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JOYDEVPUR-MYMENSINGH

Little progress in highway upgrade

Ministry blames contractors for delay; contractors complain of fund crunch

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

When upgrading of 30-kilometre road from Joydevpur to Mawna is suspended due to legal complications, progress made so far for upgrading the rest 57 kilometres of the Joydevpur-Mymensingh highway is very frustrating. Only 7.5 percent upgradation works have been completed till March 30 though the works started a year ago. It now seems highly unlikely that the works would complete within the given time, June 30 next year, officials at the communications ministry said.

They said the Tk 983 crore project to upgrade the 87-kilometre Joydevpur-Mymensingh highway into four-lane has to be extended by at least six months for its completion.

The officials said contractors involved in the project are not sincere in doing their job. But the contractors alleged that their works are being hampered due to slow

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5



A section of Dhaka-Mymensingh highway is in tatters. The progress of upgrading the road into a dual carriageway is at snail's pace as the government and the contractor concerned play the blame game. The photo was taken from Rajendrapur, Gazipur.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

97-yr-old becomes graduate

AFP, Sydney

A 97-year-old retired Australian dentist was to receive his masters degree in clinical science yesterday in what Southern Cross University said could make him the world's oldest new graduate.

Allan Stewart, born on March 7, 1915, is already the holder of the Guinness World Records title for being the oldest graduate after completing a law degree in 2006 at the age of 91.

It was not immediately clear whether anyone

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

JU CRISIS

Four fasting students hospitalised

JU CORRESPONDENT

Four students of Jahangirnagar University during their fast-into-death programme yesterday had to be hospitalised.

For the fourth consecutive day, they were on fast-into-death at a makeshift camp in front of the vice-chancellor's residence

SEE PAGE 7 COL 3

HILLARY'S VISIT

Dhaka to seek duty free access for RMG

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

During the US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's visit, Bangladesh will demand resolving some long-pending issues like duty-free access, GSP and Ticfa to remove trade barriers between the two countries.

Hillary comes to Dhaka this afternoon on a two-day official visit.

The demand for duty-free entry of garment items in the US market, the sin-

gle largest export destination of Bangladesh, is a years-long issue as Bangladesh, despite being a least developed country, has to pay high tariff for the access.

"Ticfa [Trade and Investment Cooperation Framework Agreement] might not be signed during Hillary Clinton's visit. But, the issue will be

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

Ship breaking worker killed in accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A worker died when a large iron plate fell on him at a ship breaking yard in Sitakunda upazila in Chittagong Thursday evening.

The deceased Babu Mia, 25, hailing from Naogaon, was working as a cutter-helper at Fortune Ship Breaking Yard in Baro

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

CTG SHRINE LOOT

Ex-Rab official sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A court here yesterday sent Lt Col (sacked) Zulfiqar Ali Majumder, former commanding officer of Rab-7, to jail in connection with a robbery case filed with Anwara Police Station.

Chittagong judicial magistrate's court passed the order after Anwara police produced him before it at 3:50pm.

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Lt Col Zulfiqar

BNP leader killed in bomb attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A leader of Abhoynagar upazila BNP was bombed to death near at Noapara Bazar in Jhenidah last night.

The victim, Rafiqul Islam, 45, was organising secretary of local BNP and a former CBA leader of Bengal Textile Mills.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

3 killed in clash over land dispute

UNB, Naogaon

Three indigenous people were killed and at least 10 others injured in a clash between two groups of people in Manda upazila in Naogaon yesterday.

One of the deceased was identified as Maharam, 48. The identities of the two others could not be known yet.

Police said there had been a longstanding dispute between Dalim and Anwar over the ownership

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1



One of the three private drinking water plants that are allegedly extracting too much groundwater in Halishahar area of Chittagong city, as a result of which the residents are not getting water at their shallow tubewells.

HALISHAHAR, CTG

Mindless extraction behind water crisis

3 private companies blamed

MINHAJ UDDIN, Ctg

Residents of Middle Halishahar of Chittagong city are facing a tremendous water crisis because three private drinking water companies have been extracting most of the groundwater of the area for the last three years.

Syed Enamul Haque Muniri, a resident of the area, said Chittagong Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) does not supply water to the area, so people get water for drinking and washing from shallow tubewells.

Few years ago people used to use pond water for washing too. But most of the ponds have been filled up as population increased. So people now mainly depend on the tubewells.

Rafiqul Islam Khan, a resident of Jafar Khan Para recently said, "Our shallow tubewells nowadays cannot pump any water. The motor of my water pump

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন

সময়মত পৌরকর পরিশোধ করুন
আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন

বকেয়া কর আদায় সংক্রান্ত জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সম্মানিত করদাতাগণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, হোল্ডিং করসহ অন্যান্য কর যেমন-ট্রেড লাইসেন্স ফি, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের মালিকানাধীন মার্কেটের ভাড়া ও সালামী পরিশোধের সুবিধার্থে ২ মে, ২০১২ হতে ৩০ জুন, ২০১২ খ্রিস্টাব্দ পর্যন্ত সকল কার্যদিবস ছাড়াও সাপ্তাহিক সরকারি ছুটির দিন শনিবার সকাল ৯.০০টা থেকে বিকাল ৪.০০টা পর্যন্ত ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের ডেটি আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয়ের রাজস্ব বিভাগসহ নগর ভবনস্থ প্রধান কার্যালয়ের রাজস্ব বিভাগের শাখা অফিসসমূহ খোলা থাকবে।

০২। উল্লেখ্য যে, সংস্থার বিধি অনুযায়ী বর্তমানে ক্রোকের মাধ্যমে বকেয়া কর আদায়ের প্রক্রিয়া চলমান রয়েছে। ক্রোকের মত অনাকাঙ্ক্ষিত কার্যক্রম এড়ানোর লক্ষ্যে খেলাপী করদাতাগণকে নিজ নিজ হোল্ডিংয়ের পৌরকরসহ অন্যান্য কর পরিশোধ করার অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

০৩। কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমোদনক্রমে এ বিজ্ঞপ্তি জারি করা হলো।

ডিএসসি/পিআরডি/৯১/১১-১২
জিডি-১৯৭৮

সচিব
ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন

Massive rise in eye damage among Asians

BBC ONLINE

Up to 90% of school leavers in major Asian cities are suffering from myopia - short-sightedness - according to a study published yesterday.

Researchers say the "extraordinary rise" in the problem is being caused by students working very hard in school and missing out on outdoor light.

The scientists told the Lancet that up to one in five of these students could experience severe visual impairment and even blindness.

In the UK, the average level of myopia is between 20% and 30%.

According to Professor Ian Morgan, who led this study and is from the Australian National University, 20-30% was once the average among people in South East Asia as well.

"What we've done is written a review of all the evidence which suggests that something extraordinary has happened in east Asia in the last two generations," he told BBC News.

"They've gone from something like 20% myopia in the population to well over 80%, heading for 90% in young adults, and as they get adult it will just spread through the population. It certainly poses a major health problem."

Eye experts say that you are myopic if your vision is blurred beyond 2m (6.6ft). It is often caused by an elongation of the eyeball that happens when people are young.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think Bangladesh will be benefited from US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's visit to Dhaka?

Yes (36.9%)
No (56.5%)
No Comments (6.5%)

TOTAL VOTES: 444

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with FBCCI leaders that the government should enact a law banning hartal considering the loss it inflicts on the country's economy?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net
YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT [facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews)

PRAYER TIMING May 5

Azan Jamaat
Fajr 4-15 4-50
Zohr 12-45 1-15
Asr 4-45 5-00
Maghrib 6-31 6-35
Esha 8-00 8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

The Daily Star

Star Camps
LINKING YOUNG MINDS TOGETHER

COMING OUT TOMORROW

LINKING YOUNG MINDS

This week Star Campus, a weekly publication of The Daily Star, will offer readers some interesting articles on students dealing with hartals and the other chaotic experiences they have been facing with the current political turmoil in the country. The spotlight this week will be an in-depth story on how the constant and sudden strikes have been hampering the education system and personal lives of students. There will be an interesting article on how the social community looks at and handles the job opportunities in this country and why BBA is the leading subject when it comes to majoring at a university. There will also be a Star Chat with Actor Mithu Sabbir as he shares stories about his childhood, school life and inspirations. Catch Star Campus as it hits the country tomorrow and as always, have a good read!