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METRO RAIL ROUTE

Public interest must take precedence in selection

PAGE 14

STOCKS FALL FURTHER

Angry investors block roads as stocks dip 4 percent

PAGE B1

UKRAINIAN EX-PM JAILED

Yulia Tymoshenko sentenced to seven years in jail for gas deal with Russia

PAGE 7



Biofuel fuels food price

Global hunger research warns world against shifting to cultivation of fuel crop from food; 80pc Bangladeshi households worse off

REAZ AHMAD

A steep rise in biofuel production and a highly concentrated export market coupled with export restrictions have contributed to the rising food prices across the world, badly affecting countries like Bangladesh.

Increasing and volatile prices of food left an estimated 80 percent of Bangladeshi households worse off, eroding on average 11 percent of their spending during the food price surge in 2007-08. The poverty rate in the country during that period rose five percent.

The Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2011, released yesterday, contains these findings.

The index is an annual hunger rating publication of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), a Washington-based food policy think-tank.

IFPRI along with two other NGOs--Welthungerhilfe of

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5



ROAR LIKE HIM: Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim roars after hitting the winning runs -- a magnificent six over mid-wicket off the penultimate ball -- in their lone T20 match against the West Indies at Mirpur yesterday. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Captain clinches a cliffhanger

BISHWAJIT ROY

One can dream many things, no matter how big it is, but it's not always that the dream comes true in real life. But it happens sometimes when someone like Mushfiqur Rahim appears bigger than his stature. When the Bogra-lad hit a length ball over the deep mid-wicket boundary, a memorable chapter was in Bangladesh cricket history was written on the lush green carpet of the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on Tuesday night.

Mushfiqur was so assured with the last shot that he didn't wait for the ball to sail into the gallery; he immediately raised his bat to the sky and was soon engulfed by his teammates, who sprinted on to the pitch to celebrate the moment along with the eruption of joy from the crowd.

In the record books, yesterday Bangladesh won a T20 International against West Indies by three wickets -- their second success against the Caribbean side in the shortest version of the game and Mushfiqur played a match-winning unbeaten knock of 41 to chase down the tourists' total of 132 with one ball in hand. But there were much bigger things than mere statistics,

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Regular transit after trial

Says PM's adviser, gives no timeframe

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government will allow regular transit of Indian goods through Ashuganj river port following the ongoing trial run, but no specific timeframe has yet been set for regular use of the port by India.

The current trial run of transit for India through Ashuganj port is based

on the revised Bangladesh-India Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade (PIWTT) that was signed in May last year.

Prior to that India was getting transit by a river route through Zakiganj since 1972, based on the original PIWTT renewed from time to time. The current revised protocol will expire in March next year.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Economic Affairs Adviser Mashiur Rahman told reporters yesterday that before allowing regular transit, a new protocol has to be signed or the existing one has to be renewed.

Asked by when regular transit will be allowed, Mashiur said it depends on how interested India is.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

Next time, the young Pledges Khaleda if voted to power

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN, from Sylhet

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has said if her party wins the next general elections, the younger generation will take the helm of the country.

"The next parliamentary elections will be held under a caretaker government," she said while addressing a grand rally at the Sylhet Alia Madrasa premises.

"If our party secures a majority, we will

formulate a definitive policy to run the country and pass on the baton of leadership to the next generation."

Urging young people to join the anti-government protests, she said the new generation was capable of steering the country towards development as it had talent and skill. "We who are senior will stand by them to help them with our experience and suggestions."

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1
PHOTO ON PAGE 20

UN distressed by Saudi executions

AFP, Geneva

The UN human rights office yesterday expressed distress at Saudi Arabia's execution of 10 men, including eight Bangladeshis, and urged the kingdom to place a moratorium on the death

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

Shamim, Ivy stay firm

Nomination withdrawal in N'ganj city polls enters last day

MORSHED ALI KHAN and RASHIDUL HASAN

Neither Shamim Osman nor Selina Hayat Ivy, the two mayoral hopefuls from the Awami League in the Narayanganj City Corporation election, showed any sign of quitting the race yesterday.

Today is the last day for withdrawing candidacy.

Talking to The Daily Star last night, supporters of both Shamim and Ivy said they wanted their candidate to run in the election irrespective of whether or not the party supported them.

"I won't back away from the polls," said a clearly

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

A huge digital step forward

Tk 10,000 Bangladeshi laptop hits market in week

ABDULLAH MAMUN

The first Bangladesh-assembled laptop "Doel" will take a week to hit the market though Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina launched its marketing yesterday.

Telephone Shilpa Sangstha (TSS), a public company assigned to manufacture the laptop, has so far made 6,000 laptops and netbooks for sale.

The company made three models of netbook and one model of laptop.

DOEL

Netbooks are a tiny computer similar to laptops, but with lower capability. Their prices

are cheaper than those of laptops. Prices of Doel netbooks have been set between Tk 10,000 and Tk 26,000 depending on their configuration.

The government has taken up the project of producing locally-assembled laptops and netbooks with an aim to making this significant technology available to

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Said to be built, found to be not

PM told of graft in construction of 23 UP complexes

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

In seven years, the authorities of Dhaka Infrastructure Development project constructed 10 Union Parishad complexes and announced the project complete leaving construction of the 11th complex less-than-half done.

Had they completed the 11th building, still it would have been only half true as the project authorities in its report claimed to have completed all 23 complexes as planned in the project. The project work was done between 2003 and 2009.

A probe by Local Government Engineering Directorate (LGED) yesterday revealed corruption of its infrastructure project in a meeting of Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecne).

The probe was initiated after Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Department (IMED) found no trace of 12 complexes under the project.

IMED, a government body that evaluates implementation of government work, also found that the project report showed an expenditure of Tk 6.39 crore for constructing almost 11 buildings, while the actual cost of the buildings is Tk 3.79 crore.

The LGED probe report found that the project director gave "untrue and fabricated" information in the project

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



Japanese robot Hiro can "think" how best to solve a problem.

PHOTO: AFP

Robots made to think

AFP, Tokyo

Robots that learn from experience and can solve novel problems -- just like humans -- sound like science fiction.

But a Japanese researcher is working on making them science fact, with machines that can teach themselves to perform tasks they have not been programmed to do, using objects they have never seen before.

Osamu Hasegawa, associate professor at the Tokyo Institute of Technology, has developed a system, for the first time, that allows robots to look around their environment and do research on the Internet, enabling them to "think" how best

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



৬-১৬ অক্টোবর-২০১১ প্রধান প্রজনন মৌসুমে ইলিশ আহরণ, পরিবহন, বাজারজাতকরণ, বিক্রয় ও মজুদ নিষিদ্ধ সম্পর্কিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

- চলতি বছর ০৬-১৬ অক্টোবর (২১ আশ্বিন থেকে ১ কার্তিক) ইলিশের ডিম ছাড়ার প্রধান প্রজনন মৌসুম।
- ইলিশ সম্পদ সংরক্ষণে ০৬-১৬ অক্টোবর পর্যন্ত সারাদেশে ইলিশ আহরণ নিষিদ্ধ ঘোষণা করা হয়েছে।
- এ সময় সাগর হতে ঝাঁকে ঝাঁকে ইলিশ উপকূলীয় এলাকায় এসে ডিম ছাড়ে। ইলিশের ডিম হতে উৎপাদিত হয় লক্ষ লক্ষ পোনা, যা প্রথমে জাটকা ও পরে বড় ইলিশে পরিণত হয়।
- সরকার এবার ইলিশের নিরাপদ প্রজননের সুযোগ সৃষ্টির লক্ষ্যে প্রধান প্রজনন মৌসুমে ০৬-১৬ অক্টোবর পর্যন্ত (২১ আশ্বিন থেকে ০১ কার্তিক) মোট ১১ দিন ভোলা, পটুয়াখালী, লক্ষ্মীপুর, নোয়াখালী, ফেনী, চট্টগ্রাম, কক্সবাজার জেলার অন্তর্গত প্রায় ৭০০০ বর্গ কিলোমিটার ব্যাপি বিস্তৃত প্রজনন ক্ষেত্রে ইলিশসহ সকল মাছ আহরণ, পরিবহন, বাজারজাতকরণ, বিক্রয় ও মজুদ সম্পূর্ণ নিষিদ্ধ করেছে।
- প্রথমবার এ আইন অমান্যকারীর শাস্তি কমপক্ষে ১ থেকে সর্বোচ্চ ৬ মাসের সশ্রম কারাদন্ড তৎসহ সর্বোচ্চ ১০০০ টাকা জরিমানা এবং পরবর্তী প্রতিবার আইন ভঙ্গের জন্য শাস্তির পরিমাণ দ্বিগুণ হবে।
- এ আইন বাস্তবায়নে মৎস্য অধিদপ্তর, জেলা ও উপজেলা প্রশাসন, বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী, বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড, র‍্যাব এবং পুলিশ প্রশাসন নিয়োজিত আছে।

০৬-১৬ অক্টোবর-২০১১ এই ১১ দিন সর্বোচ্চ ডিম ছাড়ার মৌসুমে সারাদেশে ইলিশ সংরক্ষণ কার্যক্রম সফল বাস্তবায়নের মাধ্যমে জাতীয় সম্পদ ইলিশের উৎপাদন বাড়াতে সহায়তা করুন।

জনসচেতনতায় : মৎস্য অধিদপ্তর, বাংলাদেশ।

প্রচারে : মৎস্য ও প্রাণিসম্পদ তথ্য দপ্তর, মৎস্য ভবন, ঢাকা।

জিডি-৪২১৯