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Stop hill cutting for industry

DoE asks KEPZ authorities that claims to have govt nod

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday directed the Korean Export Processing Zone (KEPZ) authorities to stop cutting hills in its project areas under Anwara and Patia upazilas in Chittagong.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of DoE conducted a drive in KEPZ project areas and found that the authorities had levelled around 40 to 60 feet high hills at three different sites to make industrial plots.

The DoE team also directed the KEPZ authorities to plant trees and dig ponds to revive the ecology of the hilly areas and protect their biodiversity.

"No one can level hills indiscriminately in the name of land development," said DoE Director Munir Chowdhury, who led the drive.

Any development work should take place in line with

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1



The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday stopped the slicing away of this hill at the KEPZ in Anwara area of Chittagong. The KEPZ authorities had been leveling the hill to make industrial plots claiming that they had necessary permission from the DoE.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

First class galore raises eyebrows

Half of master's students at DU Anthropology dept achieve the feat

PALASH RAHMAN

As many as 26 out of 52 students secured first class in the master's examinations of Dhaka University anthropology department, much to the surprise of the campus community.

The examination controller's office on Saturday published the results for 2009-2010 academic session's postgraduate exams that began in July last year.

The results surpass the number of first-class achievers in any other master's exam at the department since its establishment

in 1992.

The DU authorities, however, did not find any irregularities behind it, which according to many, is "unusual".

Sajjad Hossain, who stood first class first in his honours examinations last year, was among the 25 who obtained a second class this year, sources said.

Only one student failed to come out successful while another student obtained a third class.

Among the 26 first class achievers, 18 are women whereas only one woman

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

No link with 'plot in army'

Insists Ghulam Azam's son

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abdullahil Aman Azmi, a former brigadier general in Bangladesh Army, also a son of former Jamaat-e-Islami chief Ghulam Azam, yesterday claimed neither he nor any of his family members was involved in the recent "failed coup in the army".

Reading out a written statement at a media conference in his

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

UAE JOB VISA FORGERY

Dhaka to push for safe system

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladesh is going to seek a fully secure visa process for its jobseekers in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to check forgery.

A four-member official-level delegation that is leaving for Abu Dhabi tonight will raise the issue of securing visa process at a bilateral meeting with the Gulf country's labour and home ministry officials tomorrow.

"The visa process of the UAE is relatively modern. But there are still some glitches that need to be addressed," Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas

Employment Secretary Zafar Ahmed Khan told The Daily Star yesterday.

As per the existing practice, the UAE employers send photocopies of the original work visas to Bangladesh. But in many instances racketeers forge these visa copies that result in the deportation of workers from Dubai immigration, ministry officials and recruiting agencies said.

Fraudsters even forge UAE visas to send Bangladeshi workers to Iraq through Dubai airport, they said.

The UAE, which employs around 15 lakh Bangladeshi workers, is the second largest labour market for Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 7



Saarc secy general quits over controversy

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Saarc Secretary General Fathimath Dhiyana Saeed has resigned from the post amid allegations from senior Maldivian officials of favouring anti-government forces in political issues of the country.

Dhiyana, a Maldivian who assumed the office on March 1, 2011, has reportedly spoken against the arrests of the country's Criminal Court Chief Judge Abdulla Mohamed and opposition party leaders. Her remarks fuelled anti-government agitation, diplomatic sources said.

However, it goes against the charter of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation when someone holding its

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8



A mobile court during drives yesterday confiscates captured migratory birds in Bagerhat. The court also sentenced three sellers, *inset*, to six months imprisonment for capturing and selling the birds.

PHOTO: STAR



Use foreign fund or lose local allocation

Govt asks ministries in a bid to ease budgetary pressure

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

To ease pressure on the budget, the government asks the ministries to utilise foreign fund first, otherwise local allocation will be cut.

Taking a stern stance, the Finance Division yesterday said ministries and

divisions will not get local fund if they fail to utilise foreign aid in their projects under this fiscal year's budget.

The ministries go for the local grants as various strings, including that of transparency, are attached to the donor money, a finance ministry official said.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

Charitable Trust Case Khaleda, 3 others summoned

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday summoned BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and three others to appear before it on February 14 in connection with the Zia Charitable Trust graft case.

Judge Mohammad Zohurul Haque of the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

China looks positive

Ready to participate in deep-sea project, set up road, rail links with Dhaka thru' Myanmar

UNB, Dhaka

China says Bangladesh's proposed deep seaport in Sonadia Island is of strategic importance to the country and is helpful to become the regional transportation and logistic centre.

"So long Bangladesh side shows enough will and determination, this project can obtain positive progress very soon," outgoing Chinese Ambassador Zhang Xianyi made the remarks in his pre-

departure interview with UNB on Saturday.

During Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to Beijing last year, Bangladesh sought the Chinese assistance to build the deep seaport.

The ambassador said Chinese enterprises have advanced technologies, equipments and ample funds.

He said China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd., having rich experience in

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think EVM (Electronic Voting Machine) should be used in next general polls?

Yes (47.6%)

No (51.7%)

No Comments (0.7%)

TOTAL VOTES: 605

TODAY'S POLL

What do you think about the Anti-Corruption Commission's investigation that found no corruption in appointing contractors for the Padma bridge project?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT facebook.com/dailystarnews

PRAYER TIMING January 23

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5:30	6:05
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	4:15	4:30
Maghrib	5:43	5:47
Esha	7:15	7:45

Source: Islamic Foundation