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Chinese vice president due today
Greater trade, cooperation on talks agenda
 DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
 Trade and investment, technological and economic cooperation, financial support for establishing deep-sea port,
SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Developers flex their muscles

Threaten housing state minister over govt policy to save Dhaka's water bodies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Land developer leaders yesterday launched into a tirade against State Minister for Housing Abdul Mannan Khan at a meeting on Dhaka development plans.
 They blasted him over the draft Detail Area Plan (DAP), which reserves 21 percent of the capital's land as water bodies where no development will be permitted.
 They did it in front of some newsmen at the ministry's conference room.
 The realtors complained the minister does not "see to their interests".
SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Govt to form commission to save rivers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 The government has moved to form national river commission to save rivers, Hasan Mahmud, state minister for environment and forest, told the House yesterday.
 The prime minister has already formed a task force headed by the shipping minister to keep navigability of the rivers and free them from grabbers, he said while replying to lawmakers' queries.
 He said a new unit styled "City Forestation Unit" under the forest department will be set up to make the capital green.
 In a scripted answer, the
SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Criminal killed in city gunfight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 An alleged criminal was killed and two others were injured in a shootout between police and a gang of criminals at the capital's Jatrabari yesterday.
 The deceased was identified as Md Rinku, 30, and the injured are Zakir Hossain Swapan, 24, and Fuad Faisal John, 24.
 The injured were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). Swapan sustained bullet injury to his head and John received bullet in his left leg, DMCH sources said.
 Sub-inspector of Jatrabari police station Mosharrif Hossain said six criminals traded bullets at a stage of quarrel among themselves at around 12:30pm at Kutubkhali.
 They recovered the body of Rinku with bullets in his head and abdomen and sent it to Sir Salimullah Medical College Morgue for autopsy.
 Police said they also fired around eight rounds of bullet.
 Officer-in-Charge of the Jatrabari Police Station Moniruzzaman said the suspected criminals are from Idu group of Gopibagh. The incident occurred from a quarrel over distribution of extorted money.
SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Telecom law amendment bill placed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 A bill was placed in parliament yesterday for amending the telecommunication law with a provision of stern action against individuals using telecom or radio apparatus for malicious purposes.
 An individual could face imprisonment of up to five years, or a maximum fine of Tk 300 crore or both for "activities against national harmony, public security and friendly relations with neighbouring countries" through use of telecom or radio apparatus, said the bill.
 If any posting or exchange of message against national
SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

One more building tilts in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) has identified one more tilted building in the city's Mirpur and asked the occupants to vacate it.
 GM Halim, Rajuk authorised officer, said, "We have identified the tilt recently and served an evacuation notice on the owner and lodged a general diary with the local police station in this regard on June 10."
 The six-storey residential building at the first colony of
SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



A header from German striker Miroslav Klose (R) flies towards the Australian post during their World Cup Group D match at the Moses Mabhida stadium in Durban yesterday.

Germany win big

AFP, Durban
 Germany forwards Lukas Podolski and Miroslav Klose silenced their critics in style on Sunday by hitting the back of the net in Sunday's 4-0 win over 10-man Australia at the World Cup.
 Between them, Klose, the top scorer at the last World Cup, and Podolski, voted the best young player at Germany 2006, scored just five goals in last season's German league.
 But both German hot-shots lived up to their
SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Mahmudur brutally tortured: Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia last night alleged that the daily Amar Desh Acting Editor Mahmudur Rahman was brutally tortured by some "unidentified persons" in an undisclosed location in the name of police remand.
 The incident proved that the incumbent government is determined to "eradicate him from the world", she added.
 "Unidentified persons undressed Mahmudur Rahman, and beat him indiscriminately in custody," she said at a media briefing in her Gulshan office in the capital.
 She said the persons who had Mahmudur Rahman in custody during remand, the high officials concerned, and those of the top level of government on whose instruction such a vile incident took place, none of them will be able to avoid the responsibility.
SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Mahmudur sued for not submitting wealth report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday filed a case against detained former chairman of Board of Investment Mahmudur Rahman for not submitting his wealth statement to the commission.
 The accused has committed punishable offence under the ACC act, as he did not submit wealth statement within the stipulated time after receiving a notice from the anti-graft body, said the
SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Rejoinder, our reply

Japan Garden City authorities in a rejoinder to The Daily Star's two news items headlined "Developer ignored hazard alarm" and "Life chokes in concrete jungle" on May 23 said that the fire occurred due to "gross negligence" of the flat owner.
 It said the fire fighting system kept at every building is functional and the reports were "fabricated" and intended to tarnish the company's image.
 The rejoinder, signed by
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Tax on income from savings certificates
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 The government has imposed a 10 percent tax on any interest income from savings certificates.
 In a similar move, the government has withdrawn the tax exemption facility for pensioner savings certificates and imposed a 10 percent tax on the interest income from the instruments.
 In a budget analysis, the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry said yesterday the new tax measure would hurt small and medium savers, housewives and retirees.
 The apex trade body urged the government to reverse the decision.
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