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PHILIPS



First Chinese collection of Tagore songs released

PTI, Beijing

Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore continues to evoke fascination and interest among Chinese, 88 years after his visit to the nation, as 50 of his popular songs were translated for the first time into Mandarin with music notes closely resembling the original.

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Truck driver jailed over fatal crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

A Kishoreganj court yesterday sentenced a truck driver to 10 years rigorous imprisonment and fined him Tk 5 thousand, in default to suffer six more months in jail, for killing two people in a road accident 19 years back.

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Schools to face closure from June 16

Threaten non-govt teachers pressing for job regularisation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of 24,000 non-government registered primary schools yesterday declared indefinite closure of schools from June 16, if the government failed to regularise their jobs.

They also gave a 13-day ultimatum to the government to arrange a meeting

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HARTAL

Who suffers?



Labourers take a nap in Gabtoli in the capital yesterday. The three travelled all the way from Lalmonirhat to work as help in paddy fields around the capital. Done with their work, they reached Gabtoli bus terminal yesterday morning to go home. There was an unpleasant surprise waiting for them. The opposition had called a hartal they were not aware of.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

ENCLAVE EXCHANGE

India works on amending constitution

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

An amendment to the Indian Constitution is being drafted to enable the exchange of 111 Indian enclaves in Bangladesh and 51 Bangladeshi enclaves in Indian territory, External Affairs Minister SM Krishna has said.

"Government is committed to the earliest implementation of the Protocol and Land Boundary Agreement (between the two countries) that would result in exchange of enclaves," he said in a letter to CPI leader

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Common antibiotic boosts death risk

AFP, Washington

A popular antibiotic used for treating bronchitis, pneumonia, ear infections and sexually transmitted diseases may boost the risk of death, a US study said Wednesday.

Azithromycin has been on the worldwide market since the 1980s, but the study in the New England Journal of Medicine is the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

Taxi relief on Dhaka roads not in sight

2 companies now uncertain about importing 2,000 cabs

SHARIFUL ISLAM and HELEMUL ALAM

City commuters will have no immediate respite from acute shortage of taxicabs as the two companies licensed to introduce 2,000 new vehicles by December last year are still uncertain about the import.

The communications ministry in February and September last year issued licences to the companies to import 1,000 taxicabs each with a minimum engine capacity of 1,500cc to ensure a comfortable service in

the city and neighbouring districts.

The two companies -- ruling Awami League lawmaker Saber Hossain Chowdhury's Karnaphuli Works Ltd, and Sharika Traders Ltd -- obtained the licences under some new terms and conditions enforced since March 2011 to streamline the cab service.

The companies were supposed to import the vehicles and put those into operation by December last year. But Karnaphuli management

now seeks relaxation of the terms and conditions, while Sharika eyes an 11-month extension to the deadline.

Taxicab service is in a dismal state in the city with only 2,000 rundown cabs in operation. Although 11,260 taxis were registered with Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) in 1998, most of the cabs have been discarded for failure to meet standard fitness

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WAR CRIMES TRIAL

Proceedings of 4 cases adjourned till Sunday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Proceedings of four cases with the two international crimes tribunals yesterday were put on hold until Sunday, as the defence and three of the accused could not be present due to the general strike enforced by the opposition.

The International Crimes Tribunal-1, the first of the two courts formed to deal with crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War in 1971, was supposed to record cross-examination of witnesses in two cases.

The cases are against BNP lawmaker Salauddin Quader Chowdhury and Jamaat-e-Islami leader

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UTTARA MODEL TOWN

Plot winners pressed to pay more

TAWFIQUE ALI

The Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) is taking around Tk 28 crore extra from the plot winners of the extended Uttara residential town through verbal communication and without any official announcement.

Rajuk's estate department officials have verbally asked the plot winners to pay an amount at 12 percent rate on the third installment, although the final allotment letter says nothing about such payment.

The amount has been dubbed as "fees" for paying the price of the plots in installments. But this would put unforeseen financial pressure on the plot winners.

The final allotment letter issued to each plot winner in 2007 says the plot winners could pay the price either at a time or in installments without any precondition of "fees" to obtain the installment facility.

Speaking anonymously, a plot winner said Rajuk officials have asked them verbally to pay the extra amount to get possession of the land.

One has barely an option to question the justification

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The Daily Star



Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you support BNP's Thursday's hartal protesting a court order that sent its leaders to jail in an arson case?

Yes (67.3%)
No (30.4%)
No Comments (2.4%)

TOTAL VOTES: 1011

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think Suranjit Sengupta should have waited for the Anti-Corruption Commission's probe report on railway-gate scandal before claiming himself as innocent?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT [facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews)

PRAYER TIMING May 18

	Asan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-36	6-40
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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Web: www.aftabgroup.com.bd, www.aftabgroup.net

Meena Media Award

Introduced in 2005, Meena Media Award has stepped the eight year in 2012. The award recognizes excellence in promoting children's issues in the media. Submissions are solicited from Bangladeshi citizens working with both print and broadcast media in two different age groups. **Under-18 and 18 & above.** News, articles, features published in print media and programmes broadcast by radio and television that investigate and explore children's issues to improve the lives of children in Bangladesh, or provide healthy entertainment for children are eligible to compete for the award. Entries are invited in the following six categories:

- Print Media - Reports (news reports, investigative reports, post editorials)
- Print Media - Creative (articles, features, stories, poems)
- Television - Reports (news reports, investigative reports)
- Television - Creative (features, documentaries, short films, plays, songs)
- Radio - Report (news reports, investigative reports)
- Radio - Creative (features, documentaries, radio dramas, songs)

For all category prizes are:

- Frist Prize: A Crest, certificate and Taka 50,000
- Second Prize: A Crest, certificate and Taka 25,000
- Third Prize: A Crest, certificate and Taka 15,000

Entries should be published/broadcast between June 1, 2011 and April 30, 2012.

Deadline: To be received on or before June 14, 2012.

To download the details of the submission and eligibility criteria for the award, please visit www.unicef.org.bd or collect from the Reception Desk, UNICEF Bangladesh at BSL Office Complex, 1 Minto Road Dhaka 1000

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unite for children