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3 factories fined for river pollution

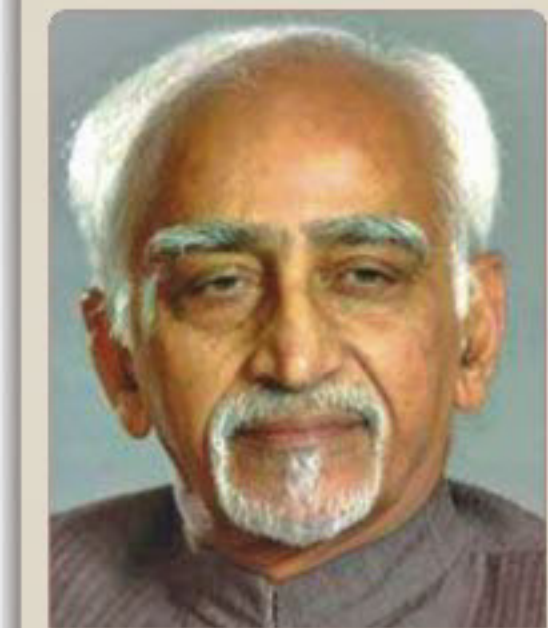
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) in a drive fined three factories in Tongi Tk 40 lakh yesterday for discharging untreated liquid waste into the Turag River.

Paradise Washing Ltd and Surf Knitting and Dyeing do not have any effluent treatment plant (ETP), while Hamid Textile Ltd had set up an ETP but never used it.

Also none of them have environment clearance certificates.

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Indian vice president due today

BSS, Dhaka

Indian Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari arrives today on a two-day visit to Bangladesh to join the 150th birth anniversary celebration of Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni will receive Ansari and his spouse Salma Ansari at Hazrat

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SC concludes fatwa hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday concluded hearing on an appeal filed against the High Court verdict that declared fatwa (religious edict) illegal.

The six-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque will

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Reshuffle in police dept

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirty-two senior police officers with the ranks of additional superintendent of police to additional deputy inspector general were transferred yesterday.

The transferred officials include 12 superintendents of police and seven deputy commissioners, sources at the Police Headquarters said.

PRAYER TIMING May 5

Fajr	4-15	4-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-31	6-35
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

VIOLENCE IN DINAJPUR

CID suspects cops at fault

STAR REPORT

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) is suspicious about the role of police in Tuesday's robbery, following which violence erupted in Birganj and Kaharol upazilas, sources say.

Seven members of CID yesterday visited Birganj and Kaharol police stations and the robbery scene at Ghasiara village in Kaharol. They talked with policemen concerned and locals and collected evidence and necessary information.

Speaking anonymously, a CID official said the role of police during the robbery and demonstration of thousands of people is questionable, reports our Dinajpur correspondent.

"Such simultaneous uprisings against police at three separate places were suspicious," commented the CID official.

Meanwhile, Dinajpur police in a letter to the Headquarters confirmed of the robbery. They told the HQ in Dhaka that a mob in Kaharol swooped on a police patrol team calling the law enforcers robbers while the real culprits escaped.

However, the clarification sent by the acting superin

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Haphazardly parked fruit-laden trucks on Ahsanullah Road near Badamtoli in Old Dhaka hinder movement of pedestrians and vehicles. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

India for joint effort to stop border killings

Claims 40pc causalities to be Indians

REZAUL KARIM, from New Delhi

The Indian government instructed its border guards to exercise maximum tolerance to prevent killing of innocent people on the border.

Indian Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao said this in New Delhi yesterday while talking to a group of Bangladeshi journalists visiting India at the invitation of the Indian external affairs ministry.

"We are equally concerned at the casualties in the border... Forty percent of the total casualties are Indians, so we are sincere to stop this," she said.

Rao said India and Bangladesh should make joint efforts to stop illegal border crossing especially at night. It is very difficult for the border guards to identify criminals or innocent people in the dark.

A campaign should be launched to

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Lift ban on Muktangon rallies

Demands BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday demanded withdrawal of the ban on holding rallies at the city's Muktangon where it decided to hold a rally on May 9.

At a press briefing at the party's Naya Palatan office in the capital, Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, BNP acting secretary

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Go tough against interference

Law enforcers urge EC to ensure free, fair second phase of UP polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several law enforcement officials yesterday at a meeting urged the election commission to go tough against 'political interference' to ensure a free and fair second phase of union parishad polls.

Sharing their experience in the just concluded first phase of the polls, some

officials and deputy commissioners said they could not discharge their duties properly due to interference and obstacles created politically.

The EC responded asking the Home Ministry to launch a drive against identified criminals and illegal weapons before the next phase of polls.

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PHOTO: STAR

Pangolin released in eco park

An Indian Pangolin locally known as Bonrui (because it has fish-like scaly body) was captured in Haluaghat last week by a Garo man. It was later released into Madhutila Eco Park with the help of some nature lovers and forest department people. Pangoline is an anteater and a mammal now endangered in Bangladesh. Dr Reza Khan, a wildlife expert, says this animal used to be widely distributed over the country excluding the coastal parts of Khulna, Barisal, Patuakhali, Noakhali and Chittagong regions. It has possibly disappeared from Kushtia, Jessore, Pabna, Bogra, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Rajshahi and most parts of Dhaka and Comilla regions. Loss of habitat and poaching are the main reasons for its disappearance. Pangolin is currently found in small numbers in the Shal, evergreen and semi-evergreen forests.



PAY HIKE PLEDGED Many workers in Jordan call off strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 3,000 striking Asian workers including 800 Bangladeshis in Jordan returned to work over the last week after their employers agreed a minimal pay hike.

Around 2,000 others, however, are still abstaining from work that they started almost a month ago. Of them, about 600 are Bangladeshis, said Toufiq Islam Shatil, first secretary of Bangladesh embassy in Amman.

"Some companies increased their salary by 10 to 15 Jordanian Dollars (JD) making way for them to resume work," Toufiq

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WAR CRIMES TRIAL

PM calls for patience

Liberation War Museum to get permanent home

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged the people to have patience for a flawless trial of the accused war criminals of 1971.

"One small mistake from us can foil the entire process," the prime minister said while addressing the foundation laying ceremony of the Liberation War Museum building at the city's Agargaon yesterday morning.

The Liberation War Museum was established at the city's Segun Bagicha at a rented house on March 22, 1996.

The government has allocated 2.5 bighas of lands and so far managed Tk 24 crore in collaboration with Muktijuddha

Smriti Trust. The museum would require Tk 100 crore to finish.

Addressing the ceremony, PM said the war criminals must be tried for their crimes against humanity during the liberation war.

She said everybody has to realise that the trial process has been initiated 40 years after the independence.

"If we can wait for 40 years, we also can wait for some more time for the sake of an unblemished trial," she said.

"It is not that we will try two or three war criminals and then stop the process. Trying the war criminals would be a continuous process," she said.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4 PHOTO ON PAGE 2

Cops bar Amini from press meet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday barred Fazlul Haque Amini, chairman of a faction of Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ), from attending a press conference, and confined him to a mosque in Lalbagh of the capital since morning.

Amini came out of Lalbagh Shahi Mosque around 9:00am for attending a press conference in National Press Club.

But the law enforcers

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No writing on taka, please

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank has requested all concerned to refrain from writing on currency notes as it causes financial loss to its bearer, destroys security features and wears out the notes.

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ONLINE POLL

Now that it is apparent that ISI was sheltering Osama bin Laden, what should the world community do with Pakistan?

Put pressure on Pakistan government to reform ISI (70.7%)

Noting to be done (29.3%)

TOTAL VOTES : 345

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think religion based political parties and organisations should be banned?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net