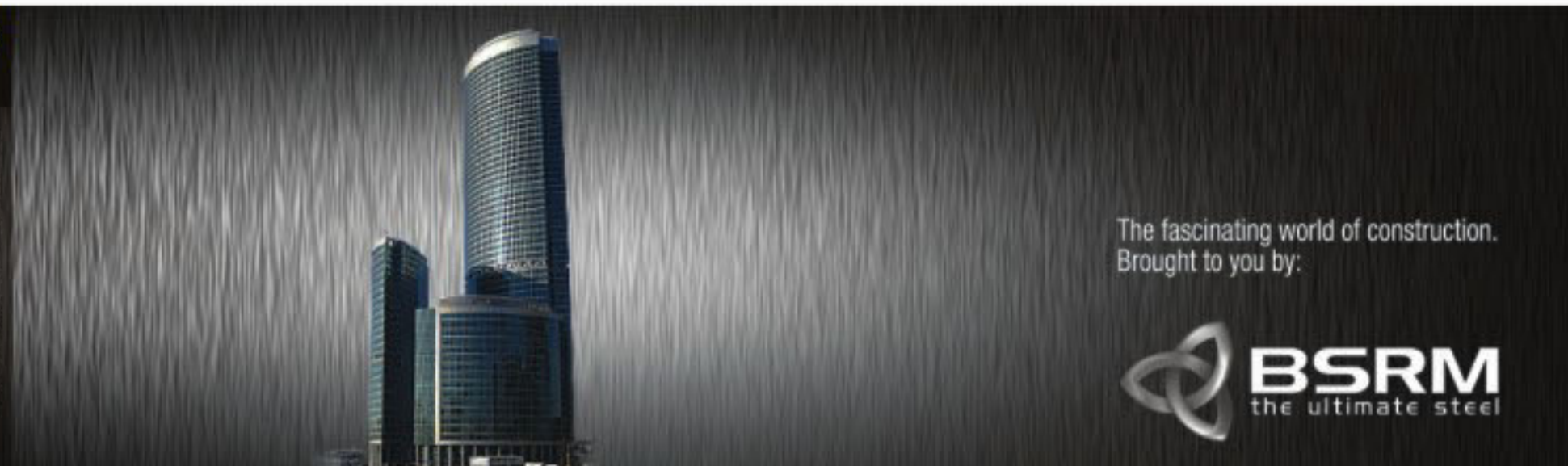


Did you know?

Naberezhnaya Tower is an office complex consisting of 3 individual office buildings connected to each other via a common basement. At 268.4 meters, this 59-story tower remained the tallest building in Europe, until the City of Capitals was completed in 2009.



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IFIC officials boycott test for evaluation

Chairman allays fear of job loss

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

Officials of International Finance Investment and Commerce Bank, popularly known as IFIC Bank, boycotted an evaluation test of the bank officials yesterday terming the exam demeaning.

They feared that they would lose their jobs after the test and the board of directors would then replace them with the board's chosen people.

The central bank has also asked the IFIC bank why it was taking such a test.

"It was very embarrassing for me to sit for such a test after working 15 years in the bank," said one of the officials who gathered at the Central Govt High School at Motijheel in Dhaka for the test.

Some 1,500 officials, below the rank of assistant vice-president, were asked to sit for the test, which was supposed to be held simultaneously at six divisional cities. Eshna Consulting Team was employed by the bank to conduct the test.

Like Dhaka, the test was boycotted in Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Sylhet and Barisal divisions.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

Caged, they see life pass them by

PINAKI ROY

Rabi was brought into Dhaka Zoo seven years ago on July 22, 2003, when he was just two.

Since then he has been living a lonely life in a filthy tiny cage. The zoo provides him with beef six days a week just enough to survive on and that is about it.

Rabi, the leopard, was inside the smaller side cage

having his meal. The Daily Star photographer had to make the most of this opportunity since Rabi would fall asleep for hours after his meal. It is not that Rabi has much to do in his cage. He has no mates.

Like Rabi, 18 species are spending their lives lonely in the zoo. Pairs of these animals have either died of diseases or due to mismanagement on the part of the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6



Like the ostrich, leopard, rhinoceros and the elephant, 18 species are spending their lives lonely in Dhaka Zoo, as they don't have mates. Some of these animals already have become aged and fallen sick.

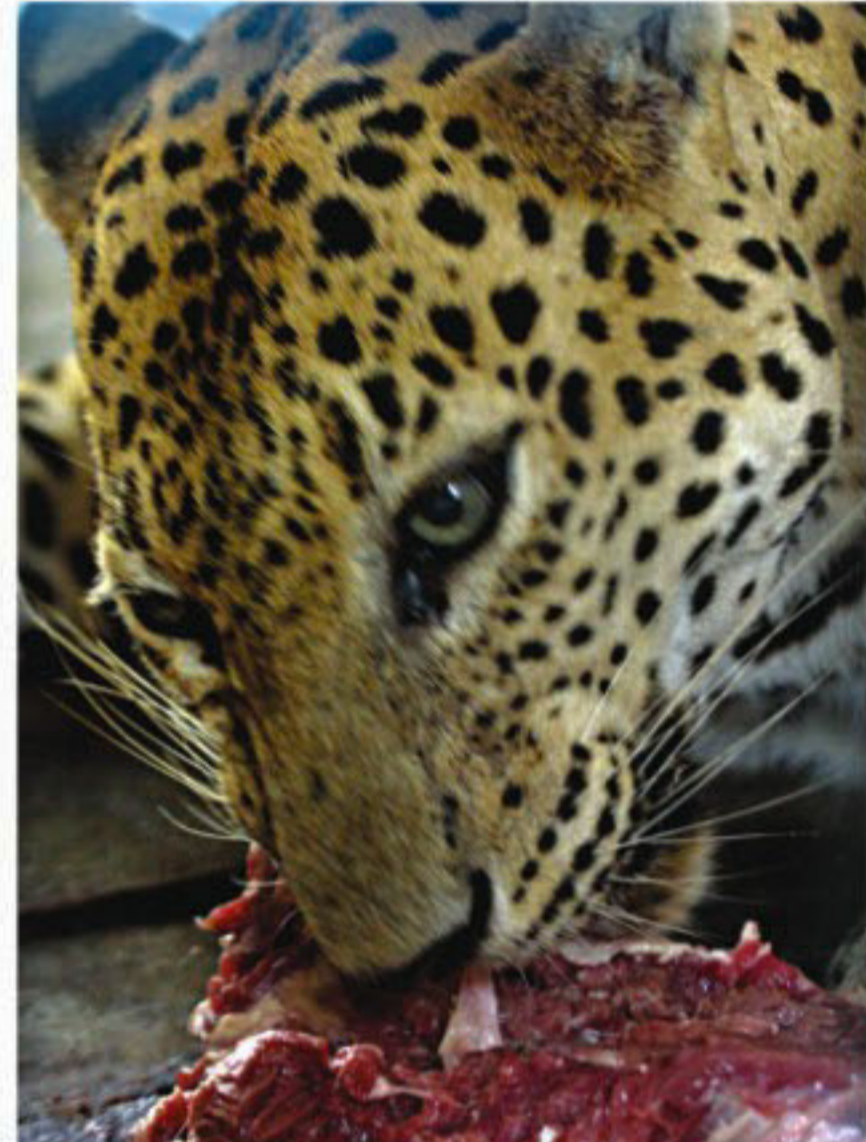


PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

BSF abducts 5 children from border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) abducted five children from Haripur Border under Haripur upazila in Thakurgaon yesterday morning.

The victims are Pania, 15, son of Denial; Md Shahabuddin, 13, son of Abdul Kuddus; Montu, 6, son of Mohammad Nazrul Islam; Raihan, 8, son of Atabuddin and Shetabul Islam, 8, son of Jounal.

All the children are from

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Hindus in city face cremation problem

Much of the three cremation grounds grabbed

SHAHNAZ PARVEEN

The Hindus living in Dhaka city are facing a severe shortage of cremation grounds due to wholesale encroachment over the years.

The cremation grounds are also weighed down with numerous problems such as water shortage, worn out building, lack of sitting arrangement and toilet, coupled with the drug peddlers gathering after dusk.

Only one cremation ground has been established since independence taking the number to just three for the city's growing number of Hindus. No statistics are available on the Hindu population in the capital, but the community leaders claim it to be around 20 percent of the city's total population of over one crore.

According to Hindu religious custom, bodies of adults are usually cremated

while the bodies of children under eight are buried. However, some of the Hindu castes bury the deceased, both young and adult, instead of cremating. Baishnobs, for example, are buried.

Established over a hundred years back, the two cremation grounds located in Postogola and Lalbagh are maintained by the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) while

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Govt support for Aila victims to continue

PM assures people in Satkhira

BSS, Satkhira

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday promised continued government supports for the victims of cyclone Aila that ravaged parts of the south-western region in 2009 as she visited the affected areas to oversee the rehabilitation campaigns.

"The government supports for increased agricultural yields as well as poultry and livestock sub-sectors will continue for livelihood development of the cyclone affected people," she told a huge public rally at Shyamnagar upazila where she also distributed homebuilding grants among the cyclone victims.

Thousands of people joined the rally defying heavy rains at the HC Pilot High School where Hasina urged the cyclone victims to earn self-reliance taking the advantage of the government supports.

In a nearly identical rally at Bagali union parishad maidan at neighbouring Koira upazila of Khulna, she urged people to launch a massive afforestation campaign to supplement government initiatives to develop a greenbelt in coastlines to minimize onslaughts of cyclones and tidal surges in particular.

The premier flew in a low altitude in an air force helicopter to get a bird's eye view of the current state of the devastated areas and the reconstruction campaign at the affected four upazilas of Khulna and Satkhira.

In both the rallies, she said the deadly cyclone Sidr and the subsequent Aila ravaged the south-western region and left a mark of their wraths through creating water logging at several places.

The premier said the government took a massive programme to remove the water stagnation alongside the campaign for regaining the navigability of rivers through dredging.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Top criminal killed in Ctg 'shootout'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A criminal was killed in a gunfight between his cohorts and the law enforcers at South Paindong under Fatikchhari upazila of the port city early yesterday.

The deceased Shawkat alias Sheakaitya, 40, a top criminal on police list, was accused in 14 cases including seven for murder.

Acting on a tip-off, a joint team of Rab-7 and police cordoned off Mollabari Eidgah area where the gang was holding a secret meeting at around 3:45am, Rab and police sources said.

Sensing presence of the law enforcers, the outlaws opened fire. Retaliatory fire by the lawmen triggered a gunfight.

The criminal was caught in the firing line while his accomplices managed to flee. Shawkat succumbed to his injury at the nearby health complex.

The lawmen recovered two firearms, 17 rounds of bullet and 10 bottles of beer from the spot.

Police said Shawkat was once an accomplice of Tipu and Osman, two local gang leaders in the area.

Later he joined Kashem

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Jamaat trio now shown held in JMB raid case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detained Jamaat leaders Motiur Rahman Nizami, Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mojahid and Delwar Hossain Sayedee were shown arrested yesterday in a case filed against JMB

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Workers' Wage Menon fears chaos in RMG over delay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon yesterday cautioned that chaos was likely to arise if the minimum wage expected by garment workers was not

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



The residence of United Hotel owner Badiur Rahman vandalised during a clash between two groups following a dispute over the land in the port city yesterday

PHOTO: STAR

Hotel, house vandalised in Ctg over land dispute

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A hotel and two floors of the hotel owner's house were vandalised in an attack over a land dispute in the port city yesterday.

As many as 100 men of developer Mohammad Hossain, 50, and his partner Shamsul Alam Bhuiyan, 48, carried out the massive destruction at United Hotel and the house of Badiur Rahman at Nandan Kanan Lane for about three hours from 4:00am, said witnesses.

Three persons sustained bullet injuries as the residents of the house near Reazuddinbazar Tin Poler Matha opened fire on the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Prachanda falters again

Fresh polls for Nepal PM Aug 2

AFP, Kathmandu

The charisma of Nepal's once enigmatic revolutionary, Maoist leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda, faded further yesterday when he failed to win the prime ministerial poll for the second time in 48 hours.

The 55-year-old former prime minister, who had obtained overwhelming majority in the same election two years ago, could not secure even simple majority in a parliament with 599 voters as over 200 MPs sat in abstention in protest and over two dozen stayed away in defiance of party whips.

Prachanda could obtain only 241 votes while 113 MPs voted against him and 218 abstained.

Yesterday's vote saw the Maoist supremo's position weaken since Wednesday's election, when he had won 242 votes.

However, the Maoists still remain ahead of their rival, the Nepali Congress, whose candidate Ram Chandra Poudel could obtain only 123 votes, one less than Wednesday's.

"Since both candidates failed to garner the 301 votes required by the constitution, the house will convene again on Aug 2," parliament chairman Subhas Nembang said.

The run-off becomes an unprecedented event, even in Nepal's unpredictable politics, with the house now scheduled to hold a third election for a new prime minister.

The fiasco came after the rivals failed to woo

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Robbery at ex Navy chief's home in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Robbers looted cash money and valuables worth about Tk 12.60 lakh from the New DOHS home of former Navy chief Rear Admiral Amir Ahmed Mustafa early yesterday.

Kafur police said a gang of seven to eight robbers tied up the security guard and then cut the iron grill to enter the house around 2:00am.

They held the inhabitants at gunpoint and looted 15 tolas of gold ornaments,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

OnlinePoll

What should the government do with the constitution amendment as BNP didn't nominate a representative for the special JS body?

Proceed with the amendment (51.0%)

Stop the procedure (48.0%)

No Comments (1.0%)

Total votes: 2543

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the parliamentary special committee for constitutional amendment can achieve their six-point aims and objectives?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

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