

Did you know?

It is believed the pyramid was built as a tomb for Fourth dynasty Egyptian pharaoh Khufu and constructed over a 14 to 20 year period. The Great Pyramid was originally 280 Egyptian cubits tall, 146,478 metres (480.57 ft). Each base side was 440 royal cubits, 230.37 metres (755.81 ft) in length.



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Rundown taxi relief soon

SHAHNAZ PARVEEN

The revised policy for taxi service would create room for more taxis in the city, said officials of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA). The policy is on its final stage of formation. A meeting among all the stakeholders in will sit today in a bid to wrap up the two-year-long effort for the amended policy to come to effect, said Md Saiful Hoque, director (engineering) of BRTA.

He said new provisions in the revised policy would allow the owners to replace their taxis or ask for new registration if a vehicle exceeds its economic life or meets accidents.

According to the revised policy, no 800cc vehicles would be allowed to operate as taxis, said Saiful, adding that a taxi needs to be at least 1350cc or more to ensure durable service.

Under the revised policy, economic life of a

taxi will be increased to 10 years from the current eight years. Reconditioned vehicles would be allowed as taxis but they have to be less than three years old while the ceiling is up to five years for 2000cc vehicles, he added.

The BRTA also proposed that the companies run the service rather than any individual owners.

Saiful said, "There were owners who have only one or two taxis running on the streets. This had made it impossible to bring discipline or establish accountability in the sector, as there have been too many owners."

As per the policy, separate driving licence will be introduced for taxi drivers and no driver can refuse short trips to passengers. Also, the taxi owners will be obliged to have radio communication between taxis and their very own refuelling facilities, he added.

One hurt as train rams car

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A reckless driver was injured as an intercity train ramed his private car at Khilgaon level crossing in the capital yesterday morning.

Driver Monir Hossain was desperately passing the level crossing from wrong side ignoring the signals when the train hit his car around 10:00am, witnesses say.

The car was reduced to scrap from which the driver was dragged out and rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, the witnesses add.

Monir was arrested and taken to Kamalapur Railway Police Station after he was given treatment at DMCH.



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

The wreckage of the car after an express train hit it at Khilgaon level crossing in the capital yesterday.

China gold mine fire kills 16 workers

AFP, Beijing

Sixteen workers died when a fire broke out in a gold mine in east China, state media reported yesterday, in the latest accident to hit the nation's notoriously dangerous mining sector this week.

Most of the victims died of toxic smoke inhalation underground or in hospital after the accident, which happened on Friday in Shandong province's Zhaoyuan city, the official Xinhua news agency said.

More than 300 miners had been working underground when the blaze started and most were lifted to ground level safely, but about 50 were

Cops try in vain to justify HR violation

HR commission warns against clutching at excuses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday sharply differed on a range of crucial issues relating to the police force.

The NHRC chairman and DMP officials expressed conflicting views on alleged violation of human rights by the law-enforcers, corruption among them, weaknesses in policing and investigation, human rights situation and sense of deprivation within the police force.

The issues came up at an exchange of views meeting organised by the DMP and held at its headquarters in the capital.

Chairman of the commission Prof Mizanur Rahman was the chief guest at the meeting and DMP Commissioner AKM Shahidul Hoque was in the chair.

DMP Additional Deputy Commissioner Mostak Ahmed presented a paper on obstruction to policing, lack of logistic support and poor human rights situation in police force.

Speaking at the meeting, a number of senior police officials tried to justify human rights violation by the law enforcers, and their corruption.

But the commission chairman reminded the policemen of their pledges while joining this force. "It is not logical to think otherwise on excuses as one joins his job admitting all the existing conditions", he noted.

Regarding extra judicial killings and custodial deaths, Prof Mizanur said all such incidents must have transparency.

He observed that the commission is not controlled by the government, and it can criticise any fault of the government and give suggestions.

Expecting wife beaten to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An expectant mother was beaten to death allegedly by her husband in the port city yesterday.

Police arrested Mohammad Hossain, 28, husband of victim Amena Begum, 26, and her sister-in-law Taslee Begum, 18, in this connection.

Police and witnesses say Hossain along with his family members beat up Amena following a quarrel at their house at Sardar Bahadur Nagar, locally known as Bihari Colony, under Khulshi police station at 12:30pm.

Amena died within an hour, they add.

Hossain and Amena had a

SUICIDE ATTEMPT Mother sued for killing her 2 kids

KAILASH SARKAR and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Police yesterday filed a case against Bilashi Khatun under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act in connection with killing her children, Rajani and Raihan, during her suicide attempt.

Distraught over her husband's second marriage, Bilashi on Thursday set fire to herself and her two children. Abu Raihan and Rajani Akhter died at the Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital Thursday and Friday.

Bilashi is still in a critical condition at the hospital. On her hospital bed, Bilashi is now screaming in pain and often calling out her children's names.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner AKM Shahidul Hoque said they were considering filing another case under the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) against Bilashi.

Motijheel Police Station Sub-Inspector Azizur Rahman filed the case against Bilashi early yesterday under section-4/1 of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.

SI Aziz in his case statement said Rajani, before she passed away, had told him that her mother Bilashi poured kerosene on



Bilashi Khatun

Govt won't ban, it's business of EC

Shafiq tells of religion-based parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will not ban religion-based political parties since only Election Commission (EC) has the authority to cancel registration of such parties, said Law Minister Shafiq Ahmed yesterday.

If the EC cancels registration of any such political party, the party would not be able to contest elections, he said.

He made the remarks while talking to journalists after a seminar on Improvement of

Prayer Timing

August 8		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-20	4-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-47	6-50
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation



Kansat, a hub of mango trade in Chapainawabganj, is largely devoid of mango buyers. A few thousand maunds of mangoes are brought here but sellers are seen sitting idle.

PHOTO: STAR

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

WE MOURN

Mr. Taslimuddin Ahmed, born 26th October 1951 second son of late Dr. Altafuddin Ahmed, died suddenly on August 06th 2010 from cardiac arrest. (Inna Lillahe...Rajeun)

We pray to Almighty Allah for the salvation of his departed soul and that he may be granted His infinite mercy and eternal peace. May Allah also provide us the courage and fortitude to bear the irreparable loss.

Qulkhani for the deceased will be held at Uttara lakeside mosque, sector 3, Dhaka on Monday August 9th, after maghreb prayers.

We request all friends, family and well wishers to attend.

OnlinePoll

Do you think Health Ministry vigilance teams to monitor government hospital and Upazila health complexes across the country will bring any improvement to rural health services?

Yes (37.6%)
No (61.6%)
No Comments (0.8%)

Total votes: 747

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with BNP that Bangladesh will not gain anything from India's \$ 1 billion credit facility?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

FALSE FIRE ALARM 40 injured in Ctg stampede

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least 40 people were injured in a stampede when garment workers panicked by a false fire alarm rushed to get out of a factory in the city's Kalurghat industrial area yesterday afternoon.

As the fire alarm went off at around 12:30pm, over 1400 workers of two factories of Azim Group, Dress Shirt Limited and Men's Fashion Limited, on the fourth and sixth floors of a six-storey building scrambled to get out of the factory, witnesses said.

Some of them fell on the staircases and were trampled by others as everyone was hurrying out, which left 40 people injured.

Harakat-ul Jihad a terrorist group Declare US, UN

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The United States and the United Nations Friday designated Pakistan's Harakat-ul Jihad al-Islami as a foreign terror group and blacklisted its commander, the US Treasury Department said.

Mohammad Ilyas Kashmiri, who the United

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