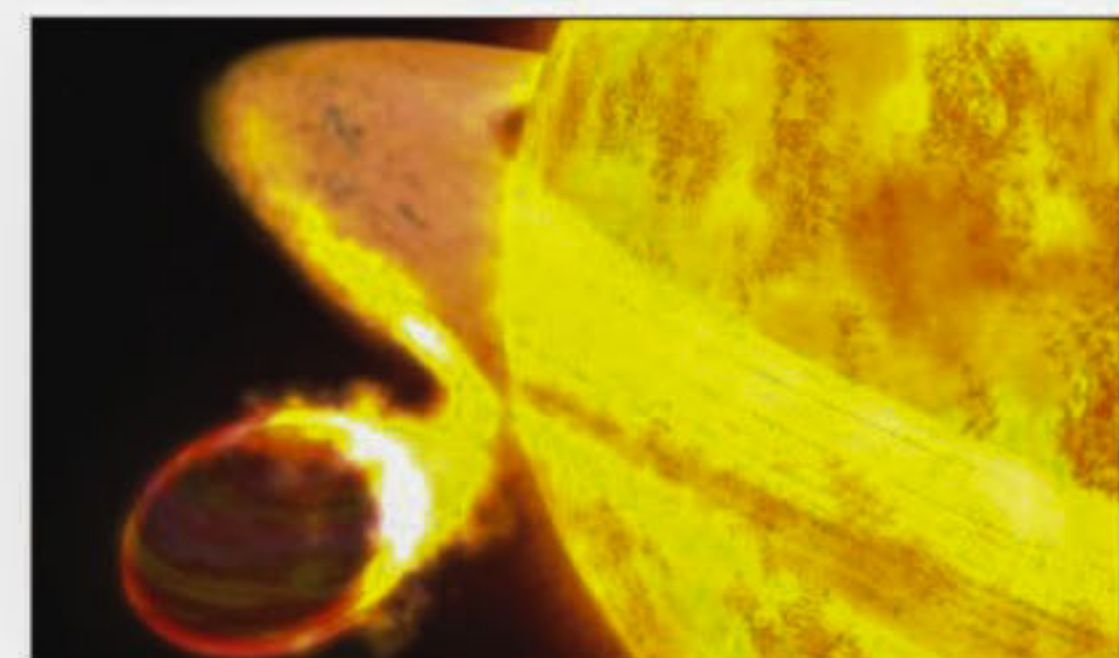
Planet-eating star spotted

BBC ONLINE

The Hubble Space Telescope has captured evidence of a Sun-like star "eating" a nearby planet.

Astronomers knew that stars were capable of swallowing planets in orbit around them, but this is the first time the event has been "seen" so clearly.

Although the planet was too far away for Hubble to SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



Scientists used Hubble telescope data to create an image of a planet being swallowed. PHOTO: NASA/ESA/G BACON

2 killed in 'shootouts'

STAR REPORT

Two criminals, including an outlaw, were killed in separate 'shootouts' between their cohorts and law enforcers in Chittagong and Kushtia early yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Mohammad Akkas alias Ali Akkas, 45, the ringleader of Akkas Bahini, a circle of land grabbers of Chittagong, and Siddiqur Rahman alias Tiger, 35, a military commander of the Janajuddho faction of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (ML) of Kushtia. SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

Prayer Timing		
May 25		
	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

DB OFFICIAL Judicial probe into extortion charge ordered

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered a judicial inquiry into the extortion charges brought against an assistant commissioner, an inspector and four unnamed officials of Detective Branch of police.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Shahadat Hossain passed the order after scrutinising the documents submitted by the plaintiff of the case. SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

23 dev projects to be taken under PPP

Schemes include five power plants, elevated expressway, Jatrabari flyover

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government plans to bring 23 development projects, including five power plants, under public private partnership (PPP) in the next fiscal year.

The power plants will add 3,940 megawatts to the national grid. Two of those will be set up in Khulna and Chittagong and run on coal,

while the ones planned for Sirajganj, Meghnaghat, and Siddhirganj will run on combined cycle.

The PPP projects will be implemented under the next fiscal year's Annual Development Programme (ADP), which the planning ministry will place to the National Economic Council for approval today. SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

OnlinePoll ✓
Do you think the Rajuk will be able to take strict actions against the realtors and developers who are responsible for violating building codes?
 Yes (10.9%)
 No (87.7%)
 No Comments (1.4%)
 Total votes: 422
 TODAY'S POLL
 Do you think public representatives will welcome the suggestion to make mandatory for them to submit income tax returns from the next fiscal year to expand the tax net?
 Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

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