

FROM PINNACLE TO JAIL

IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn spends night in prison

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DYSFUNCTIONAL POLITICS

Syed Badrul Ahsan holds BNP responsible

PAGE 14

A NEW BEGINNING?

Queen Elizabeth II starts visiting the Republic of Ireland

PAGE 7

Bangladeshi firms lease African land

AFP, Dhaka

Two Bangladeshi companies have leased 40,000 hectares of farmland in Africa as part of a government drive to improve food security in the country, said a foreign ministry official yesterday.

The companies have leased the land in Uganda and Tanzania. Another firm will sign a deal for a further 10,000 hectares in Tanzania this week, said Farhadul Islam, a director of the foreign ministry. "The government strongly supports

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Public transport goes haywire

Operators ignore new fare rate for city, keep charging extra

M ABUL KALAM AZAD and HASAN JAHD TUSHER

Transport operators at their whim continue to charge extra fares from passengers on all routes in the capital, apparently due to lack of government control over the sector.

Successive governments have failed to formulate a comprehensive policy for mass transport, facing opposition from powerful rackets with direct or indirect interests in transport business.

Frequent changes in decisions and lack of coordina-



tion among ministries and departments concerned have left the city's transport system in disarray for years. Besides, inference by influential people, especially politicians, and extortions kept on obstructing development of the sector.

The latest spell of anarchy in this sector sparked by a hike in CNG price without consultation with the communications ministry has shown the government's negligence in improving public transport.

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Unite to fight diseases

PM calls on developed nations at World Health Assembly

BSS, Geneva

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the development partners to help design sub-regional and regional programmes to combat communicable diseases like avian and swine flu.

"Along with communicable diseases, the non-communicable diseases--diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, stroke, mental health, thalassemia and autism--should get due importance as they account for 60 percent of global mortality with 80 percent in developing countries," she said.

Hasina made the call while addressing the 64th



Sheikh Hasina

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Gates to help Bangladesh attain MDGs

UNB, Geneva

Microsoft Chairman William Henry Bill Gates has expressed keen interest to

work together with Bangladesh to help it attain the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Bill Gates, also co-chair of Bill and Milinda Gates Foundation, showed the interest during a courtesy call on Prime Minister



Bill Gates

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PHOTO: STAR

The gas cylinder of a bus exploded while it was being filled at a CNG station of Chandgaon in Chittagong yesterday, damaging the vehicle along with a car and the dispenser and also leaving two persons injured.

CNG cylinder blast at Ctg filling station

2 injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two people were injured, one of them seriously, when a gas cylinder of a CNG-run bus exploded at a filling station in Kalurghat area yesterday.

The blast blew up the left hand of a driver, Nasir Uddin, 30, of Faridpur, waiting to refuel his car.

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Do not let go of GB ownership

Prof Yunus writes to members



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus yesterday urged the 83 lakh members of Grameen Bank to remain vigilant against any attempts to take away the microfinance bank from the majority shareholders.

The caution came after his resignation as the bank's managing director amid widespread speculation that his removal was part of a coordinated government ploy to take the full

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Caretaker govt verdict not contradictory



Justice Khairul Haque

Just-retired CJ defends scope for next 2 polls under the 'illegal' system

ASHUTOSH SARKAR and SHAKHAWAT LITON

Just-retired chief justice ABM Khairul Haque yesterday said there is nothing confusing or contradictory in the Appellate Division's verdict that declared the caretaker govern-

ment system unconstitutional and void.

He made the comment when The Daily Star called him over the telephone and drew his attention to the ongoing criticism of the recent verdict.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2



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হাউজিং ফেয়ার '১১

১৮, ১৯ ও ২০ মে-২০১১

স্থানঃ বঙ্গবন্ধু আন্তর্জাতিক সম্মেলন কেন্দ্র
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