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in Short

LGED fined for filling up waterbody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined Tk 4.20 lakh to the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) for filling earth in a waterbody to construct a road.

A mobile team of DoE in a special enforcement drive found ongoing earth filling at Bhakurta of Savar thana to

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Kerry Kennedy rallies behind Grameen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kerry Kennedy, a human rights activist and niece of former American president John F Kennedy, has recently joined Friends of Grameen, an international platform set up to protect interests of Grameen Bank and its founder Muhammad Yunus.

She will be one of the vice presidents of the group's executive

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2 women commit suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two young women allegedly committed suicide by hanging themselves from ceiling fans at Dakkhinkhan and Pallabi in the city Tuesday night.

Dakkhinkhan police recovered the body of Rajoni Akhter, 18, daughter of Abdur Rahman from her rented flat at Nagaria

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ADFLAME CASE Prosecution seeks time

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The hearing of the case against Adflame Pharmaceuticals in connection with manufacturing adulterated paracetamol syrup was not held yesterday as Assistant Director of the Directorate of Drug Administration (DDA) did not appear before the court.

Judge Mohammad

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PRAYER TIMING February 24

Azan	5-20	5-55
Fajr	5-20	5-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-03	6-07
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

CELL PHONE CRIMES

Operators to be blamed

Says state minister; mobile companies upset

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mobile phone operators will be held responsible for usage of their SIM cards in crimes, said state minister for home yesterday.

The operators in such cases will have to provide identity and location of the offender to law enforcers, State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku told The Daily Star after a meeting with representatives of the country's six mobile phone companies at the ministry.

The mobile operators, however, said the country's laws do not indict them for the misuse of their services.

"If anybody commits any crime using the cellphone, how the operators should be blamed?" asked Abu Saeed Khan, secretary general of Association of Mobile Telecom Operators in Bangladesh, a lobby group.

The meeting decided to form a committee to monitor the activities of cell phone distributors and retailers to prevent the sale of unauthorised SIMs (subscriber identity module). The monitoring cell will be headed by Joint Secretary Kamal Uddin Ahmed of the home ministry.

The representatives urged the government to relax the existing rules which require applicants to show their

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Dhaka, Moscow on the verge of N-power plant deal

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Almost two years after initiating the process, Bangladesh and Russia are set to finalise a draft agreement on setting up two 1000 megawatt nuclear power plants in Rooppur.

"The two countries are contemplating on some aspects of the draft which is going to be signed soon," State Minister for Science and

Information and Communication Technology Yeafesh Osman told The Daily Star yesterday.

This would be the last step before the two sides strike a final deal at the end of April during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to Moscow, he added.

A five-member team, headed by Deputy Director of Rosatom Nikolai Spasskiy, arrived in Dhaka yesterday to

initial the draft agreement following a meeting with the ICT state minister.

The prime minister will discuss the progress of the project with her senior colleagues and the experts on March 2.

The estimated cost of a 1000MW nuclear power plant ranges between \$1.5 billion and \$2 billion, ministry sources said.

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Ustad Zakir Hussain, the world's unrivalled tabla maestro, captivates the audience in Bangabandhu International Conference Centre yesterday. (Story on Page 5)

PHOTO: STAR

4 SC judges sworn in

5 protesting HC judges go on short leave

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Newly appointed four judges of the Supreme Court (SC) were sworn in yesterday amid a 'protest' of some High Court (HC) judges, who had been dropped during the BNP-Jamaat alliance government.

Five of the protesting judges of HC yesterday went on a few days' leave in protest at the appointment of four judges without meeting their demand of appointing two of them to the apex court, sources in the SC said.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told The Daily Star he will try to solve the problem regarding appointment of judges in the apex court through consultation with the law minister.

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ONLINE POLL
 Do you think Ashrafal should be given a chance against Ireland in the ICC Cricket World Cup match?
 Yes (51.0%)
 No (44.9%)
 No Comments (4.1%)
 TOTAL VOTES : 394
TODAY'S POLL
 Do you think the spreading mass protest against governments across the Middle East are results of western influence as alleged by the Libyan ruler Gaddafi?
 PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

HORRIFIC HUNTING



PHOTO: COURTESY

A Santal community moved to Adamdighi of Bogra from Kurigram and are now poaching mongooses, monitor lizards and wild cats for food. The existence of these animals in the area is now threatened with the indigenous people sweeping through wildlife for survival.

No more change in metro route

Govt to assure Jica it won't make unilateral decision

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

The government is making a written commitment to Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica), the consultant and possible financier of metro rail project, that it will not unilaterally modify the rail route any more.

Jica that has conducted a study for the project and outlined the 21.5-kilometre route from Uttara Third Phase to Syedabad, expressed surprise over the government's recent decision of modifying about four kilometres of the route in the original plan.

The company had showed interest in financing 80 percent of the project cost, \$ 1.7 billion.

The agency also asked the government to determine a time frame for the completion of other related aspects of the project. The government has taken Jica's reservations seriously and prepared a response.

Sources said the communications ministry now

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TEKNAF MUTINY 51 BGB men convicted

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Fifty-one jawans of 42 Rifles Battalion of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) were sentenced to different jail terms ranging from one year to seven years yesterday for their involvement in the 2009 mutiny in Teknaf of Cox's Bazar.

The Special Court-16 led by BGB Rangamati Sector Commander Col Md Bashirul Islam also fined each of the convicts Tk 100.

The court in presence of the accused pronounced the verdict at Cox's Bazar BGB 17

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বিজিএমইএ
 বিজিএমইএ কমপ্লেক্স, ২৩/১. পাছপথ লিংক রোড, কারওয়ান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫
জরুরী মতবিনিময় সভা
 বিজিএমইএ'র সম্মানিত সদস্যদের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, আজ ২৪শে ফেব্রুয়ারী ২০১১ তারিখ বিকাল ৪:০০ ঘটিকায় বিজিএমইএ অডিটোরিয়ামে (বিজিএমইএ কমপ্লেক্স, ২৩/১ পাছপথ লিংক রোড, কারওয়ান বাজার, ঢাকা) পোশাক শিল্পে উদ্ভূত পরিস্থিতি বিষয়ে এক জরুরী মতবিনিময় সভার আয়োজন করা হয়েছে।
 উক্ত জরুরী মতবিনিময় সভায় উপস্থিত থাকার জন্য বিজিএমইএ'র সম্মানিত সদস্যগণকে বিনীত অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে।
 সচিব

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সেচ কার্বে বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবহার, চলমান এইচ এস সি পরীক্ষা ও বিশ্বকাপ ক্রিকেট চলাকালে পিক আওয়ারে শিল্প কারখানায় বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবহার বন্ধ রাখা সংক্রান্ত জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি
 সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, সেচ মৌসুম শুরু হওয়ায় এবং গ্রীষ্মের আগমনে তাপমাত্রা ক্রমাগত বৃদ্ধির কারণে বিদ্যুতের চাহিদা উত্তরোত্তর বৃদ্ধি পাচ্ছে। ফলে বিদ্যুৎ চাহিদার তুলনায় অপ্রতুল উৎপাদন এর কারণে কর্তৃপক্ষ লোডশেডিং আরোপে বাধ্য হচ্ছে। এদিকে চলমান এইচ এস সি পরীক্ষা এবং বিশ্বকাপ ক্রিকেট খেলাকে বিশেষ গুরুত্ব দিয়ে অধিকতর লোড ম্যানেজমেন্ট এর প্রয়োজন দেখা দিয়েছে। এই বাস্তবতার নিরীখে সকল শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠানে পিক-আওয়ারে অর্থাৎ বিকাল ৫:০০ ঘটিকা হতে রাত ১১:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবহার বন্ধ রাখার জন্য অনুরোধ জানানো হলো। উক্ত সময়ে শিল্প কারখানায় বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবহার করা হলে বিদ্যুৎ সংযোগ তাত্ক্ষণিকভাবে বিচ্ছিন্ন করা ছাড়া গত্যন্তর থাকবে না।
 এতদ্বিষয়ে সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের সহযোগিতা একান্ত কাম্য।
ঢাকা ইলেকট্রিক সাপ্লাই কোম্পানী লিমিটেড (ডেসকো)