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The Millennium Dome is a dome which is the largest of its type in the world. Externally, it appears as a large white marquee with twelve 100 m-high yellow support towers, one for each month of the year, or each hour of the clock face, representing the role played by Greenwich Mean Time. In plan view it is circular, 365 m in diameter — one meter for each day of the year — with scalloped edges.



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3 more rental power deals get go-ahead

Expected to generate 240MW by Feb

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet committee on purchase yesterday approved three contracts with local companies for setting up rental power plants of total 240-megawatt capacity.

The plants are expected to be in operation in February next year, sources said after a purchase committee meeting yesterday.

The high cost of power generation from these three plants would lead to a monthly subsidy of Tk 50 crore by the government.

The government has agreed to provide

this subsidy.

The unsolicited deals were made upon negotiations between the Power Development Board and PDV Power & Sirus, IFDC-Valcan Energy, and Power Pac Holdings.

The purchase committee at the meeting chaired by Finance Minister AMA Muhiith sent back three other rental power contracts saying the authorities should negotiate further with the companies concerned to reduce their proposed tariffs.

These three companies are Summit Power, Khulna Power and IEL Consortium. Of them, IEL Consortium

had not built a power plant before while the other two are more experienced than the ones awarded with power contracts.

"We will re-negotiate with these companies," said Cabinet Secretary MA Aziz while briefing journalists after the meeting, "upon successful negotiations, we will consider approving these projects".

The approved power projects are not cheaper than the ones sent back to the ministry. Summit and Khulna power proposed tariff that is higher by few poissas per unit than that of approved ones while the proposed tariff of IEL Consortium was the lowest.

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Buddha Purnima today

STAR REPORT

Buddha Purnima, the biggest religious festival of the Buddhist community, will be observed in the country with traditional enthusiasm and solemn devotion today.

The Buddhist community has chalked out various programmes to observe the day in a befitting manner. The day is a public holiday.

Buddha Purnima marks three significant events that took places in the life of Lord Buddha—his birth, enlightenment and passing away. Lord Buddha was born on the full moon day in 563 BC, achieved enlightenment and nirvana (passing away) on the same day.

The festival will be

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SC lawyer faces music for forgery

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court for the first time has directed the Bangladesh Bar Council to cancel enrolment of Supreme Court lawyer MA Hamid for committing forgery in filing a writ petition with the court.

The court asked the Bar Council and the Supreme Court Bar Association to prevent Hamid from doing legal practice in any court.

The HC bench of justices AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Md Delwar Hossain gave the orders after reviewing previous records of MA Hamid, who allegedly submitted forged documents to another HC bench.

The court said MA Hamid submitted a fake certificate to another HC bench of Justice AFM Abdur Rahman for having a court order in his favour. But the bench then did not take any action against him considering his old age.

Hamid filed a writ petition with this HC bench on May 12 on behalf of two persons challenging the formation of a school's governing body in Chapainawabganj despite the fact that the same writ petition had been rejected earlier by another HC bench.

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TCB exempted from PPA for quick purchase of essentials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Trading Corporation of Bangladesh has been exempted from the obligations of Public Procurement Act (PPA) for another year so that the state agency can buy essential commodities quickly from local and global markets to keep their prices stable.

The cabinet committee on economic affairs at a meeting yesterday took this decision in response to a commerce ministry proposal for such exemption for four years. Finance Minister AMA Muhiith chaired the meeting.

Last year, the TCB was given the facility for one year that ended this month.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Students force DU to cancel evening shift programme

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University authorities yesterday decided to withhold the decision to introduce an evening master's degree programme at the Department of Computer Science and Engineering due to protests by students.

A procession of around 200 students blocked the roads around Doyel Chatter around 1:00pm for two hours and staged demonstrations against the decision that created traffic congestion in that area.

The protesters, however, withdrew the blockade around 3:00pm after receiving a written copy of the postponement decision from Shahida Rafique, dean of the

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A few students of computer science and engineering halt traffic at Doyel Chatter on Dhaka University campus yesterday, demanding withdrawal of the decision for nighttime MSc course. PHOTO: STAR

Graft alleged in purchase of fire equipment

Ministers, MPs debate in JS body meet

RASHIDUL HASAN

Home Minister Sahara Khatun and a parliamentary body yesterday engaged in an altercation over the purchase process of fire fighting equipment worth around Tk 100 crore.

The members of the parliamentary standing committee on home ministry demanded withholding the recent purchase on the ground of alleged corruption in the tendering process.

But the home minister and her deputy Shamsul Huq Tuku turned down their demand saying the purchase of those equipment is 'very important' for the fire service civil defence department.

The parliamentary standing committee at its last meeting formed a six-member sub-committee, headed by the parliament Whip Mirza Azam, to inquire into the alleged irregularities in the purchase move.

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Ramna blast case shifted to another court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Ramna Batamul carnage case was transferred to the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka yesterday, to complete its trial.

Judge Mohammad Ismail Hossain of Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order as a speedy trial tribunal having failed to try within the stipulated 135 working days sent it back on May 24.

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

The case was transferred to the tribunal on August 18, 2009 for its quick disposal.

So far it has recorded depositions of 50 witnesses out of 84.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

BD vs ENGLAND Lord's Test from today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh cricket team will face an uphill task when they take on England in the first Test match at Lord's in London from today.

The match will be telecast

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Prayer Timing		
May 27		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-43	6-47
Esha	8-05	8-35

Source: Islamic Foundation

Bangladesh among most risky nations

Says UK-based Natural Disasters Risk Index

AFP, Paris

Bangladesh, Indonesia and Iran are the countries that are the most vulnerable to natural disasters, according to a study released yesterday.

Asia's twin giants, China and India, join them in the 15 countries that, out of 229, are rated as "extreme" risk.

The Natural Disasters Risk Index (NDRI) is compiled by a British risk advisory firm, Maplecroft, on the basis of disasters that occurred from 1980 to 2010.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

AL CTG DISPUTES Hasina sits with Ctg leaders today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina sits with all AL influential leaders and lawmakers of Chittagong at Gono Bhaban today to resolve the long-standing internal disputes ahead of the June 17 Chittagong City Corporation election.

The AL has already extended its all out support to Nagorik Committee nominated candidate ABM

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56 'fake headmasters' receive govt training!

Flee training institute after false identities revealed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The authorities of Secondary Teachers Training Institute in Rajshahi let some 56 fake headmasters, who were taking part in a government-funded training programme giving false identities, flee from the institute yesterday.

The authorities kept them confined in a room in the institute soon after their false identities were revealed but they managed to flee with the help of institute officials, sources said.

They enrolled themselves in the training programme using fake identity as headmaster and gave false names of their schools, said the

institute officials.

The six-day training programme on "teaching quality improvement" began on May 22, was scheduled to end today.

A section of unscrupulous people wanted to misappropriate the project money of about Tk 4.20 lakh that was allocated for distribution among the participants, they said.

Their attempts failed as the fake headmasters were caught a day before the end of the training.

The government is implementing the project using the fund of Asian Development Bank and SIDA.

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OnlinePoll

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

- Yes (91.2%)
- No (7.5%)
- No Comments (1.3%)

Total votes: 386

TODAY'S POLL

Are you satisfied with the election atmosphere that is prevailing in Chittagong for the city corporation poll?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

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