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PM off to Russia

BSS, Dhaka
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina last night flew to Dubai en route to Moscow on a 12-day visit to Russia, Belgium and Japan. An Emirates Airlines flight carrying the premier and members of her entourage left Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at around 9:28pm. She will reach St Petersburg, Moscow today afternoon via London. During her tri-nation visit, SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

KL to regularise 3 lakh workers

Canada may hire agricultural workers first time from Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Malaysia has started regularising three lakh undocumented Bangladeshi workers and will hire more on completion of their regularisation, Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain said. The workers remained undocumented since they were employed through "underhand dealings" that involved some Bangladeshi private recruitment agencies, the minister told journalists at Shahjalal International Airport on his return home yesterday after a two-week visit to Mexico, Canada and Switzerland. "We have excellent bilateral relations with Malaysia. It is a gesture of goodwill that Malaysia is absorbing the undocumented workers in its economy," Mosharraf said. "They are not being arrested or harassed. Malaysia is gradually regularising them. Once they are regularised, Malaysia will hire more workers from Bangladesh," he said. Mosharraf, also minister for labour and employment, said some private recruitment agencies sent there more workers than what was required. "About 120 workers were hired for a company which actually needed only 20." He said Canada has agreed in principle to hire agricultural workers from Bangladesh for short terms. Negotiations on the matter would be done during the Bangladesh visit of the premier of Canada's Saskatchewan province in January next year. The minister travelled to Mexico on November 8 to attend a conference of Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD). He went to Canada from there on 12 November and met Bangladeshi expatriates and apparel buyers. Mosharraf also attended a meeting of the ILO governing body in Geneva. Malaysia, hosting some five lakh Bangladeshi, stopped hiring Bangladeshi workers in March last year for anomalies in recruitment process. Referring to his visit to Canada, the minister said Canada's Saskatchewan Province needs many workers for its farms. It usually recruits labourers from the Caribbean countries but SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

25 lakh to take primary final exams

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Primary Education Terminal Examination, 2010 of both general and madrasa students will begin tomorrow with around 25 lakh participants. The largest public examination in terms of number of examinees will start at 11:00am at 5,993 centres across the country and SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hugs the 99-year-old mother of Birshreshtha Munshi Abdur Rouf at a reception organised to mark the Armed Forces Day-2010 yesterday at the Senakunja.

PM pledges welfare of war heroes' families

BSS, Dhaka
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government will do whatever necessary for the welfare of the families of the freedom fighters who fought for establishing independent Bangladesh. "I don't want to see that any family of freedom fighter would pass their days without food and shelter," she said while addressing a reception to the gallantry award recipient freedom fighters and their successors. The PM who is also in Charge of the Ministry of Defence hosted the reception at Armed Forces Division in Dhaka Cantonment yesterday morning marking the Armed Forces Day-2010. Describing freedom fighters as the greatest sons of the soil, she said her government is working relentlessly to uphold their dignity recognising their immense contribution SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

BLASTS AT CJ'S HOUSE Delwar blames it on govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain said yesterday cracker blasts at the chief justice's residence were a "stage-managed drama" as part of the government bid to bring the Supreme Court verdict regarding their (BNP) chairperson's cantonment house in its favour. "The government engineered this incident in a pre-planned way since it is out to SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

INCREASING ROAD ACCIDENTS Unskilled drivers, faulty road design major reasons

SHAHNAZ PARVEEN
Human errors mostly by unskilled drivers and faulty designs of roads are the two big reasons for growing number of road accidents, transport and communications experts say. Poor maintenance of overused vehicles, inadequate road safety measures and lack of awareness among drivers and pedestrians are also to blame for the recent accidents, they add. According to the Accident Monitoring Cell of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), a total of 2,958 people were killed in 3,381 accidents last year across the country. Of them, at least 324 people got killed in 552 accidents in Dhaka. Three in every four of those killed are pedestrians, the report says, adding, motorbike riders are the second most vulnerable. Ninety percent of these accidents involved buses and minibuses, according to police. Professor Dr Md Shamsul Hoque, director of Accident Research Institute (ARI) at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), says the already chaotic environment on roads gets even messier due to the heavy presence of the people all over. "This increases the degree of exposure to road accidents." High concentration of industries, especially garment factories by main roads at the heart of the capital and other large cities, is a key reason why pedestrians are more vulnerable. Thousands of workers cross the busy SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

50 hurt as train derails in Katiadi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj
At least 50 passengers sustained minor injuries after eight compartments of Mymensingh-bound Nasirabad Express from Chittagong derailed at Gochihata in Katiadi upazila of Kishoreganj early yesterday. Rail communication on Dhaka-Kishoreganj route remained suspended for four and a half hours following the accident. SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

Cop, mugger bullet-hit

3 muggers held after gunfight
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A police officer and a mugger sustained bullet injuries during a gunfight between law enforcers and muggers in the capital's Dhanmondi yesterday. Police arrested three muggers from the spot and also seized a private car along with 111 pieces of Yaba tablets, one pistol, three bullets and two sharp weapons. The arrestees are ringleader Nur-e-Alam Khan Milon, 38, Sabbir Huda, 38, and Sayed Azad, 37, of the area. Sub-inspector (SI) of Dhanmondi police station Moon Sohel Imtiaz, 36, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with bullet injury to his back while mugger Nur-e-Alam was sent to SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



Trees at the central reservation of the road between Dairy Gate and the Shaheed Minar in Jahangirnagar University are being chopped down to make way for flower bushes.

Photo: SK ENAMUL HAQ

40 trees razed on JU campus

Authorities say they have cleared view of university Shaheed Minar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
When the government is working to have a stricter forest law to curb tree-felling, the Jahangirnagar University authorities have cut down some 40 trees during the Eid vacation. Earlier in June, the JU administration could not fell those trees for fierce protests by teachers and students. But this time they did it with ease, as most of the students had gone home for Eid. At first, they felled a big banyan tree and a raintree in front of the Shaheed Minar. Later, they chopped down 36 tamarisk and devaru (deodar) trees from the road island near the main entrance to the Shaheed Minar, said witnesses. The authorities say they have felled the trees so those do not obscure the view of the Shaheed Minar (martyrs' memorial) from the newly built front gate of the university. "We took this decision after discussion with engineers and architects," Shariff Enamul Kabir, vice-chancellor of the university, told The Daily Star yesterday. SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

8 stalkers jailed

STAR REPORT
At least eight stalkers were sentenced to different terms in prison yesterday in separate incidents of stalking in Dinajpur, Pabna, Kurigram and Noakhali districts. A schoolteacher was sentenced one-year imprisonment for stalking a 13-year old female student of his school at Hakimpur upazila of Dinajpur. The accused, Md Rafeyul Islam Ritan, 40, was a teacher of Hakimpur Pre-Cadet School. The mobile court led by Hakimpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md Tofazzal Hossain issued the verdict yesterday after hearing the complaint lodged by the girl's SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

WORLD TIGER SUMMIT Target to double number in 12yrs

AFP, Saint Petersburg
World leaders sought yesterday to come up with the hundreds of millions of dollars they say are needed to save the tiger from extinction and double the big cat's number by the next Year of the Tiger in 2022. Russian prime minister and self-proclaimed animal lover Vladimir Putin opened his native city to the world's first gathering of leaders from 13 nations where the tiger's free rein has been squeezed ever-tighter by poachers. "This is an unprecedented gathering of world leaders (that aims) to double the number of tigers," Jim Adams, vice president for the East Asia and Pacific Region at the World Bank, said at the opening ceremony of the four-day event. "The global tiger initiative is an example of balanced economic development with nature preservation." Decades of tiger part trafficking and habitat destruction have slashed the roaming tiger's number from 100,000 a century ago to just 3,200 today. The WWF charity warns that the species is on course for SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Two kids burnt alive in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna
At least two kids were burnt alive while two others were injured in a devastating fire at a house of Charpara village in Laksmipur union under Ataikula upazila yesterday. The deceased are Shammi, 5, daughter of Raich Uddin and Siam, 3, son of Tipu of the village. The critically burn injured are Bonna, 10, and Marzina Khatun, 35. Sub-inspector of Ataikula police station Md Saiful Islam said the fire originated from a wood-burning stove at Nur Islam's residence at about 6:00pm when his wife Marzina Khatun was cooking. The fire SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

OnlinePoll ✓
Do you agree with BNP vice-chairman Nazmul Huda that Khaleda Zia's counsels' not seeking a stay on the High Court order led to her 'eviction' from the house?
 Yes (65.89%)
 No (32.61%)
 No Comments
Total votes: 1199
TODAY'S POLL
 Do you agree with BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir that people do not want to see the present government anymore?
Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing
November 22

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-05	5-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-21	5-24
Esha	7-00	7-30

 Source: Islamic Foundation

The Daily Star
MOVED TO ITS OWN PREMISES

The Daily Star is happy to announce that it has shifted its offices to its own premises at 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215.

In addition to our old telephone numbers 8124944, 8124955, 8124966 our new telephone numbers are 9102973, 9102974, 9102975, 9102976. Our Fax numbers remain unchanged: 8125155, 8126154 (News) & 9144332 (Advertisement), and our website is the same as before: www.thedailystar.net.

We request all concerned to kindly take note of the above and contact us only at the new address.

On this happy occasion we thank our valued readers, advertisers, patrons and well-wishers for their unstinted support which, we trust, will continue in the days to come.

The Daily Star
Management