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NEWS flakes

Secretary faces contempt of court charge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked Establishment Secretary Iqbal Mahbud to appear before it on January 18 in connection with contempt of court and also issued a rule upon him to explain why punitive actions should not be taken

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

JUSTICE FOR TAHER

Hearing now January 10

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday deferred till January 10 the hearing on a writ petition that challenged the martial law trial and execution of Col Abu Taher in 1976.

An HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

TIB DOCUMENTS SC asks for hard copies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court authorities yesterday sent a third letter to Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) asking printed copies of the respondents' replies in its recent household survey.

Signed by SC's

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

PRAYER TIMING January 7

Azhan	5:30	6:05
Fajr	5:30	6:05
Juma	12:30	1:15
Asr	4:00	4:15
Maghrib	5:30	5:35
Esha	7:00	7:30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Costly purchase of rice okayed

Govt has to pay 35pc higher price for importing 2.5 lakh tonnes from Vietnam

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh will import 2.5 lakh tonnes of rice from Vietnam at a price 35 percent higher compared to four months ago, as prices have jumped on the world market.

The decision came yesterday at a meeting of the cabinet committee on purchase following a fall in rice stock and difficulties in purchasing rice from private importers.

The committee also decided to procure 50,000 tonnes of rice from private importers at a lower price than what is offered by Vietnam.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith, who chaired the meeting, told journalists that

the government is having problems in importing rice, as its prices have shot up on the international market.

The market situation compelled the government to purchase rice from Vietnam at a much higher price.

Asked about the country's rice stock, the finance minister said, "We are worried, but not scared."

The purchase committee approved a proposal for purchasing two lakh tonnes of non-boiled rice at \$545 per tonne, and 50,000 tonnes of boiled rice got \$550 a tonne from Vietnam.

In August last year, one lakh tonne of rice was imported from Vietnam at \$407 a

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Summit gets two more power contracts

Finance minister worried over too many jobs for one company

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday expressed concern over awarding too many power projects to local entrepreneur Summit Power that has won as many as six projects by submitting lowest price

in different tenders.

His concerns came following the Cabinet Purchase Committee's approval of two more power projects in favour of Summit. These two power projects are Syedpur 100 megawatt heavy fuel oil

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Seven pilots charged with Biman strike

RASHIDUL HASAN

Biman Bangladesh Airlines yesterday pressed charges against seven pilots under its service rules for striking and breaching discipline during a row over retirement age last year.

It also appointed a top Biman official to conduct further investigation against the seven, Biman administration sources told The Daily Star.

Bangladesh Airline Pilots' Association leaders have termed the Biman action unlawful. Two of them said they will take legal action against the authority.

The pilots -- BAPA General Secretary Captain Mahtab, former president Capt Helal, former general secretary

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

ONLINE POLL
Do you agree with Suranjit Sengupta that the parliament is sovereign and everything including the judiciary is accountable to it?

Yes (24.7%)
No (72.3%)
No Comments (3.0%)
TOTAL VOTES : 523

TODAY'S POLL
Do you think Awami League lawmaker Manirul Islam Moni's membership of parliament should be considered for cancellation following his assault on a WDB engineer over a tender process in Barisal?
PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT
www.thedailystar.net



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

A patient awaiting operation in a cold and damp surgical ward of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital. The photo was taken a few days ago.

JS session starts on Jan 25

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad goes into the New Year session on January 25 with uncertainty over the return of the main opposition to parliament.

President Zillur Rahman yesterday

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

ELEVATED EXPRESSWAY

Ital-Thai to get job by Tuesday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA) has decided to award the elevated expressway project to the winning bidder by Tuesday.

The BBA wants to sign the concession agreement with Ital-Thai Development Company before Prime Minister

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

HUJI LINK Mufti Izhar remanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday placed Mufti Izharul Islam Chowdhury, president of an Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) faction, on a four-day remand in two cases filed for his alleged involvement with a banned militant outfit,

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

নাটকের মহড়া
বাড়ি পৌঁছে দেয়া...
বলা না-বলা লুকোচুরি,
ভালোবাসি - বিনিময় হয়নি
তবু চোখে চোখে বলা হয়ে যায়
কাছে আসার অভিপ্রায়...

এমনই ছিলো আলী যাকের-সারা যাকেরের কাছে আসার গল্প।
এবার বলুন আপনি, পৃথিবীকে আনিয়ে দিন আপনার গল্প।
আসছে ড্যান্টেইন ডে উপলক্ষে শুরু হয়েছে
'Closeup - কাছে আসার গল্প' প্রতিযোগিতা।
২০ জানুয়ারি ২০১১ এর মধ্যে লিখে পাঠান আপনার ভালোবাসার গল্প।
নির্বাচিত সেরা ও গল্প নিয়ে নির্মিত হবে ভালোবাসা দিবসে ও নাটিকা।
থাকছে আরো সারপ্রাইজ।

গল্প পাঠানোর ঠিকানা: জিপিও বক্স ৪০৩৪ অথবা closeupstory@adcommad.com

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শর্তাবলী: লেখা পরিষ্কার হতে হবে • সাদা কাগজের একপাঠে লিখে পাঠাবেন এবং খামের ওপর প্রতিযোগিতার নাম, আপনার নাম, ঠিকানা এবং প্রাপকের ঠিকানা লিখে পাঠাবেন • গল্পের সাথে ব্যক্তিগত মোবাইল নম্বর উল্লেখ করতে হবে • গল্পে অশ্লীলতা বর্জনীয় • গল্প ১০০০ শব্দের মধ্যে হতে হবে • যেকোনো প্রয়োজনে গল্পকারের সঙ্গে কর্তৃপক্ষ যোগাযোগ করতে পারবে • গল্প নির্বাচনে বিচারকদের রায়ই চূড়ান্ত • নির্বাচিত বিজয়ীর গল্পে নাট্যনির্মাতার স্ক্রিপ্ট তৈরি ও নির্দেশনা প্রদানে পূর্ণ স্বাধীনতা থাকবে • ইউনিভার্সাল বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড, আডকম, মাইডশেয়ার, এনটিভি ও রেডিও ফুটরি'র সাথে সংশ্লিষ্ট কেউ এই প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন না।

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