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Tribunal gets report on Sayedee probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The prosecution yesterday submitted to the International Crimes Tribunal a report on the progress of investigation into war crimes allegedly committed by Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delwar

Vegetables on Mahasthangarh

Plundering goes unabated at archaeological sites in Bogra

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, Bogra

Many archaeological sites including the Mahasthangarh have fallen into ruin in Bogra mainly due to apathy among locals and neglect by the Department of Archaeology of Bangladesh.

At least 50 sites bearing the legacy of Maurya, Gupta and Pala dynasties in Bogra are now at the risk of destruction as the archaeology department falls short of manpower to protect them.

The historic Pundranagar popularly known as Mahasthangarh and other 33 archaeological sites centring around it were declared protected in 1922 under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904 during the British rule.

Md Badrul Alam, acting Rajshahi regional director of the Department of Archaeology, said official records show the department has purchased only 37 of the 516 acre-land in the Pundranagar.

Md Shafiqul Islam, Shibganj upazila agriculture extension officer, said, "Locals have been growing

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This cabbage field at Mathura in sadar upazila of Bogra has replaced the Buddhist temple built during the Pala dynasty around 1,500 years ago.

PHOTO: HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU

BNP gearing up for UP elections

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

Inspired by recent success in municipality elections and parliamentary by-polls, the main opposition BNP is gearing up for the upcoming union parishad (UP) elections scheduled for the next two months.

The party is now conducting a countrywide survey to collect information on prospective candidates, insiders said.

BNP policymakers have decided to form a central coordination committee and a central monitoring cell to look after the election-related activities. The central coordination committee will form committee for each division to coordinate elections at

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Man dies in custody

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A man accused of abducting a 5-year-old child died in police custody in Faridpur Police Station of the district on Monday night.

The deceased was identified as Md Hasan Ali, 40, of Arkandi village in the upazila.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Pabna, Jahangir Hossain Matobar said, "We are not sure how the

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Unfair anti-graft law to stumble on court

Warns roundtable on govt move to amend ACC Act, keep govt staffs out of its jurisdiction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Any amendment to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Act contradicting the constitution will not sustain before the High Court, eminent lawyer Shahdeen Malik has said.

"This is a kind of immunity -- a kind of indemnity for a section of people that prior permission will be required before filing cases against government officials," he said at a roundtable in the capital yesterday.

terday.

"If passed, this discriminatory law will not sustain a legal battle before the High Court, as our constitution ensures equity for all before law."

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) organised the roundtable at LGED Bhaban in Agargaon against the backdrop of the government move for bringing 10 amendments to the ACC law.

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Cop killed in attack by villagers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A police sub-inspector was killed and four others were injured when a group of villagers attacked them during an operation at Barkipur village of Goainghat upazila early yesterday.

Deceased Mizanur Rahman, 45, was the SI of Goainghat Police Station. He hailed from Homna upazila in Comilla.

The injured policemen were admitted to

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46,000 jobs to go

Govt to shut nutrition centres on WB prescription, merge the scheme into main health programme

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

At least 46,000 nutrition workers are to lose jobs following a merger of the National Nutrition Programme with the mainstream health and family planning scheme in June.

Sources said the plan taken up under World Bank prescription will be finalised within this month.

Nutritionists and NGOs working on health issues say after the merger the focus on free delivery of nutrition packages to women and children will be drifted away and the nation would lose some

46,000 trained workers.

The health and family planning programme has remained ineffective due to lack of manpower and the nutrition programme is going to meet the same fate, they added.

With the new programme all the 42,000 nutrition centres at around 150 upazilas will be closed from June and nutrition packages be delivered through community clinics.

In a meeting on February 6, the health ministry decided to merge the nutrition scheme with five-year (2011-2016) Health

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7 missing as 2 vessels sink in Bay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Seven crewmembers went missing after two vessels capsized in the Bay of Bengal near Kutubdia channel early yesterday.

MV Titu-21 and MV Titu-22 sank with 2,700 tonnes of cement clinker when MV RAMSI -- a heavier vessel -- hit those 10.65 nautical miles (app 20km) off Kutubdia Light House around 12:30am, said sources in the Chittagong Port.

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No to domestic help under-12

HC declares excesses on them illegal

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Declaring all forms of violence, torture and repression on domestic helps illegal, the High Court yesterday ordered the government to ensure that no child aged below 12 is employed as domestic worker.

In its judgement on a writ petition, the HC also directed the government to incorporate a provision in the labour law, recognising domestic helps aged between 12 and 18 years as child workers.

The existing labour law does not recognise domestic helps as workers.

The HC judgement contained a set of other directives to the government that include taking immediate steps to ensure security and a congenial working environment

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Chevron fined \$8.6b for pollution

BBC ONLINE

A court in Ecuador has fined US oil giant Chevron \$8.6bn for polluting a large part of the country's Amazon region.

The oil firm Texaco, which merged with Chevron in 2001, was

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PRAYER TIMING February 16

Fajr	5-25	6-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	5-57	6-01
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

ONLINE POLL

Do you think BNP's plan to hold protest programmes in all parts of the country except Dhaka and Chittagong during the Cricket World Cup 2011 is justified?

Yes (39.9%)
No (58.2%)
No Comments (1.9%)

TOTAL VOTES : 782

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think there is a political instigation behind Monday's violent protest and vandalism following the stockmarket crash?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

Weaving a dream

INAM AHMED

On this warm winter afternoon, Ambalika Dev Barma is busy with her handloom. The shuttle moves across the loom laying down the fill yarn. It passes through the comb-like reed that presses the filling yarn right against the fabric.

With each passing of the shuttle, the cloth gets longer. And longer gets the dream of Ambalika and nine others in the indigenous Tripura village in Srimongol.

Bright red and blue yarn feeds into the

PHOTO: STAR

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RECKLESS DRIVING Mother, child crushed to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 10-year-old boy and his mother were killed after being struck by a bus on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at the city's Matuail yesterday.

Rifat Khan, a class IV student of Shamsul Huq School and College of Dagair, and his mother Rebeka Yasmin Marjina, 40, died on the spot.

Quoting witnesses, Sub-Inspector Pradip Kumar Kundu of Jatrabari Police Station said a Matlab-bound bus hit the two while they were crossing the road around 11:45am. The mother was taking the boy to his school.

Locals chased the bus, but it sped away. They staged demonstration protesting the accident and traffic remained suspended for around half an hour.

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Rifat Khan Rebeka Yasmin

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BIT 4TH INVITATIONAL VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT 2011

Bangladesh International Tutorial hosted and organized the 4th Invitational Volleyball Tournament 2011 from 10 - 12 February, 2011 in the Senior School Premises.

This year five schools took part in the event - The Aga Khan School, Australian International School, Mastermind, Scholastica, S.F.X Greenherald International School.

The BIT boys' team won the Championship fourth year in a row and the Scholastica girls' team won it four years in succession.

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BIT Boys Triumph
Scholastica Girls Triumph