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IT'S ELECTION TIME!



Front running mayoral candidates of Narayanganj City Corporation polls, Selina Hayat Ivy, left, Awami League-backed Shamim Osman, middle, and BNP-backed Taimur Alam, conduct door-to-door campaign in the city a day after election symbols were given to them.

BRAHMAPUTRA China won't divert water Says Chinese minister

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

China rejects speculations of diverting water of common river Brahmaputra (Yarlung Tsangpo) from its side, citing "possible impact" on relations with neighbouring India and Bangladesh and the environment.

The remarks assume significance as Bangladesh and India have been wary of Chinese hydro power projects on its side of the river and its plan to divert the waters of this mighty river towards the parched provinces in the north-east, or even Xinjiang in the north-west.

"Many Chinese citizens

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BANGABANDHU BRIDGE Govt finally goes for cracks repair

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

The government is finally set to start the repair work on Bangabandhu Multipurpose Bridge late next month, five years after receiving expert recommendation.

The repairs will commence after mapping of cracks on the deck is done later this month, said Liaquat Ali, an executive engineer of the Bridges Division.

The authorities in May picked China Communication Construction Company for the Tk 243 crore job including replacement of the outdated expansion joints of the bridge. The firm will complete the work within a year.

Sophisticated methods and materials will be used to fix the defects. A type of

glue will be used to repair cracks while a spray will be applied to smaller cracks to make those waterproof. Polymer will be pasted on the cracks to make sure no crack develops there in future.

Finally, the entire deck of the bridge will be carpeted with two inches of asphalt, mentioned Liaquat Ali.

A three-member expert committee led by Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury will monitor the repair work.

South Korean Hyundai Engineering and Construction Co Ltd constructed the 4.8 kilometre long rail-road bridge at a cost of Tk 4,000 crore. It was opened to public in 1998.

A team of experts in 2006 detected numerous cracks on its deck and asked

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3 injured in leopard attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Three people were injured when a stray leopard pounced on them at Mohammadpur village in Patgram upazila of Lalmonirhat yesterday, five days after the villagers killed another leopard that mauled 12 people.

The villagers spotted the wild cat in a paddy field in the morning and informed the law enforcers, Upazila Nirbahi Officer Harunur Rashid told The Daily Star.

As the villagers surrounded it before police reached the spot, the leopard attacked them, leaving Santosh Roy, 35,

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Tragic deaths on vacation

TV producer, couple drown in pond at a Gazipur resort

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An executive producer of a private television channel and a couple drowned yesterday while on vacation at a resort in Rajendrapur, Gazipur.

The deceased were identified as Tanveer Jahid Nayan, 32, of Ekattor Television, Jamil Akhter Lipu, 33, managing director of Srot Interior and Consulting Firm, and his wife Asma Akter Ira, 25, a final-year student of BBA at AIUB.

Sources from Ekattor Television said Nayan and Lipu along with their spouses went on holiday at Shiruni Cottage, a recreational centre, Thursday night.

According to Sub-Inspector (SI) Sayeed Azharul Islam of Hotapara Police Outpost, Lipu and Ira were strolling along a pond near their cottage around 6:30am when Ira

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BRITISH STUDY 16pc mobile sets contain bacteria

BBC ONLINE

A British study suggests that one in six mobile phones is contaminated with faecal matter.

Researchers at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Queen Mary, University of London took nearly 400 samples from mobile phones and hands in 12 British cities.

They found 16 percent of phones and 16 percent of hands harboured E coli (Escherichia coli), bacteria

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BCL factions clash at Dhaka polytechnic 5 injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least five activists of pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) were injured at Dhaka Polytechnic Institute yesterday afternoon when two rival factions were locked in a fight over establishing supremacy on the campus.

The clash took place in the afternoon between the two groups backed by unit

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8



A Santos rig in the Bay of Bengal drilling for gas in Block-16. The photo was taken yesterday.

MASSIVE EXPLOSIVES HAUL Indian cities on alert

AGENCIES

Mumbai and other metros of India yesterday were put on high alert after large quantities of explosive were found outside a railway station in Ambala, Haryana on Thursday.

Following the alert, security has been stepped up in all the metros. There's tight security at vital installations and police have been asked to carry out surprise checks.

About five kilos of RDX, two timers and five detonators were found in a car parked outside the Ambala Cantonment railway station on Thursday morning. Intelligence sources said the RDX was not yet in IED (Improvised Explosive Detonator) form; it was not connected to any detonator or timer and so the car seemed to have been a carriage vehicle bound for a terror attack.

Police later said the large quantity of explosives recovered from a car was meant to be used in an attack by militants on Delhi.

Delhi police official Arun Kampani told reporters they had received intelligence that Lashkar-e-Taiba militants in Indian-administered Kashmir had planned to "strike in Delhi" with the help of the Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), a group said to be active in Indian Punjab.

They said the attack was timed ahead of the upcoming Diwali festival.

Sixteen people were killed and 76 others were injured in a bomb attack on the high court in Delhi last month.

"Investigations found that the explosives were meant for BKI and to be used in Delhi," Kampani said.

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Sangu reserve to be known in 10-12 days

Says Santos official as offshore drilling for gas continues

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Ctg

Australia-based Santos, which is drilling a well in the Bay of Bengal for gas, said it has to wait another 10 to 12 days for a result.

The oil and gas exploration company on September 24 started the drilling at South Sangu 4, around five kilometres off the present Sangu gas field, using a jackup rig brought from Singapore.

It plans to drill two other offshore wells.

"We need around 10 to 12 days more to reach the targeted depth of approximately 3,600 to 3,800 metres and know if there is any reserve," said ABA Siraj Uddowlah,

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India to have whistleblower act soon Says Manmohan

TNN, New Delhi

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh yesterday said that the government would soon bring the whistleblowers act to protect those using the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

The prime minister, however, said that the exemptions under the RTI Act should be looked at critically. "There is a concern in the administration over the misuse of the act," he adds.

The RTI is an Act of the Parliament of India "to

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited
ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that BNP chief Khaleda Zia is out to save the war criminals?

Yes (28.1%)
No (68.9%)
No Comments (3.0%)
TOTAL VOTES: 665

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with BNP acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir that the prime minister is patronising her ministers' corruption?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT
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YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT
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PRAYER TIMING October 15

Asan Jamaat
Fajr 4-45 5-20
Zohr 12-45 1-15
Asr 4-15 4-30
Maghrib 5-45 5-50
Esha 7-15 7-45