

Did you know?

Eureka Tower is a 300-metre (984 ft) skyscraper located at the South bank precinct of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. Construction began in August 2002 and the exterior was completed on 1 June, 2006.



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Seized rare tortoises released at Safari Park

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangabandhu Safari Park in Dulahazara, Cox's Bazar is now the new home ground for the starred tortoises, which were seized from the capital's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport early Monday.

"We have sent them to Dulahazara Safari Park on SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

CCC ELECTION EC asks RO to monitor poll expenses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission has asked the returning officer (RO) to monitor electioneering by candidates in the Chittagong City Corporation polls slated for June 17 to control unauthorised expenditure.

Though the electioneering period is yet to begin officially, SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

One dies in Rab custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged porn trader arrested Monday night with his cohorts from the city's Mohakhali area died yesterday in Rab-1 custody.

The deceased was Abul Kalam Azad, 48, who was caught selling porn CDs at his shop under Mohakhali flyover. Acting on a tip-off, a Rab team raided the area and apprehended eight persons SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

One beaten to death in Ctg after criminals kill youth

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mob beat a criminal to death and critically injured four others after the criminals killed a young man at Haliashahar in the port city Monday night.

The deceased youth was identified as Nurunnabi, 22, while the criminal was Mohammad Anwar, 28, who SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Prayer Timing		
May 26		
	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



A physically-challenged woman collects water from a ditch in Shora-9 of Gabura union in Satkhira. A year after Aila, people of this area still look for fresh water. The woman discovered the water was saline moments after the photo was taken. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

LIFE IN AILA-HIT REGION

Saline water eats their lives away

PORIMOL PALMA, back from Gabura, Satkhira

Efforts to extract freshwater cannot soothe Safat Gazi, a 72-year-old resident of Kholpetua village in the extreme saline water-prone Gabura union in Shyamnagar.

Having suffered by salinity for long, he now anxiously waits for freshwater from the monsoon rain.

"We are now seeking blessings of

Allah...rainwater... as we are in a severe drinking water crisis I have never experienced in my 72-year lifetime," said Safat, shooting his looks everywhere as if he was looking for a source of drinking water.

As he was speaking, he was desperately scratching all over his body. He said he cannot remain calm for the itches due to saline water.

Their village, named after the adjacent Kholpetua river, is home to some 3,500 people. Before the cyclone Aila hit

the coast on May 25 last year, they used to get freshwater from four big ponds. But after the storm, the ponds have become only a good source of saline water.

Salinity has reached so deep underground that neither shallow nor deep tube-wells can extract drinking water anymore. Local NGO Progoti with the assistance of Oxfam fetches water from a deep tube-well in Jaliakhali, eight kilometres off the village.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

MADDHAPARA HARD ROCK MINE

Over 100 staff kept confined

Miners' strike enters day 3

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The agitating miners of Maddhapara Granite Mining Company Ltd have kept confined over 100 officials and staff, including the managing director, in the MGMCL residential complex since Monday night.

The miners' strike entered into third consecutive day yesterday suspending production since Saturday midnight.

Electricity and water supply to the complex have been cut-off since Monday night, said the company officials. The staff claimed agitating miners had cut the power line.

Miners' leaders denied the allegation and said the power sub-station went out of order as

mishandled by untrained manpower. MGMCL Managing Director Md Farook Hossain said miners were obstructing them from attending their work since morning. "We tried to go to our workplace, but the miners stopped us," he told this correspondent over phone yesterday.

Sources said the miners blocked the two main entrances to the complex Monday night as their talks with the authorities ended inconclusively. The strike also forced the authorities to suspend the sale of rocks.

Meanwhile, Labour and Employment Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain yesterday asked local lawmaker and State Minister for

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

2 POWER PLANTS, LNG TERMINAL

Govt starts land acquisition

SHARIER KHAN

The government has started acquiring land in Khulna, Chittagong and Moheshkhali to build two very large coal-fired power plants and a terminal for importing liquefied natural gas (LNG).

About 1,200 acres of land near the Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd factory and 1,800 acres opposite to the Mongla Port will be acquired for the two power plants, a top Power Development Board official said.

In one of the islands near Moheshkhali, the authorities are acquiring 5,000 to 6,000 acres of land to build the LNG terminal and space for a future large coal power plant. That site was chosen as the draft there allows larger LNG carriers and coal carrying ships to dock. Other coastal areas lack the necessary draft.

Due to the shallowness of water in Khulna, the government is now planning to reduce the power generation capacity of the plant there to 600 MW from 1,320MW. The capacity of the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

VEHICLES REQUISITION

HC asks cops to explain purposes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday issued a suo moto rule asking the police authorities to submit to it within seven days a report on why they requisition vehicles in the capital.

The court also asked them to state in the report whether the requisitioned vehicles are used for public purposes, and whether the owners or drivers of those are given compensation and payment at market rate.

The inspector general of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

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The deceased youth was identified as Nurunnabi, 22, while the criminal was Mohammad Anwar, 28, who SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Bashundhara guards assault cops: 2 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested two security guards of Bashundhara Group, and filed a case against the group's chief adviser, and a security officer on charges of assaulting and detaining police personnel in Bashundhara Residential Area of the capital.

The arrested two were identified as Zakaria Hossain, 30, and Mohammad Titumir, 26.

Sub-inspector Sheikh Saiful Islam of Badda police filed the case accusing seven persons including Mahub Morshed Hasan, chief adviser to Bashundhara Group, and Capt (retd) Sheikh Ehsan Reza, a security officer of the group. Fifteen to twenty unidentified security guards of the group were also implicated in the case.

Saiful said a team of four plainclothes police personnel of Badda police station led by him were leaving the complex in an unmarked microbus after duty there, as their vehicle got past a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

OnlinePoll ✓

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?

Yes (29.7%)
 No (68.8%)
 No Comments (1.5%)

Total votes: 330

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government's failure to rehabilitate the Aila-affected people even after one year shows its lack of sincerity?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

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