

Did you know?

The Jin Mao Tower is known as the "Golden Prosperity Building". It is an 88-story skyscraper in Shanghai. The total height from the ground to the antenna or spire is 421 m (1,380 ft) making it a supertall landmark.



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Faulty launches getting facelift

Passengers await risky journey ahead of Eid

PANKAJ KARMAKAR

More than a hundred faulty and unfit launches are getting quick repair in Keraniganj dockyards to carry passengers on different routes ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr.

Most vessels have major defects in engines or design faults, said repairers in dockyards. They could not tell whether the launches have any fitness certificates.

The workers were busy refurbishing and making minor repairs on the vessels as the owners want the job completed before the Eid, the prime time for transport business.

"We are not authorised to check fitness of vessels. From our working experience, we can tell whether a vessel is fit or not. A number of unfit vessels are brought here for repair," said Zulfiqar Ali, general manager of Comilla Ship Builders.

Director General of Department of Shipping Bazlur Rahman said he heard that a few launches were getting repaired in different dockyards ahead of the Eid.

"We will take stern action if any unfit launch plies during the Eid," he said.

Bazlur said only three surveyors and four

inspectors are there to verify fitness of over 11,308 registered vessels.

A source at the Department of Shipping said more than 23,000 unregistered vessels ply different routes across the country.

Safe Waterway Implementation Movement, a non-governmental organisation, in a survey in January said 2,082 of the 5,000 launches it covered were unregistered.

More than four million people are expected to leave the capital for the southern part by launches ahead of the Eid.

Vessel owners operate more trips during the Eid as the number of passengers shoots up during the period, said Sadarghat Port Officer Sharif Afzal.

He denied plying of unfit launches on any route.

"We decided that not a single vessel would be allowed to ply without fitness certificate." Several hundred workers at different dockyards were seen busy repairing vessels.

"We have to work day and night before the Eid as the vessel owners are putting pressure on us to get the work finished as soon as possible," said a worker at Hossain Dockyard.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



An old launch is being repaired at Keraniganj in the capital yesterday. To tackle the rush of homebound people ahead of Eid, owners are reportedly pressing into service many outdated and unfit vessels patched up a little bit.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

COMMODITY PRICES Monitoring teams fine 17 profit-monger traders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Price monitoring teams yesterday realised Tk 65,500 as fine from 17 businessmen of three kitchen markets of the city for charging higher prices than those fixed by the government.

Two teams of the commerce ministry and one of the National Consumer Right Protection Directorate led the drives at Hatirpul, Kaptan Bazar and Karwan Bazar kitchen markets, said a ministry press release.

Government set retail price of sugar at Tk 47 per kg, soyabean oil at Tk 80, super palm oil at Tk 76 and palm oil

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

MP SHAON'S 'MURDER' LINK Probe focused on 3 hours after firing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Investigators in Ibrahim murder case are enquiring why it took three hours to take the victim to the hospital, and why Kala left the scene of shooting instead of accompanying Ibrahim to the hospital, and why Kala left the scene of shooting instead of accompanying the victim to the emergency department.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday sent Kamal Hossain Kala, the chauffeur of ruling party lawmaker Nurunnabi Chowdhury Shaon, and the lawmaker's personal secretary Sohel to three-day remand each, after the Detective Branch of Police produced them to the court.

DB Inspector Moshir Rahman, who is also the investigation officer, said Kala and Sohel might have involvement in Ibrahim's death.



Ibrahim

College Hospital around 8:00pm.

"Now we will try to understand what happened in between, and the reason behind Kala's departure from the scene instead of accompanying Ibrahim to the hospital," he told The Daily Star.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

FALL FROM HIGH-RISE 2 construction workers killed in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two construction workers died after falling from under-construction buildings in the city's Bashundhara residential area yesterday morning.

The deceased are Tota Miah, 30, and Tofazzal Hossain, 35.

Tota Miah fell from the top of a six-storey building on Road-10 around 9:30am and died on the spot, said Badda police.

Tofazzal was electrocuted while working on the second floor of a five-storey apartment complex on Road-15 in the same area and died falling down around 10:00am.

An electric wire accidentally came in contact with a rod which Tofazzal was

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

ACC now sues Khoka's son

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed a case against Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka's son Ishrak Hossain for non-submission of wealth statement within the deadline.

Former assistant director of ACC Samsul Alam filed the case with Ramna Police Station under section 26 (2) (Ka) of the ACC Act-2004.

Earlier on Sunday, the ACC sued Khoka's daughter Sarika Sadeque on the same charge.

On September 4, 2008, the ACC served a notice on Ishrak asking him to submit his wealth statement. The deadline for submission of the statement expired on September 15 the same year.

The first information report said the ACC served the notice as it learnt that Ishrak had amassed wealth beyond known sources of income.

Clean tech for brick kilns

Adopted in Savar kiln on trial basis; can cut air pollution by 60-70pc, save 4 lakh trees a year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A brick company using clean technology has started its debut production in the country at Nayarhat, Savar.

Vertical Shaft Brick Kiln, the technology, can reduce air pollution up to 60 to 70 percent and save 4 lakh trees every year, said Soumen Maity, an expert involved with the pilot project. It would also reduce use of coal by 30 to 40 percent, he said.

Conforce Ltd has set up the kiln with financial assistance from the World Bank and technical support from two India based NGOs -- Development Alternatives and Action for Rural Advancement. Practical Action, another NGO, is implementing the project.

Conforce Ltd got the fund through an open bidding, said WB officials.

Managing Director of Conforce Ltd Nazmul Hossain said, "We got interested in the technology since it reduces energy consumption, which ultimately cuts production cost."

"We have already started marketing our bricks and will go full-fledged within a few days," he added.

The new kiln has two shafts, each capable of producing 9,000 to 10,000 bricks round the clock under close supervision.

Soumen Maity, team leader of Training and Technology of Development Alternatives, said the quality of the bricks from this kiln is as good as regular bricks.

He said it costs around Tk 30 lakh to install a vertical shaft kiln while a traditional one needs more than Tk 1 crore excluding land.

Soumen is optimistic that smaller entrepreneurs would be interested in adopting the technology, as a vertical brick kiln needs smaller space.

Officials of the project said there are about 4,000 registered brick kilns in Bangladesh, which burn around 2.2 million metric tonnes of coal every year. If half of the kilns are turned into vertical shaft ones, we can save 4.8 lakh metric tonnes of coal and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



TIME MAGAZINE

Hasina 6th among top 10 women leaders

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been placed sixth in a list of the 10 top women leaders of the world prepared by internationally reputed Time magazine.

The list was published in the current week's online edition of the magazine.

Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard topped the list followed by Prime Minister of Iceland Johanna Sigurdardottir and President of Argentina Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner.

Among others, President of Lithuania Dalia Grybauskaitė and Argentina Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner.

Among others, President of Lithuania Dalia Grybauskaitė

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



A pedestrian dodges through speedy traffic to cross the road, avoiding the safe way, the footbridge, on Bangla Motor intersection in the capital. The photo was taken a few days ago.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

OnlinePoll ✓

Do you agree with FBCCI President AK Azad's suggestion that the government should stop gas supply to CNG stations and new household consumers and only supply to industries?

Yes (27.5%)
No (72.2%)
No Comments (0.3%)

Total votes: 1050

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think police will be able to investigate the controversial killing of AL activist Ibrahim Ahmed without any influence?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

47 migrants saved from drowning off Moroccan coast

Bangladeshis among them

AP, Rabat

The Moroccan news agency says 47 people from Africa and Bangladesh hoping to sneak into southern Spain were picked up by a boat after their makeshift craft capsized.

The MAP agency reported Sunday that two people, including a pregnant woman, were hospitalised in the northeast Moroccan port of Al Hoceima after the group was picked up by a boat heading for Almeria, Spain.

The agency, citing security officials, said the incident

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Blasts kill 7 US troops in Afghanistan

AP, Kabul

Seven American service members were killed in two separate roadside bomb attacks in southern Afghanistan, Nato said yesterday.

No details were given of the attacks, although eyewitnesses in the southern city of Kandahar said an armoured US Army Humvee hit a roadside bomb in the early afternoon. Several bodies were seen being removed from the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

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Iftar & Sehri timing for Dhaka & neighbouring areas

Today's Iftar 6:21 pm

Ending time for tomorrow's sehri 4:19 am

Prayer Timing August 31

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-19	4-29
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-21	6-31
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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PRESS RELEASE

This is for information that Bangladesh Bank vide its letter No.DOS(EW) 1164/17/5/(IFIC)/2010- 187 dated August 29,2010 has delisted IFIC Bank Limited from its list of Early Warning System (EWS) with effect from 29. 08. 2010 after reviewing the overall satisfactory financial indicators of the Bank. Bangladesh Bank has also withdrawn its Observer from the Board of Directors of the Bank.

Dated: Dhaka August 30, 2010

(A.K.M Mazharul Hoque) SEVP & Company Secretary

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