



MY DREAM

A programme showcases talent of differently abled Chinese artistes

REGIME ON 'LAST LEGS'

Abdel Basset says as Syrian Nat'l Council elects him new leader

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QUICK RENTALS' IMPACT

Losses of state enterprises double to Tk 16,880 crore

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Fresh tax on mobile calls

Govt mulls surcharge on cellphone users to create 'energy fund'

REJAUL KARIM BYRON



The government now plans to impose surcharge on mobile phone users at the rate of Tk 0.15 to 0.20 per call.

The move, which comes on top of a 2 percent tax on mobile talk-time proposed by the finance minister in his budget speech, is aimed at creating an energy fund, officials say.

The power, energy and mineral resources ministry will place the proposal at a high-level meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina tomorrow. The meeting was originally scheduled for last Thursday, but that did not happen.

The burden of surcharge may create public discontent, a power ministry official said, seeking anonymity.

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A syndicate illegally extracts silt from the Meghna in Narayanganj, causing land erosion nearby. A mobile court yesterday confiscated three dredgers and sentenced one person to three month's in jail in this connection.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



No hope of top leaders' release

Court order makes their bail ineffective

COURT CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and 21 others will not be released soon from jail since a Dhaka court has issued production warrants against them, negating their High Court bail in a blast case.

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BNP's Dhaka rally today

Fresh agitation likely as party's 90-day deadline for restoring caretaker govt over

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led 18-party alliance holds a mass rally in the capital today, a day after a 90-day ultimatum for restoring the caretaker government system ended amid reports of police harassing the opposition supporters bound for the rally.

With around 30 of its senior leaders still behind bars, the alliance expects over 15 lakh people will join the gathering.

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Bus, launch service stalled

Arrests ahead of rally

STAR REPORT

Bus and launch services between Dhaka and different districts remained suspended yesterday on the eve of the opposition's grand rally in the capital.

Thousands of Dhaka-bound passengers, especially in the northern and southern districts, suffered because of disruption to transport operations allegedly by pro-government workers.

In Barisal, people waited for hours at bus stations and launch terminals, as owners kept their vehicles and vessels

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PHOTO ON PAGE 20

DIATRIBES AGAINST PROF SAYEED Sangsad regrets

Unparliamentary words to be expunged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On behalf of the Jatiya Sangsad, Speaker Abdul Hamid yesterday regretted the recent "unwanted discussion" in parliament, criticising noted litterateur Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed using "unparliamentary words".

"Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed is a respected person of this country. Therefore, I will expunge from parliament proceedings all the unparliamentary words used in the discussion on him," he said in a rare ruling.

"The undesired discussion was held following the publication of



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A turn on the Dhaka-Aricha highway at Shutipara of Dhamrai in Dhaka is being widened following several accidents at bends and turns on national highways recently.

Road crash kills rickshaw van puller

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was killed and another injured in separate road accidents in the capital's Kakrail and Bangla Motor yesterday.

Shah Alam, officer-in-charge of Ramna Police Station, said a recklessly driven bus hit a fruit-laden rickshaw-van from

Ghulam Azam's role was crucial Prosecution tells war crimes tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ghulam Azam is responsible for the crimes committed by the auxiliary forces of the Pakistani army during the Liberation War since he had control and influence over those forces, the prosecution said during its opening statement.

In the case against Ghulam Azam filed in connection with crimes against humanity, Chief Prosecutor Ghulam Arief Tipoo yesterday told

International Crimes Tribunal-1, "He [Ghulam Azam] cannot avoid the responsibility of crimes [committed by auxiliary forces] as he had a role in the formation of the forces and in some cases heeded the forces."

After framing five charges against Ghulam Azam on May 13, the tribunal yesterday began the

trial against Ghulam Azam, who is regarded by many as an epitome of war crimes.

The tribunal indicted Ghulam Azam for committing crimes against humanity, including involvement in murder and torture of people; and conspiracy,



planning,

MYANMAR UNREST Emergency declared in Rakhine state

AGENCIES

A state of emergency was declared yesterday in Myanmar's western Rakhine state, official media said, amid fears of further unrest following an eruption of deadly sectarian violence.

State television said an order had been signed into effect by President Thein Sein in response to clashes that saw hundreds of Buddhist villagers' homes set ablaze and left seven dead in rioting on Friday and Saturday.

The order was effective "until (a) further order", according to the report, which said it was "intended to restore security and stability to the people immediately".

"The unrest and terrorist acts have been increasing," it said.

Earlier in the day, authorities in western Myanmar imposed curfews to keep clashes between local Buddhists and Muslim Bengalis from escalating, reports AP.

The conflict threatens to undermine the reforms of Myanmar's new government, which took power last year following decades of outright military rule.

Rakhine state is named for its dominant, mostly Buddhist ethnic group but is also home to a large Muslim population including the Rohingya, a stateless people described by the UN as one of the world's most persecuted minorities.

The government considers the Rohingya foreigners and not one of the nation's ethnic groups, reports AFP.

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BGB on high alert 4 injured Myanmar citizens held

STAR REPORT

Border Guard Bangladesh is on high alert near Teknaf of Cox's Bazar, fearing influx of Myanmar citizens into Bangladesh as sectarian violence spreads in the neighbouring country.

The BGB personnel posted there, however, have not been instructed on what to do if Myanmar people cross the border to flee the turmoil.

Maj Shafiqur Rahman, second-in-command of BGB 42 battalion in Teknaf, yesterday said, "We have information that many Rohingyas could attempt to intrude into Bangladesh following the violence. But we are on high alert and are vigil to prevent this."

"As per our informers, Rohingyas on 11 trawlers may attempt to intrude into Bangladesh through Shah Pori Island, Nila, Domdoma and others

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