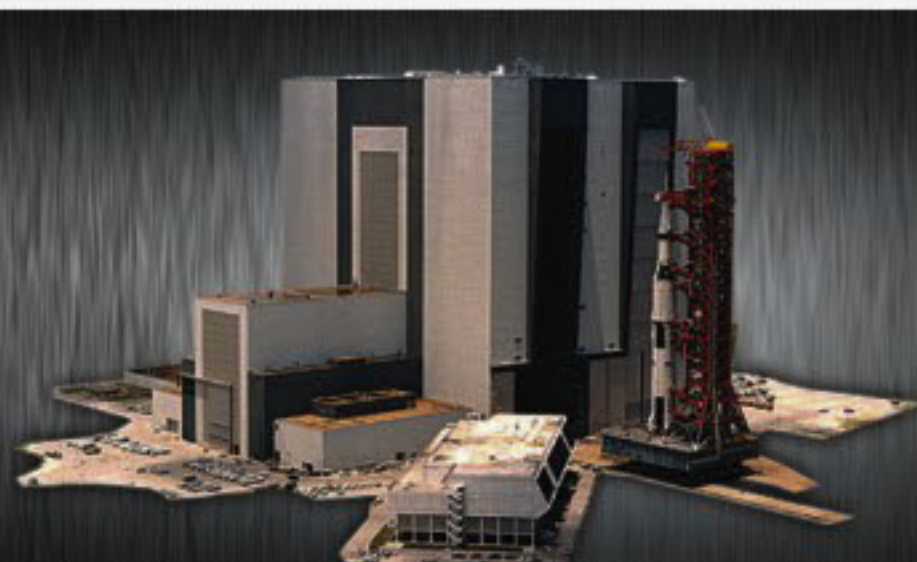


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Rich nations unveil climate aid pledges

Bangladesh named as one of 27 beneficiaries

AFP, Geneva

Six rich economies joined a website unveiled here yesterday detailing pledges in short-term aid they made at last December's climate summit, a move aimed at restoring damaged trust with developing countries.

The portal www.faststartfinance.org showed that Britain, Denmark, France, the Netherlands and Norway had so far allocated the equivalent of 3.2 billion dollars in climate funds.

Twenty-seven poorer countries are named as beneficiaries, including Bangladesh, Brazil, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Morocco and the Philippines. Details of the projects and the timescale of funding were not given.

A sixth donor, Germany, said it had promised 1.26 billion euros (1.61 billion dollars), but has yet to say how the money would be allotted.

"It will give trust that promises are being kept," Dutch Environment Minister Tineke Huizinga, who conceived the project, told reporters.

"I expect in the months to come much more countries will sign in the website."

The announcement was made on the sidelines of an informal meeting on climate finance in Geneva, gathering more than 40 countries.

The commitments are part of an overall package of 30 billion dollars that rich countries declared in "fast-start" aid for 2010, 2011 and 2012 at the Copenhagen summit to help the poor tackle global warming and its impacts.

The money was seen as a show of good faith in the troubled negotiations under the banner of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

In the long term, according to a parallel but sketchier pledge made in Copenhagen, rich countries have promised to mobilise jointly 100 billion dollars a year by 2020.

But the infighting that marred Copenhagen left scars of mistrust among developing countries.

Poorer nations are keeping a watchful eye on the fast-track

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



Long queues at ticket counters of Kamalapur Railway Station snake around the entire lobby as people wishing to spend Eid with their families rush yesterday to buy advance train tickets.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Huge rush for train tickets

BSS, Dhaka

Kamalapur Railway Station in the capital has witnessed a huge rush as homebound passengers thronged there to collect advance tickets ahead of the Eid-ul-Fitr.

The rush of the people was more yesterday compared to the last three days, officials said adding that the railway will start selling the return tickets on September 9.

Standing in long queues, people from different strata began collecting advance tickets when the counters opened at 9:00 am.

Members of police, Rab, railway security force and intelligence personnel have been deployed in and around the station to maintain law and order situation and check sale of tickets in black market.

M Mozammel Haq Khan, secretary of Roads and Railway Division, yesterday visited the station to oversee the selling of advance tickets. He went round different counters and talked to the passengers.

The secretary asked the officials, involved in selling tickets, to work transparently

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Vultures face extinction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Oriental vultures are disappearing so fast that their population dropped by 95 percent in Bangladesh in the last two decades, due to feeding on carcasses of cattle treated with anti-inflammatory drug diclofenac, said experts.

Diclofenac is widely used in human medicine globally, and was introduced to the veterinary market in the Indian subcontinent in early 1990s.

It has been proven that the drug causes fatal kidney failure in vultures, said Dr Monirul H Khan, a zoology professor at Jahangirnagar University. Vultures show an unusual behaviour of "neck drooping" after eating carcasses tainted with diclofenac, and die in few days.

In the wake of the population crash, white-rumped vultures, long-billed vultures, and slender-billed

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



FILE PHOTO

Khaleda in Madinah

UNB, Madinah

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has offered ziarat at the holy Rawza Mubarak of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) inside the Masjid-e-Nabawi in Madinah.

She offered the special prayers at the shrine at 10:00pm Wednesday (local time) and sought blessing of almighty Allah for peace, progress and prosperity of Bangladesh and its people as well as solidarity of Muslim Ummah.

The BNP chairperson, who arrived in Madinah on August 30 to perform holy umrah, also offered prayers in congregation (jama'at) at the Masjid-e-Nabawi and took iftar Thursday together with million of Muslims from across the world.

Khaleda Zia exchanged pleasantries with Bangladeshi expatriates in Saudi Arabia and leaders and workers of local BNP.

She also offered Juma'tul Wida prayer at the mosque yesterday. She was scheduled to leave Madinah for Makkah via Jeddah after Asr prayer to perform Umrah.

Stalking victims to get legal aid

Call centre to receive complaints

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the stalking menace rising, a call centre operator and a local NGO have come forward to provide the victims with legal assistance and counselling over the telephone for free.

The victims of stalking will get this assistance by calling at a hotline number where they can submit their complaints.

The service will be available from next month.

The initiative comes to assist those victims who do not share their problems for social or security reasons.

Windmill InfoTech Limited, a call centre operator and The Hunger Project, a local NGO have signed a deal on Thursday in this regard, says a press release of Windmill InfoTech Limited.

While Windmill will compile the complaints of the victims, The Hunger Project will come up with legal support such as taking steps against the accused, said Windmill's Public Relations and Communication Manager Bushra Rahman.

Stalking has become a social pandemic in recent years leading to even suicides by the victims, mostly teenage girls.

Electronic stalking namely, stalking via email and mobile messages, has also grown alarmingly in last few years that mostly goes unreported.

The Daily Star has recently interviewed 30 women at random about the issue, and found every one of them has been harassed electronically by ex-boyfriends or strangers.

While no statistics are available to confirm the number of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



Sonia elected Congress chief for 4th time

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Sonia Gandhi, wife of India's assassinated Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, was yesterday elected the president of ruling Congress party for a record fourth consecutive term.

Twelve years after she was first elected the head of the party in 1998, the Italy-born 63-year-old politician was declared re-elected unopposed at a ceremony attended by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and host of other senior party leaders.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

আসন্ন পবিত্র ঈদ-উল-ফিতর নিরাপদ ও নির্বিঘ্নে উদযাপনের জন্য সম্মানিত জনসাধারণকে নিম্নোক্ত পরামর্শ গ্রহণের অনুরোধ জানানো হচ্ছে-

- ঈদের প্রাকালে যারা ঢাকার বাইরে যাবেন তাঁরা সময় নিয়ে ভ্রমণ পরিকল্পনা করবেন, যাতে শেষ মুহূর্তের ট্রেন, বাস, লঞ্চ ও ফেরীঘাটের মারাত্মক জীড় এড়িয়ে নির্বিঘ্নে প্রিয়জনের সাথে ঈদের আনন্দ উপভোগ করতে পারেন।
- রেল, বাস ও লঞ্চ টার্মিনালে, যাত্রা পথে এবং চলার পথে পাশের যাত্রী, অপরিচিত কোন ব্যক্তি, হকার কিংবা ফেরিওয়ালার নিকট থেকে ইফতার সামগ্রী, চা-সিগারেট, পান-বিড়ি, কলা-রুটি, চকলেট, শরবত, জুস, কোমল পানীয় বা অন্য কোন খাবার গ্রহণ করবেন না।
- ফেরিওয়ালা/হকারের নিকট কোন খাবার বা অন্য কোন যাত্রীর কোন কিছু খাওয়া দেখে তা' খেতে উৎসাহিত হবেন না।
- কোন ব্যক্তি, বস্ত্র ও গাড়ি সম্পর্কে সন্দেহের সৃষ্টি হলে তৎক্ষণিকভাবে নিকটস্থ পুলিশকে জানান।
- নিজের জীবনের ঝুঁকি নিয়ে অতিরিক্ত যাত্রী হয়ে ট্রেন, বাস, লঞ্চ বা স্টিমারে চলাচল করবেন না। ট্রেন/লঞ্চ/বাসের ছাদে ভ্রমণ করবেন না। জীড় এড়িয়ে চলুন, নিরাপদে ভ্রমণ করুন।
- প্রয়োজনে ঢাকা মহানগর পুলিশের সহায়তার জন্য ০১৭১৩৩৯৮৩২৫, ০১৭১৩৩৯৮৩২৬, ০১৭১৩৩৯৮৩২৭, ০১৭১৩৩৯৮৩২৮, ০১৭১৩৩৯৮৩২৯ এবং র‍্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়নের (র‍্যাব) ০১৭৪১১৩৯০৯০ মোবাইল নম্বরে, পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টারের কন্ট্রোলরুমে ৯৫৬১৯৬৭, ৯৫৬০৬৬১ নম্বরে এবং জেলা পুলিশ সুপার ও থানার অফিসার ইনচার্জ (ওসি) এর সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন।

পুলিশের সেবা নিন, নিরাপদ থাকুন
জিডি-৩৭৯৫ পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, বাংলাদেশ

In Fond Memorial

"To Him is the return of all of you. The Promise of Allah is true. It is He Who begins the creation and then will repeat it, that He may reward with justice those who believed in the oneness of Allah-Islamic Monotheism) and did deeds of a drink of boiling fluids and painful torment because they used to disbelieve."- Al Quran.

Today, 4 September, 5th Death anniversary of **Tinni Anwar**, only daughter of Capt. Anwarul Haque (Master Mariner) & Mrs. Anwarul Haque of Kamaura, Ashuganj, B-Baria.

On this occasion, Doa Mahfil, followed by Iftar will be held at her village residence. Relatives & well-wishers are requested to pray for her departed soul.

Trustees
Tinni Anwar Memorial Trust

OnlinePoll

Do you think a legislative ban on any sort of stalking will curb its scourge?

Yes (32.4%)
No (65.2%)
No Comments (2.4%)

Total votes: 678

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with AL activist Ibrahim's wife that investigators forced MP Shaon's driver Kala to confess to killing Ibrahim to let Shaon off the hook?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

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Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-17	6-27
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

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WE DEEPLY MOURN

We, the Management and members of Paramount Textile express our profound shock at the sudden passing away of Mr. Giashuddin Ahmed, Director & Vice-Chairman Pubali Bank Ltd during the early hours of 31st August 2010. (Inna Lillahe Razeun). May the Almighty Allah bless his departed soul and grant him eternal peace.

Late Mr. Giashuddin Ahmed, will not only be remembered as a brilliant business personality but also as a renowned Social Worker.

We convey our heart felt condolences to the bereaved family and may the Almighty Allah give them the courage and strength to face this irreplaceable loss.

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