

The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

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24 PAGES PLUS STAR LIFESTYLE PRICE: Tk 10.00



Committed to quality all the way

REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXI No. 330 | POUH 6, 1418 BS | MUHARRAM 24, 1433 HIJRI

SUN CHECKS CHICKENPOX

UV rays contain spread of the disease, claim London researchers

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TIPAIMUKH DAM

M Inamul Haque analyses possible impacts on ecology

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"THINKING OF HIM"

The film focuses on Tagore's platonic bond with Argentine feminist Victoria Ocampo

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COUNTRY SHIVERS IN COLD

7 babies die in Rangpur

STAR REPORT

Seven new born babies died due to cold-related complications in 24 hours till yesterday evening in Rangpur.

Besides, several hundred people, mostly children and elderly ones, with similar symptoms are under treatment at different hospitals in the northern and southern districts as a cold wave has been sweeping the country for the last one week.

The cold spell and dense fog have disrupted life, economic activities and communications, and damaged crops, particularly Boro seedlings and potato and mustard plants.

Thousands of passengers in 200 buses on board seven ferries got stranded on Dalutdia-Paturia and Maowa-Keorakanda routes in the rivers Padma and Jamuna since Sunday midnight.

Communications with more than 100 shoals in the Jamuna have been

snapped due to fog, causing miseries to people there.

Plying of river vessels on major routes like Barisal-Bhola and Barisal-Khulna remained suspended for 6-8 hours, reports our Barisal correspondent.

People of low-income group, especially farm labourers, rickshaw pullers and those living under the open sky on roadsides or in makeshift houses have become the worst

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PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Vegetable traders cluster together at the city's Karwan Bazar yesterday, seeking warmth against this chilling cold which, the Met office says, is not going to be any less in two days.

INSIDE BNP Concern takes over surprise

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anxiety is running high among astounded leaders and activists of BNP regarding the consequence of their party's Sunday's foiled attempt to paralyse the capital through a massive gathering.

They are also questioning why they were not informed about the plan ahead of time.

The city erupted in violence at daybreak on Sunday with explosions of crude hand-made bombs as opposition activists clashed with police at different points.

Some senior BNP leaders were quite surprised by the happenings as they had been kept in the dark about what had been in the making.

According to party insiders, a coterie of men close to one time alternative power

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Rally under watch follows violence

BNP announces mass processions across country tomorrow; 18 cases filed; 7,000 accused of Sunday rampage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A day after violent protests, BNP yesterday was forced to hold a brief rally in front of its Nayapaltan office in the city as the law enforcers prevented its activists from bringing out a scheduled protest procession.

Acting secretary general of BNP Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir announced mass processions across the country for tomorrow in protest against "government's

repression and police attack" on the party men on Sunday.

"There is propaganda against BNP regarding Sunday's violence. But BNP doesn't believe in violence," insisted Fakhru.

He demanded withdrawal of all cases filed against BNP leaders and activists.

Several homemade bombs went off in downtown Dhaka at dawn on Sunday as hundreds of BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami

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PHOTO ON PAGE 20

Rejoinder, our reply

Former Jamaat-e-Islami chief Ghulam Azam protested the following two paragraphs of a report headlined "Genocide in Bangladesh - The report that changed history" published in The Daily Star on December 17:

"Anthony's writing has become one of the pieces of evidence of military atrocities during the Liberation War and the role of collaborators like Ghulam Azam, against whom the

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Kim Jong-Il dies Son Jon-Un succeeds the N Korean strongman

AFP, Seoul

North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il has died aged 69 of a heart attack, state media announced yesterday (Monday), plunging the nuclear-armed, famine-ridden and deeply isolated nation into a second dynastic succession.

North Korea urged people to rally behind Kim's youngest son Jong-Un, describing him as "great successor" to the leader who presided over the deaths of hundreds of thousands from hunger but still built an

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Kim Jong-Il

ILLEGAL PROJECTS

GD filed against 41 realtors

MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

The Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) has lodged a complaint with police against 41 real estate companies for breaching housing laws by undertaking 43 illegal projects.

The city housing authority filed a general diary with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station on Sunday, said Nur-e-Khuda, assistant director of Rajuk's city planning, yesterday.

Zakir Hossain Molla, officer-in-charge of the police station, said they are looking into the matter.

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AL smells a rat

Moves to take on BNP politically; talks with CPB; plans to take care of allies

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Awami League high-ups believe there was a secret agenda behind Sunday's abrupt chaos created by BNP and its key ally Jamaat-e-Islami in the capital and elsewhere in the country.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, also president of the ruling AL, and several influential leaders of the party sat on Sunday night to review the opposition's sudden move paralysing life in and around the capital.

The meeting decided to politically

counter opposition's move aimed at toppling the government by creating unrest, meeting sources told The Daily Star.

As part of the preparation, the AL chief has decided to sit with the like-minded political parties in and out of the ruling alliance.

The party sat with Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) at the prime minister's Gono Bhaban residence yesterday to discuss strategies to counter the opposition.

Sources close to the prime minister

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শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন

গার্মেন্টস শিল্পে বিশেষ অবদানের স্বীকৃতি স্বরূপ গত ১০ ডিসেম্বর-২০১১ইং তারিখে বঙ্গবন্ধু আন্তর্জাতিক সম্মেলন কেন্দ্রে বিজিএমইএ কর্তৃক আয়োজিত বাটেল্পো-২০১১ অনুষ্ঠানে গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনার নিকট থেকে ট্রফি গ্রহণ করেছেন হল-মার্কেট গ্রুপের মাননীয় ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক জনাব মোঃ তানভীর মাহমুদ।

ট্রফি লাভের এই গৌরবান্বিত ও অসাধারণ সাফল্যের জন্য আমরা হল-মার্কেট গ্রুপের সকল প্রতিষ্ঠানের কর্মকর্তা, কর্মচারী ও শ্রমিকদের পক্ষ থেকে মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী ও হল-মার্কেট গ্রুপের ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালককে জানাই আমাদের প্রাণঢালা শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন। আমাদের প্রতি সার্বক্ষণিক, অবিচল ও আকৃষ্ট সমর্থন দানের জন্য সেই সাথে আমরা কৃতজ্ঞতা জানাই আমাদের সম্মানিত ক্রেতা ও শুভানুধ্যায়ীদের।

আজকের এই আনন্দঘন মুহুর্তে আমরা আরও অভিনন্দন জানাই আমাদের গ্রুপের প্রতিষ্ঠাতা চেয়ারম্যান জেসমিন ইসলামকে

শুভেচ্ছান্তে
হল-মার্কেট গ্রুপের সকল কর্মকর্তা, কর্মচারী ও শ্রমিকবৃন্দ

Retirement age now 59

Mixed reaction among bureaucrats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday approved the proposal to extend the retirement age of civil servants by two years, up to 59 years.

The decision came at a weekly cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the Secretariat.

President Zillur Rahman will shortly promulgate an ordinance to bring amendment to the Public Service Retirement Act, 1974.

Public servants who are now enjoying Post Retirement Leave will not be entitled to the new facility, said Cabinet Secretary Mosharruf Hossain Bhuiyan.

The cabinet move spurred mixed reactions among civil servants and in the government. Most of the mid-ranking officials of the Secretariat fear that the decision will shoot the unemployment rate up and delay promotions while others feel that the move will reward the government through better service from experienced civil servants.

Briefing journalists after the meeting, Mosharruf Hossain said, "The service age has been extended as people's life expectancy rate is now higher." The retirement age was last fixed in 1974, when the average life expectancy was 46 years. It is now 67 years.

He, however, admitted that the extension of service

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LEGAL NOTICE



ENERGY DRINK

It has come to our attention that a carbonated energy drink bearing the name "Bangla Red Bull" is being manufactured, distributed, marketed and sold in Bangladesh by the distributor Beauty Food and Beverage Limited. This company is a Bangladeshi Company having its office at Paramount Heights, Suite No, 3/A, 65/2/1 Box Calvert Road, Purana Paltan, Dhaka - 1000.

Red Bull AG is the exclusive owner in Bangladesh of the trade mark **Red Bull** and the world famous **Red Bull** Brand including the well known **Red Bull Energy Drink**. **Red Bull** AG has not granted any right to Beauty Food and Beverage Limited to use the well-known and famous **Red Bull** trademarks. Thus in an effort to educate the public at large we have devised this publication in order to ensure that all consumers of **Red Bull Energy Drink** are aware of the unauthorized "Bangla Red Bull" product.

Red Bull Produces its famous **Red Bull Energy Drink** only in Austria and then distributes the product to its global market. The relevant distribution company for Bangladesh is Red Bull Asia FZE, P.O. Box 54310, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Red Bull AG takes the protection of its **Red Bull** brand very seriously and is concerned about risk caused to its consumers who might wrongly assume that the carbonated "Bangla Red Bull" Drink sold by Beauty Food and Beverage Limited is the product of **Red Bull** AG and/or its related companies, or alternatively is sponsored, endorsed or somehow affiliated with the **Red Bull** companies.

Red Bull AG is taking appropriate action as per Bangladesh law and order against "Bangla Red Bull" in order to eliminate any deception or confusion amongst consumers of **Red Bull Energy Drink** caused by the "Bangla Red Bull" product and to avoid the denigration of the image and renown status of **Red Bull** trade marks product and of **Red Bull** AG and its related subsidiaries.



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