



## DRIED FISH TRADE IN RUINS

Low supply of fish and duty hurdles make dried fish trade difficult

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The USA holds peace talks with Taliban

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## AMINUL BIDS ADIEU

The national team goalkeeper retires

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# A wild wish for hippo

State minister wants to introduce hippos in Kaptai Lake; bewildered environmentalists lambast the idea

PINAKI ROY

The state minister for environment and forest has come up with a strange plan to introduce hippopotamus, a species from Sub-Saharan-Africa, in the Kaptai Lake in Rangamati with a portion of climate funds.

"The idea came to my mind during my recent visit to Kenya. I found many hippos in a lake smaller than the Kaptai Lake. It attracted a lot of tourists," said Hasan Mahmud, state minister for environment and forest.

"If we can have hippos in the Kaptai Lake, it will draw many tourists and add a new species to our biodiversity," he said.

When told that introduction of an alien species in the wild can pose threat to local species, the minister said the hippos could be kept at a corner of the lake.

"But the ministry has to discuss the issue with other government establishments," he said.

However, biologists and environmentalists baulk at the idea, and say bringing such an animal to the Kaptai

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Only a pair of the hippos were brought to Dhaka Zoo but now there are six. The state minister for environment wants to introduce this Sub-Saharan species, alien to Bangladesh, in the Kaptai Lake of Rangamati much to the astonishment of environmentalists.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## BNP, Jamaat declare new agitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition BNP and its ally Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday announced a three-day fresh agitation programme in protest at the increase in prices of agricultural inputs and fuel, transport fare hike and recent collapse of the stockmarket.

Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, BNP acting secretary general, and ATM Azharul Islam, Jamaat acting secretary general, simultaneously declared the programme at press briefings at their party offices in the city's Nayapaltan and Moghbazar.

As per the plan, both the parties will stage a countrywide demonstration on June 21, protesting the price increase of agricultural materials.

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## 6-hr hartal on July 3 in capital

Announces oil, gas committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports will enforce a half-day hartal in the capital on July 3 protesting the government's signing of a production sharing contract (PSC) with an American oil company.

Prof Anu Muhammad, secretary general of the organisation, announced the programme yesterday at a press conference at

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## Govt would do nothing wrong

Insists PM on exploration deal

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina came down heavily on the 'National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports' yesterday posing the question- who is more patriot and thinks more for the country's welfare than her?

Without mentioning any name, she indicated that the committee is opposing the government's signing of a production sharing contract with an American oil company while she was laying the foundation stone of the Board of Investment's (BoI) head office building at Agargaon in the capital.

The government on Thursday inked the deal with ConocoPhillips for exploring oil and gas from two deep-sea blocks in the Bay of Bengal.



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# Rain, tidal surge spell huge sufferings

Depression starts to weaken

STAR REPORT

Relentless rain and unusually high tidal surge kept on battering people of the coastal areas yesterday and destroyed several thousand homes, damaged crops on half a lakh acres of land, fish enclosures and dams and disrupted communication.

Over 10 lakh people have been rendered homeless in Barisal, Khulna, Chittagong and Cox's Bazar and other districts near the Bay.

The weather situation is likely to improve from this evening as the land depression hovering over West

Bengal and south-western parts of Bangladesh will gradually weaken, Met office sources said.

The torrential rain also disrupted city life in Chittagong. Cargo handling at the outer anchorage of the Chittagong Port remained suspended for the second consecutive day due to bad weather.

Waterways and road communication between the capital and the southern districts have been badly affected due to the weather. Communication by air and rail, however, remain almost normal, said officials.

Cyclone Aila victims, who have

been staying in makeshift camps on embankments for the last two years, were exposed to the inclement weather and are one of the worst affected.

The depression triggered strong wind which drove 2-4 feet high tidal surges in the coasts of Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Noakhali, Feni, Laxmipur, Bhola, Barisal, Patuakhali, Barguna, Chandpur, Pirojpur, Jhalakathi, Bagerhat, Khulna, and Satkhira. The surges inundated low-lying areas and marooned thousands.

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## STOCK CRASH Bank accounts of Badal, his wife frozen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Board of Revenue has frozen the bank accounts of former chairman of IFIC Bank Lutfor Rahman Badal, his wife Shoma Alam Rahman and his brother-in-law Ahsan Imam.

The Central Intelligence Cell (CIC) of the NBR in a letter to commercial banks Thursday said the bank accounts have been frozen to realise revenue but NBR sources said the step was taken as per the recommendation of a

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# Bangladesh's Best Cement Brand, Shah Cement with Philip Kotler



Shah cement has been recently accredited as the best cement brand of Bangladesh in culmination of a decade long hard work. In addition, success story of Shah cement will now be compiled in the illustrious Business Casebook, edited by Philip Kotler, world's leading marketing guru. Here Philip Kotler is seen with Naushad Chowdhury, Brand Marketing Director of Abul Khair Group in a ceremony to mark the occasion.

We dedicate this rare honor to the support of our valued customers and stakeholders and hope such accomplishment will inspire numerous Bangladeshi brands in future.



Born to Build

