

Did you know? The Gardiner Dam in Saskatchewan is the largest embankment dam in Canada and one of the largest embankment dams in the world. The dam rises 64 metres (209 feet) in height, is almost 5 kms (3 miles) long and has a width of 1.5 kms (1 mile) at its base. The dam is Canada's largest embankment dam and one of the largest embankment dams in the world.

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KARNAPHULI PAPER MILLS

Artificial crisis of bamboo cuts production

SHANTIMOY CHAKMA, Rangamati

Two units of Karnaphuli Paper Mills are shut down due to an 'artificial crisis' of raw material, bamboo, allegedly created by a vested quarter.

Incurring a loss of about Tk 3-4 lakh a day, the factory is now producing 30-40 tonnes of newsprint using just one unit. The factory is capable of producing 100 tonnes a day, said Mostofa Mian, its administrative manager.

Since June, the factory authorities have floated six tenders to procure bamboo. It was done during the peak of bamboo harvesting season.

But every time the bidders, who stockpiled huge amounts of bamboo at Jettyghat nearby, quoted exorbitant prices surpassing the highest estimate of the factory.

"Last year the price was Tk 4,500 per tonne.

This year they are quoting Tk 5,777 for a tonne, which is much more than the price fixed by the government," said Zahirul Haque, managing director of the factory.

The Daily Star enquired about the price of a tonne of bamboo and found that the contractors are buying a tonne at less than Tk 2,500.

During the bidding on October 28, Raja Mia, a long-time supplier, allegedly manipulated the bidding in which only two bidders took part. Quoting Tk 5,777 for a tonne, Raja Mia's bid was 'the lowest' with Ashish Enterprise quoting Tk 5,885.

"The bidding itself is a testimony to the manipulation," said a staff of the factory requesting anonymity. The staff added, "Raja Mia already has monopoly, stockpiling the raw material; he is now trying to compel the authorities to buy the material at a high price."

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A huge stock of bamboo near the Karnaphuli Paper Mills but the factory is running at one-third its capacity, as suppliers demand high price for the raw material.

Fake pir's treatment kills woman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A woman died and two of her family members fell sick allegedly due to drinking "blessed water" from a pir (spiritual healer) in Sylhet city yesterday.

Deceased Syeda Marufa Rifat, 20, was the daughter of late Abdul Mukit and lived with her mother Siddiqua Akhtar Chowdhury and two brothers on Electric Supply Road at Ambarkhana.

Sources said the mother and daughter along with Siddiqua's brother Ishtiaque Chowdhury yesterday went to

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Govt to go tough on overloading

Imprisonment, fine to be increased; 4 weighbridges to be installed on highways

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

The government has decided to install weight-measuring machines across the country and increasing punishment for overloading vehicles as such vehicles are damaging roads and bridges.

Four weighbridges are being installed in four major highways while the Motor Vehicles Ordinance, 1883, is to be amended to increase fine and imprisonment for overloading, said communications ministry officials.

As per Section-154 of the ordinance, one can be fined Tk 1,000 for overloading a vehicle. A

second-time conviction could send the guilty to five months in prison and raise the fine to Tk 2,000.

Roads are built to withstand 10 tonnes load per vehicle but most trucks carry 20 to 30 tonnes, said RHD sources.

The communications ministry has prepared a draft of the ordinance, proposing to fine first-time offenders Tk 5,000 and Tk 10,000 and one year imprisonment for offenders with priors.

The weighbridges will be installed at Aushkandi on Dhaka-Sylhet Highway, the eastern side of Dhaleshwari on Dhaka-Mawa

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NGO FUND USE Social welfare minister for new regulator

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will form a regulatory organisation under the Ministry of Social Welfare to bring micro credit loan system under a law, said Social Welfare Minister Enamul Haque Mostafa Shahid.

In an interview with the BBC, the minister yesterday said many organisations that are working with foreign aid do not reveal their expenditure to the government. "In the name of business, these organisations harass people," he added.

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Hosts hopeful of climate deals

India expects to break logjam in Cancun talks

AFP, Reuters

Mexico's environment minister said Thursday that a UN climate conference in Cancun would likely reach at least two accords, rejecting criticism from Brazil's president that it would be inconclusive.

Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said Wednesday that the two-week talks on climate change "won't result in anything" because no major leaders were attending, and that pledges to finance the fight against deforestation in Latin America, Asia and Africa were "nebulous."

"That's his (Lula's) point of view, but we're carefully carrying out the negotiating process and we believe that, faced with natural disasters, it's urgent to reach deals," said Rafael Elvira Quesada on Televisa channel Thursday.

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OnlinePoll ✓

Do you think BNP's politics is now centred on its Chairperson Khaleda Zia's previous house issue?

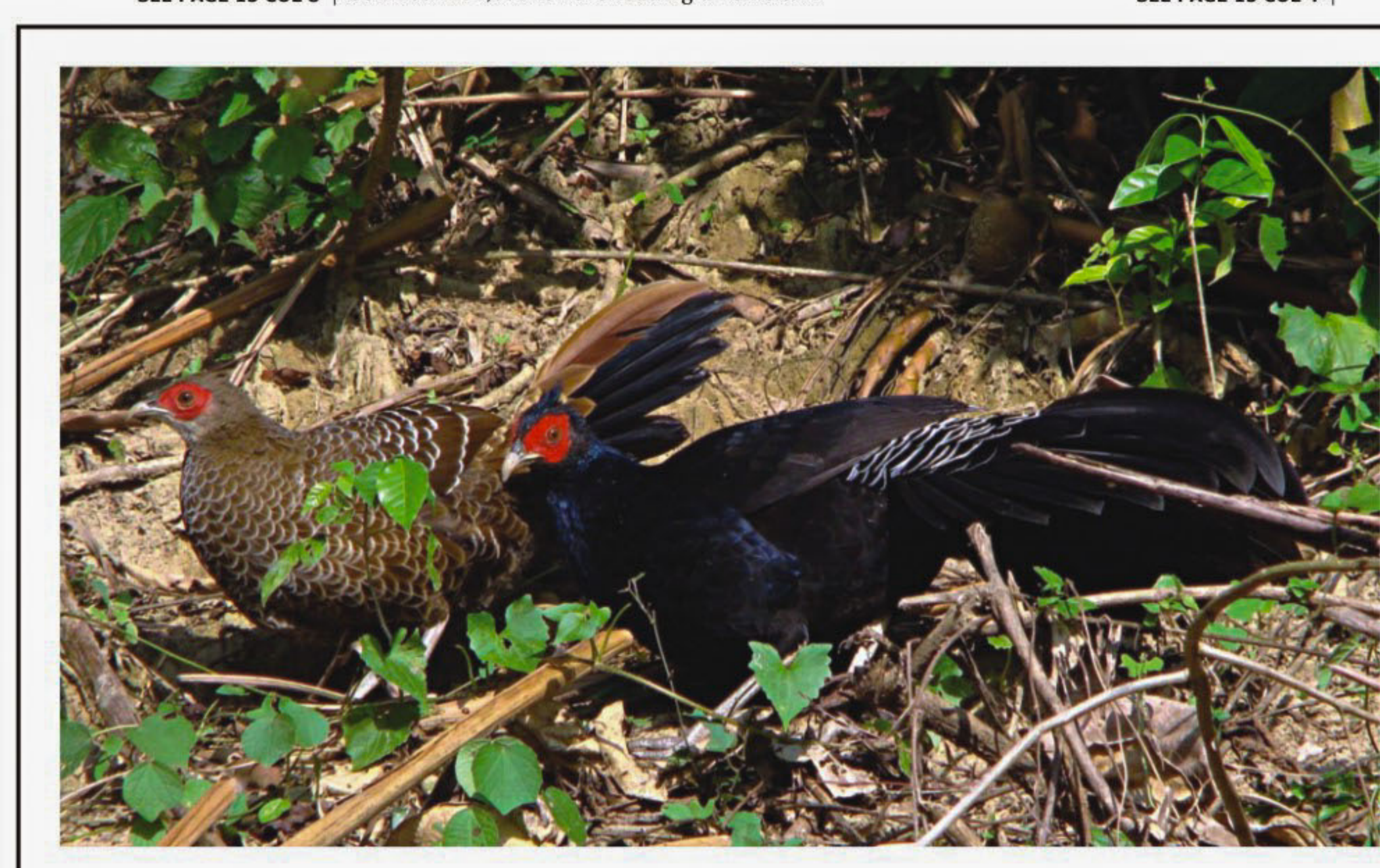
Yes (44.1%)
 No (55.8%)
 No Comments (0.1%)

Total votes: 1686

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain that the government wants partisan man as chief of next caretaker government?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net



Kaliz Pheasant, (Lophura leucomelanos) locally known as Mothura, is uncommon in Bangladesh and IUCN Bangladesh considers this species endangered. Recently 11 Mothuras were sighted in the Patharia hill area of Borolekha of Moulvibazar.

PHOTO COURTESY: SOURAV MAHMUD

Anti-tobacco law to be toughened

Draft law proposes pictorial warning on products, more tax and increased fine for smoking in public

NAJMUL ALAM NOBIN

The government is moving to amend the tobacco control act and introduce powerful pictorial warnings on cigarette packets and other tobacco items in a bid to reduce tobacco consumption drastically.

The Ministry of Health is drafting the amendment to Tobacco Control Act 2005 and considering increasing the fine for smoking in public to Tk 300 from Tk 50.

The amendment is being brought as the existing act failed to reduce or discourage tobacco consumption due to poor implementation of the law and its loopholes.

The draft amendment highlights introduction of pictorial cautionary message on no less

than 50 percent of the major display on cigarette packets and other tobacco items. This would replace the existing warning in writing that failed to make any impact.

All the packets and cartons of tobacco items must bear a message "Approved to sell only in Bangladesh" written in Bangla, says the draft, adding that sale, supply, transport and consumption of tobacco items without the message would be punishable by simple imprisonment or Tk 1 lakh as fine or both. The penalty will double or increase if someone repeats violating the law.

"A large number of people of the country are illiterate and hence unable to understand the written message on packets of cigarettes. The

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

'Robber' beaten to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged robber was beaten to death by a mob in Ashulia on the outskirts of the city early yesterday.

The deceased Alamgir Hossain, 32, hailed from Faridganj upazila of Chandpur.

Dewan Kaushik Ahmed, sub-inspector of Ashulia Police Station, said locals chased a gang of 6-7 people while they were attempting a robbery at Nutupara of Dandabor after hearing warning screams from a night guard of the area around 3:00am.

At one stage, the mob managed to catch Alamgir and beat him up severely.

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Capital dredging of waterways soon

Govt plans to dredge 5,339km waterways to increase navigability

BSS, Dhaka

Capital dredging of nearly 5339 kilometre waterways under 53 river routes of the country will be carried out soon for reviving and developing navigability.

The dredging will be done under a project titled 'Capital Dredging on Inland Waterways' at a cost of Tk 11,473 crore, which will be implemented in two phases.

Chief Engineer (dredging) of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) Engr Md Abdul Matin said this to BSS.

"Dredging under the first phase of the project will be carried out soon and it will be completed in 2013," he said, adding the second phase would commence from 2014 and be

completed within December 2018.

Engr Matin mentioned that many major and small rivers and tributaries are facing serious problem as all the rivers carry a huge quantity of sediment during rainy season every year. This causes navigability problem both in rainy and dry seasons.

The main object of the project is to develop the navigability of dead and dying inland waterways for smooth and safe plying of cargo and passengers vessels, he added.

Capital dredging will be carried out on 3,362 kilometre waterways under 23 river routes in the first phase, while another 1977 kilometre waterways under 30 river routes will be dredged in the second phase, stated the BIWTA official.

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Chinese train breaks world speed record

AP, Beijing

China's railway ministry says a Chinese passenger train has set a new record for speed, hitting 302 miles per hour (486 kilometers per hour) during a test run.

The official Xinhua News Agency said the feat took place yesterday on the yet-to-be opened line linking China's

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Prayer Timing		
December 4		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-15	5-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-19	5-22
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

মোটর ড্রাইভিং ট্রেনিং স্কুল ও ড্রাইভিং ইন্সট্রাক্টর সংক্রান্ত বিআরটিএ'র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, মোটরযান বিধি, ১৯৮৪ এর ২২ বিধি মোতাবেক মোটর ড্রাইভিং প্রশিক্ষণে নিয়োজিত ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানকে বিআরটিএ হতে মোটর ড্রাইভিং ট্রেনিং স্কুলের রেজিস্ট্রেশন গ্রহণ করা বাধ্যতামূলক। উক্ত বিধির ২৫ ধারা মোতাবেক ড্রাইভিং ইন্সট্রাক্টর বা প্রশিক্ষণে নিয়োজিত ব্যক্তিকেও ড্রাইভিং ইন্সট্রাক্টর লাইসেন্স গ্রহণ করা বাধ্যতামূলক।

এমতাবস্থায়, মোটর ড্রাইভিং প্রশিক্ষণে নিয়োজিত সকল ব্যক্তি/ইন্সট্রাক্টরকে এবং রেজিস্ট্রেশনবিহীন সকল মোটর ড্রাইভিং ট্রেনিং স্কুল/প্রতিষ্ঠানকে বিআরটিএ হতে মোটর ড্রাইভিং ট্রেনিং স্কুল রেজিস্ট্রেশন ও ড্রাইভিং ইন্সট্রাক্টর লাইসেন্স গ্রহণের নিমিত্তে নির্ধারিত ফরমে আগামী ৩১-১২-২০১০ তারিখের মধ্যে আবেদন করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। অন্যথায়, আইন/বিধি ভঙ্গকারীদের বিরুদ্ধে শাস্তিমূলক ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে। এ বিষয়ে যে কোন তথ্যের জন্য বিআরটিএ'র সদর কার্যালয়ের টেলিফোন নং ৯১৩২২৯১ অথবা মোবাইল নং ০১৭৪৪৮৮৩৮০৯ নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে।

জিডি-৫০৮৯

বিআরটিএ