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EXTORTION CASE
2 cops face arrest warrant

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants against two policemen of Mirpur Police Station in an extortion case filed against them.

Metropolitan Magistrate AK Azad passed the order against Sub-Inspector Azizur Rahman and his assistant Mizanur Rahman after verifying allegations of extortion against them.

The court also asked the officer-in-charge (OC) of Mirpur Police Station to submit report by July 12 on execution of the warrants.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

OVERCHARGING BUS PASSENGERS

Govt acts on HC orders

7 mobile courts deployed, 67 bus services fined

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The government yesterday deployed seven mobile courts which filed cases against 67 bus services, realised Tk 50,000 fine and confiscated three buses for overcharging passengers in the capital.

The steps followed the High Court's directives concerning bus fares against the backdrop of uncontrolled overcharging of passengers by the city bus operators. Contacted, Deputy Director (Operations) of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority AKM Shameem Akhter said most of the cases against bus services were filed for overcharging passengers, and lack of proper documents.

In the case of the government-run BRTC bus services, minimum fare will now be Tk 5 instead of the earlier fixed Tk 7. This will be applicable for a distance of around one km, and after that passengers have to pay fares as per mileage.

Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain told this correspondent his ministry took this decision in consultation with the leaders of private transport owners'.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8



To get the attention of G8 leaders meeting in France, Oxfam's Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods with a group of young activists organise an innovative demonstration titled, "Invest now, rescue the drowning people" at Rabindra Sarobar on Dhanmondi Lake yesterday.

TAX EVASION CASE
Ex-MP Hashem, six others granted bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to Partex Group Chairman MA Hashem and six others for a month in a tax evasion case.

Judge Mohammad Zohurul Hoque of the Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after the seven accused appeared before the court along with their lawyer

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Marooned for over a year

PORIMOL PALMA

Thirteen seamen are marooned in a detained Bangladeshi ship at the Port Klang of Malaysia for over a year against a backdrop of a legal battle between the port authorities and the ship's owning company.

The 1,690-tonne MV Banga Biraj was detained on May 4 last year following a case filed by the Malaysian port authority on charges of damaging a crane in 2008.

Muslehuddin Ahmed, chief officer of the ship, yesterday told The Daily Star over the phone that the Bangladeshi crewmen are subsisting on insufficient food and living in a poor condition.

The iron-made cabins heat up in the scorching sun.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

Stock Scam

Kamal denies involvement

RASHIDUL HASAN

AHM Mostafa Kamal, chief of the parliamentary committee on finance ministry, yesterday brushed aside allegations of his involvement in the recent share market scam.

Talking to reporters after a meeting of the committee at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, he rather asked them to prove his link in the scam.

"I won't say I'm innocent. But prove that I was involved with the share market crash, if you can."

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

PM pledges wiping out poverty by 2015

French university honours her for democracy, women empowerment

UNB, Paris

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed her strong commitment to pull 12 million people of Bangladesh out of poverty within the MDG timeframe of 2015.

"Our aim is also to achieve the goals of 'Digital Bangladesh' and become a middle income country by 2021," she said at a function at the Dauphine University in France in the afternoon.

President of the university Laurent Batsch handed over a gold medal and a certificate of diploma to Hasina in recognition of her contributions for 'institutionalising and strengthening democratic process and women empowerment in Bangladesh'.

The PM thanked the university authorities for awarding her the prestigious gold



medal and diploma. "This gesture is a rare honour for my country and our 160 million people," she said.

Hasina said that with the highest budgetary allocation, the government aims to achieve 100 percent school enrolment by the end of this year, and 100 percent literacy by 2014.

The government has a plan to provide girls with free tuition until graduation while three polytechnic institutes have been established for attracting girls to technical education, she said.

In a bid to alleviate poverty, Hasina said the present government has created social safety nets covering pension to widowed and distressed women; "Ashrayan" or homes for the homeless; "One Home-One Farm" for small landowners; ensuring

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Suicide blast destroys Pak police station

AFP, Peshawar

A Taliban suicide bomber flattened a Pakistani police station yesterday, killing six people in the latest brazen assault on security forces since US troops killed Osama bin Laden.

The dawn truck bombing brought down the three-storey building in the military zone of the northwestern city of Peshawar, not far from the US consulate, just days after an American diplomatic convoy was attacked.

The country's main Taliban faction claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it was their fourth reprisal for the May 2 death of bin Laden, whose discovery and killing in Pakistan humiliated the military and government.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

মূল্য সংযোজন কর (VAT) পরিশোধ করুন
অভ্যন্তরীণ সম্পদ আহরণে অবদান রাখুন

সম্মানিত ক্রেতা,

- সেবা/পণ্য ক্রয়কালে মূসক-১১ চালানপত্র গ্রহণ করে মূসক ফাঁকি রোধে সহায়তা করুন।
- আপনার প্রদত্ত মূসক জাতীয় উন্নয়নে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা রাখে।

সম্মানিত বিক্রেতা,

- গ্রাহককে বিক্রিত পণ্য/সেবার বিপরীতে মূসক চালান প্রদান করুন।
- সংগৃহীত মূসক (ভ্যাট) যথাসময়ে সরকারি কোষাগারে জমা দিন।

মূসক সংক্রান্ত তথ্য জানতে বা যে কোন সহযোগিতার জন্য নিচের ফোন নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করুন:

সদর দপ্তর: ৮৯৫৫৩৪১, ৮৯৫৫১৭৫, ৮৯৬৩১১৮, ৮৯৬৩১১৬,
তেজগাঁও বিভাগ: ৮৮২৯৬৭৯, মিরপুর বিভাগ: ৮০৫৫৯৪৩,
টংগী বিভাগ: ৮৯৯১১৭০, গাজীপুর বিভাগ: ৭৯১১০০৮,
ময়মনসিংহ বিভাগ: ০৯১-৬৭৪৩৯।

প্রচারে: কাস্টমস্, এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট কমিশনারেট, ঢাকা (উত্তর), ঢাকা।

জিডি-২৪৬০

Instant driving licence

BRTA to take learners' test from June 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) teams will conduct test for learners and issue driving licence instantly for those passing the test

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

ONLINE POLL

Do you think the authorities concerned will be able to prevent transport operators from collecting extra fares from passengers?

Yes (16.0%)
No (83.4%)
No Comments (0.6%)

TOTAL VOTES: 344

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government should reconsider the proposed Anti-Corruption Act that makes it mandatory for the ACC to take government permission before filing graft cases against public servants?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING May 26

Asan Jamaat

Fajr 4-05 4-40
Zohr 12-45 1-15
Asr 5-00 5-15
Maghrib 6-40 6-45
Esha 8-00 8-30

Sources: Islamic Foundation

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- Chittagong**: All Markets of Reazuddin Bazar, Enayet Bazar, Jubilee Road.
- Bogra**: New Market, Baro Masjid Road
- Rajshahi**: R.D.A Market, Shaheb Bazar.
- Sylhet**: Zindabazar Latif Centre, Mohazanpaty
- Narayanganj**: BB Road, Chashara Sayem Plaza, BISIC Fatullah
- Khulna** : All Markets in Dakbangla Mor
- Barishal**: Chawk Bazar

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