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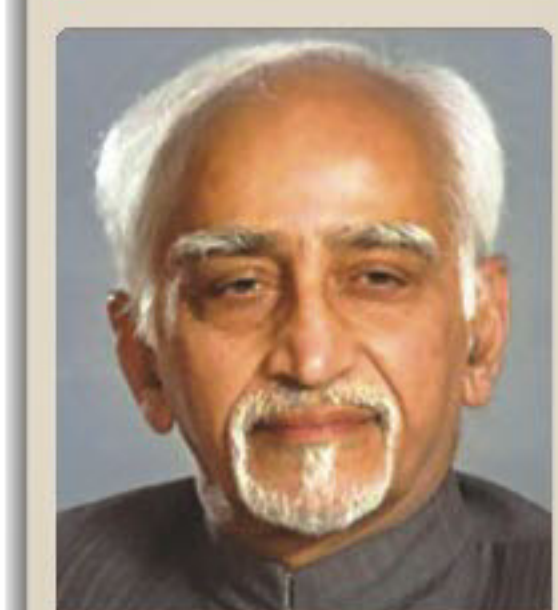
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Indian vice president due May 5

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Indian Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari is going to visit Dhaka for two days from May 5 to join Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to inaugurate the 150th birth anniversary of Nobel laureate poet

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Karnaphuli dredging soon

Tk 229cr project agreement signed

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Ctg

The long-expected capital dredging of the river Karnaphuli and construction of a 2.6 kilometre-long road along its bank begin soon to improve the navigability of the river and resolve water-logging in the port city.

The government entered an agreement here yesterday with Malaysian Maritime and Dredging Corporation (MMD) to implement a 229.54 crore project in this regard.

Once implemented in its scheduled 600 days, the project would increase the depth and width of the Karnaphuli, hoped Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan, chief guest at the signing ceremony.

It would also reduce the congestion of vessels significantly at the river channel stretching from Sadarghat to Banglabazar and also in the river mouth, added the minister.

As per the project profile, around 2 km bed of the river stretching from Sadarghat jetty to some 500 metre off 3rd Karnaphuli Bridge would be dredged.

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Land grabbers have set up tin-roofed houses on a char in the Karnaphuli river in Chittagong. Lack of large-scale dredging has led to the surfacing of such large chars in the river.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS



AUG 21 ATTACK Huji boss remanded

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Rahmatullah alias Sheikh Farid, a leader of banned Harkatul Jihad al Islami (Huji), on a seven-day

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

Garment owners to hire Libya returnees

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) will employ the Bangladeshi workers who returned from Libya in the garment industries by imparting them training.

"We will provide employment opportunities for the Bangladeshi workers who returned from Libya," said Shafiqul Islam Mohiuddin, newly elected president of BGMEA, when a delegation of the trade body called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday.

During the meeting, the BGMEA leaders expressed gratitude to the prime minister for her prudent leadership to keep

the country's economic wheel running despite worldwide recession and solving GSP problems.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting, PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad said that they discussed various issues of increasing export and readymade garments and expansion of trade and business.

At the outset of the meeting, the premier congratulated the newly elected office bearers of BGMEA and said that her government has been working relentlessly for ensuring overall development of the country through economic emancipation of the people.

She said her government has ensured

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

IOM to fly in 930 troubled Bangladeshis

Repatriation resumes soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After a gap of around three weeks, the cash-strapped International Organization for Migration (IOM) has decided to repatriate 930 Bangladeshis, who had already fled to Al Saloum border from chaotic Libya.

They would be flown home in five flights chartered by the IOM in the next few days.

Repatriation of the rest

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

VICTIM 'FOUND' GUILTY Sahara stands by police probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two weeks after the Rab chief's admission that maimed Limon is not a criminal, Home Minister Sahara Khatun yesterday defended the police charge sheet that described him as a criminal "arrested with arms and ammunition".

Sub-inspector Ariful Islam of Rajapur Police Station in Jhalakathi on April 24 pressed charges against Limon and seven others in an arms case filed by the Rapid Action Battalion.



Limon

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

Investigate all extra-judicial killings

BNP asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday asked the government to investigate the recent extra-judicial killings and incidents of torture in police custody neutrally and take stern actions against those responsible.

"The country's human rights situation has reached an alarming level as the government is using law enforcement agencies to harass political opponents," said

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

POLLUTION DoE fines 3 factories

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile team of Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined three factories in Narsingdi and Fatulla a total of Tk 21 lakh for polluting the environment. The team, led by

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

ONLINE POLL

Do you think Dhaka Metropolitan Police should come up with explanation for the signboard it has hung that prohibits male and female to sit together by the Crescent Lake?

Yes 76.9%

No 21.6%

No Comments 1.5%

TOTAL VOTES : 472

TODAY'S POLL

Did you like Awami League proposals to the parliamentary special committee on constitutional amendment?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING April 29

Azan	Jamaat
Fajr 4:20	4:55
Juma 12:30	1:15
Asr 4:45	5:00
Maghrib 6:29	6:34
Esha 8:00	8:30

Source: Islamic Foundation



Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, currently serving as the president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue in the Roman Curia, calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday. Story on page 2

PHOTO: PID

US storms kill 250

BBC ONLINE

Tornadoes and storms in the south-eastern United States have killed at least 250 people, officials say.

In Alabama, the worst-hit state, more than 162 have died in recent days - including 36 killed by a tornado that devastated the city of Tuscaloosa.

Deaths and widespread devastation are also reported in Tennessee, Mississippi, Georgia and Virginia.

MORE ON PAGE 7

Graft failing objectives

Discloses survey on social safety net programmes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amidst corruption and managerial inefficiency, Social Safety Net (SSN) programmes in the country are failing to achieve its core objective of ensuring social protection to the vulnerable groups of people, said a study.

A good portion of beneficiaries reaping benefits under SSN are actually ineligible as per the programme provision and are doing so through corrupt practices, it said.

Such irregularities are costing the country huge public

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

Cancel nod to 30 NGOs

Suggests JS body for 'graft' in climate project selection

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary body yesterday asked the environment ministry to cancel approval of around 30 NGOs to implement projects under the Climate Change Trust Fund (CCTF) for alleged irregularities and ambiguity in the selection process.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

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