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Neighbours concerned

No Indian move yet to discuss water diversion from common rivers

BBC ONLINE

A Supreme Court order in India asking the government to link more than 30 rivers and divert waters to parched areas has sparked concerns in neighbouring countries. Bangladesh says it would be hardest hit because it is a downstream country to two major rivers that flow from India.

New Delhi is yet to respond to the neighbouring countries' reactions.

The multi-billion-dollar project was announced by the Indian government in 2002 but had since remained on paper.

Experts in Nepal say the country's unstable political situation could open the door for India to build dams and reservoirs in Nepalese territory for the inter-linking project -- known as the ILR.

Hydrologists say as an upstream country, Nepal has ideal locations for the infrastructure required to make the mammoth Indian project happen.

Bhutan too has similar locations and some of its rivers are tributaries to the Brahmaputra, a major river system

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It is hard to believe that this canal-like water body is the Teesta. A severe drop in water flow ahead of the summer has left this once mighty river in such a state at Gobodhonon in Lalmonirhat.

Rab says sorry

Moves to punish culprit in torture of DU teacher

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday regretted for the incident of beating up a Dhaka University teacher over parking a Rab's van in Uttara's Dakkhinkhan on Wednesday.

The elite force also ordered the accused Rab driver, lance corporal Muhammad Ruhul Amin, stand released for further investigation in the beating up of Muhammad Saif Uddin Khan, a lecturer at finance department.

In a press release, Rab yesterday also said they closed Ruhul Amin to the headquarters. They termed the incident 'unexpected'.

A section of highly-placed Rab personnel

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'Outlaw' killed in 'shootout'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A regional leader of banned outfit Gono Mukti Fauj was killed in a "shootout" with law enforcers in Jhenidah sadar upazila early yesterday.

Deceased Bidhan Chandra Biswas, 45, son of Niranjana Chandra Biswas of Munuria village

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35 killed in 3 months

Reveals ASK report on 'crossfire'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 35 people were killed in "crossfire" with law enforcers over the first three months of this year while it was 30 in the same period of last year, a report of rights group Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) said yesterday.

Among the victims, 19 were killed in gunfights with Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), 15 with police while another person with the joint teams of Rab and Coast Guard.

The report covering the issues of human rights

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Police nab Yaba trading couple

Tk 10 lakh fake notes seized in another drive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested a couple and three of their associates from different parts in the city and recovered 16,500 yaba tablets from their possession.

The arrestees are Amir Hossain, 47, a fitter at Public Works Department, his wife Moyna Begum, 40, an employee at Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat, their associates Shah Reaz, 37, Akhter

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Hossain, 34, and Zahir Uddin Bhuiyan, 39. A team of Detective Branch of police arrested Amir from his residence at Agargaon Taltola Govt Staff Quarters and his wife Moyna from the court area in Old Dhaka, said Mashiur Rahman, additional deputy commissioner (ADC) of DB.

Amir and his wife are wholesalers of the contraband tablets, while Zahir carries

STAFF CORNER

'Odommo Chattagram' festival organised by The Daily Star continues to draw wide public attention in the second most important city of the country.

Rock & Roll Evening Chittagong witnessed a rock and roll evening with some leading Bangladeshi musical bands and popular solo artists enthralling a capacity crowd at MA Aziz Stadium on Friday night.

Chirayato Chattagram A day after its inauguration -- Chirayato Chattagram -- an exhibition showcasing the historical significance of Chittagong, continues drawing many curious minds who take pride in knowing the rich heritage of the region.

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A dance performance at the inaugural ceremony of the five-day Natya Utsav, a part of The Daily Star Odommo Chattagram festival, at the Theatre Institute in Chittagong city yesterday. Inset, actor Ramendu Majumder inaugurating the play festival.



Theatre-fest for five days

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Ctg

A five-day drama festival kicked off yesterday at Theatre Institute Chittagong (TIC).

It is part of the ongoing Odommo Chattgram, a 12-day programme organised by The Daily Star focusing on Chittagong's rich heritage, culture, history and future prospects.

Noted theatre personality Ramendu



Majumder inaugurated the festival as the chief guest.

Addressing the gathering, he said that though the port city was known as the commercial capital of the country, it had been ignored.

Describing Odommo Chattgram as a noble initiative, Majumder, president of

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HSC exams begin today

STAR REPORT

Higher Secondary Certificate and its equivalent examinations begin today with 9,26,814 students taking the public exams this year.

The examinations will be held in 2,196 centres across the country under 10 education boards including madrasa and technical boards, reports UNB.

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US wants to teach Iran an oil lesson

Vows tough sanctions; China rejects Obama's push to punish countries importing Iranian oil

REUTERS, Washington

President Barack Obama vowed on Friday to forge ahead with tough sanctions on Iran, saying there was enough oil in the world market -- including emergency stockpiles -- to allow countries to cut Iranian imports.

In his decision, required by a sanctions law he signed in December, Obama said increased production by some countries as well as "the existence of strategic reserves" helped him come to the conclusion that sanctions can advance.

"I will closely monitor this situation to

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Housewife 'pushed to death' from rooftop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housewife was killed when she was allegedly shoved off the rooftop of her in-laws' house at Kalabagan in the capital yesterday.

Family members of the deceased, Halima Begum, 20, filed a murder case

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think it is wise to impose tax on 71 imported items targeting more revenue earning?

Yes (39.9%)
No (58.1%)
No Comments (2.0%)

TOTAL VOTES: 253

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury that people want to see Awami League in power again?

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বিশ্বাস

বেঙ্গল ফাউন্ডেশন

PRAYER TIMING April 1

Fajr	4-40	5-15
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-21	6-24
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation