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Nipah claims 2 more

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Nipah encephalitis claimed two more lives in Rangpur yesterday, raising the death toll to 35.

Maloti Rani, 38, died at Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) around 6:00am while five-year-old Rakib Hossain at about 9:00am, Dr Zakir Hossain, head of RMCH Medicine Department, told The Daily Star.

Maloti, wife of Monoranjon of Kaharul upazila in

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HSC exams start Apr 5

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and its equivalent examinations will begin on April 5 instead of earlier announced date of April 1.

Eight education boards, the Technical Education Board and Madrasa Education Board will conduct the nearly two-month-long examinations for 2011.

On Thursday, the education ministry approved the examinations routine sent by the inter-education board.

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PRAYER TIMING February 26		
Azhan	Jamaat	
Fajr 5-15	5-50	
Zohr 12-45	1-15	
Asr 4-30	4-45	
Maghrib 6-05	6-10	
Esha 7-30	8-00	

Source: Islamic Foundation

Call for justice

Tributes paid to army officers killed in 2009 BDR mutiny

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation amidst calls for justice by their beloved family members yesterday paid rich tributes to the army officers killed in the 2009 mutiny by the paramilitary border guards at their Pilkhana headquarters on this day.

"We want justice and seek blessings for the departed souls of my husband and others," said a slain army officer's widow after paying tributes at the Banani military graveyard. Another slain officer's

mother sought cooperation of all to get justice.

At least 74 people including 57 army officials deputed to the paramilitary force were brutally killed in the February 25-26 bloody mutiny.

Floral wreaths were placed on behalf of President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the memorial built at Banani graveyard for the slain officers.

Ruling Awami League and main

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Children light candles to mark the 2nd anniversary of Pilkhana carnage and pay homage to the victims at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

SERAFINA SUICIDE

Family now fears social exclusion

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Serafina Mardi's family is not willing to take fresh legal action against the rapists fearing social exclusion.

The indigenous girl was gang raped and then set herself on fire succumbing to utter humiliation through her wedding to one of the rapists followed by an out-of-court settlement.

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Khaleda demands midterm polls

Asks govt to quit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Demanding a midterm election, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday asked the government to step down immediately to avoid a "disgraceful exit".

Calling for a movement, she urged people to raise their voice to protect self dignity and the interest of the country which is going through a "critical" time.

"A major uprising can be avoided only by a peaceful power transition without delay," said Khaleda at a meeting at Mahanagar Natya Mancha organised by her party marking the two-year of the Pilkhana massacre.

She said the government has failed to hold a fair investigation and trial of Pilkhana killings in last two years and

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Manipulation possible

Says Muhith on stockmarket crisis

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said the share market is not dogged by a credit crunch but a manipulation is possible.

"Manipulation in Bangladesh capital market cannot be ruled out for the simple reason that it is a very immature market....It's an incestuous stockmarket where owners

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Biman asked to pay off Tk 135cr arrears

CAAB renews its operation certificate for short duration to exert pressure

SHARIFUL ISLAM

To exert pressure to pay Tk 135 crore arrears, the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) has renewed Air Operation Certificate (AOC) of Biman Bangladesh Airlines for three months instead of usual one year for using Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

"We have asked Biman in a letter to pay off the debt. We have also asked the

authorities to inform when they will be able to pay the arrears if not now," said a top Caab official seeking anonymity.

The debt to the CAAB has piled up since 2007 as Biman has not been paying charges for parking and aeronautical services.

However, Air Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed, chairman of the Biman board of directors, told The Daily Star that he was

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Rare goose spotted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A rare species of goose was spotted for the first time in the country in Hakaluki Haor of Moulvibazar district last Saturday.

A group of bird watchers led by eminent bird specialists Dr Enam al Haque and Paul Thompson have found the 'lesser white-fronted goose' on the concluding day of the two-day bird enumeration session at the haor.

"This species of goose has been detected for the first time in the country after the introduction of enumeration," Dr Haque said.

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The Daily Star
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