### China's Weiwei in fresh appeal against tax fine

AFP, Beijing

Chinese dissident artist Ai Weiwei has appealed a court decision upholding a \$2.4 million fine for tax evasion -- a charge he claims is politically motivated, his lawyer yesterday said.

The internationally acclaimed artist, who spent 81 days in jail last year followed by a year of travel restrictions, and his legal team have vowed to continue challenging the fine despite having low expecta-Ramadan. tions of success.

"I think the likelihood of having a court hearing is not great, but we will find a way to fight for an open court hearing," said lawyer Pu Zhiqiang. "Which of our rights to fight have ever been realised? We do what

The judicial authorities now had 60 days to issue a decision, he said.

we should do."

Ai, 54, has accused the Chinese regime of seeking to "crush" him for his activ-

He is known for tallying the number of schoolchildren killed in a 2008 earthquake -- a sensitive topic because many schools fell while other buildings did not, fuelling suspicion that the poor construction resulted from corruption.

Ai was detained last year during a round-up of activists as popular revolts gathered force in the Middle

Upon release he was accused of tax evasion linked to a company he founded, Fake Cultural Development, and in November the Beijing tax bureau issued a fine for 15 million yuan (\$2.4 million) in back taxes and penalties.

## Boy killed

FROM PAGE 20 Liton told reporters.

The boy was rushed to a private clinic in Khilgaon. Later, he was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, but doctors there declared him dead.

### No water

FROM PAGE 20

women were still standing in the queue.

Liza, a housewife from Mostafa Goli, came to the water pump by rickshaw around 11:10pm. There was no alternative, she said adding, "What else can we do when we have been out of water for two days in a row?"

Aminur, a student living in West Tejturi Bazar, said in the last two days he had to go to his elder brother's house at Agargaon for taking shower and using the toilet. "I came here to collect drinking water," he added.

Some people managed water by paying extra to some Wasa men with a mobile water car, said Pankaj Banerjee of Tejturi Bazar.

"The usual cost of a lorry of water is Tk 300, but a clique of Wasa men demanded Tk 700 to 800 for it. We had to pay the extra amount anyway as there was no other option," he added.

Alim, a retired government official from Farmgate, said, "I phoned Wasa several times to inform them about the water crisis in the area. But they had nothing to say about it."

A woman named Shamima said Wasa engineers had been to her area in Tejturi Bazar but could not locate the glitch that prevented water from flowing through pipes. "The Wasa people themselves are confused about what actually had happened in the water

Asked whether the owner of the house he lived in was taking any step to fetch water, Mihir Biswas, a resident of Farmgate, said house owners do not bother about

their sufferings. Pinky, a 15-year-old girl, told The Daily Star that she finally managed to get water from the pump after waiting over two and a half hours in

the queue. Her house owner told her that he could barely do anything since the water pump of his house could not pull water from the main water lines, she added.

## Dozen fake taka

FROM PAGE 1

The arrestees -- Mohammad Sujon, 25, Abdur Rahim, 22, and Bilash Akand, 24 -- were produced at a press briefing at the Dhaka Metropolitan Media and Community Service office in the capital yesterday.

Mashiur Rahman, additional deputy commissioner (west) of DB, told reporters that a team of DB police had arrested the trio from in front of Gazi Bhaban around 9:00pm, acting on a tip off. He said they had also

beefed up vigilance as the intelligence had information that a dozen of forger gangs had been active during the In the briefing, Sujon con-

fessed to selling fake notes in retail and wholesale markets in Sadarghat, Gulistan and Motijheel areas for a year. "I used to buy counterfeit

money of the value of Tk 1 lakh with Tk 15,000 from one Kamal and supply those among general people in exchange for goods," he added. He, however, did not know

the whereabouts of Kamal and other counterfeiters.

"It takes 10 to 12 days to sell fake notes of Tk 1 lakh in normal times, but the same amount of forged money sells in seven to eight days during Eid season. That is why, supply of fake notes increases during this time," he added.

On July 26 and 27, DB police arrested six people, including two women, with fake currency to the tune of Tk 1 crore from Motijheel, Mugda and Mirpur areas of the capital.

Quoting leader of the gang Mohammad Selim as saying during the interrogation, detectives said they used to purchase new notes of Tk 100 denomination from Gulistan and different banks in the city at a much higher rate and remove the print on the note by boiling it in chemicalmixed water. After removing the print, they used to reprint the features of a Tk 500 on the washed paper and released the fake notes in markets via their partners, especially women in veils, he added.

Selim also admitted to making fake notes of Tk 1,000 on new pieces of paper. He installed special software, developed by a local IT expert, in his computer and this enabled him to make four fake notes of Tk 1,000 in five min-

Police arrested a man with fake Tk 4 lakh on June 12, four persons including a woman with fake Tk 3.29 lakh on April 10.4 lakh on March 30 in the

Mashiur Rahman, who led the drives, told The Daily Star, "We detain people with fake currency quite regularly and are tying to arrest rest of the gangs as soon as possible." Meanwhile, the

Bangladesh Bank has asked its branch offices and all commercial banks to be cautious about fake notes, especially ahead of the Eid. The central bank has also sought cooperation from the law enforcement agencies in this regard. Besides, fake note resistance committees comprised of representatives of banks, police and local administration have been asked to remain alert at district level.

"It is true that counterfeiters become active during Eid seasons. We have directed all the commercial banks to use fake currency identifier machines. If any bank fails to comply with the direction, stern actions would be taken against it," said AFM Asaduzzaman, general manager of Bangladesh Bank.

Zeauddin Ahmed, managing director of Securities Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd, said people should learn the security features on big notes, as law enforcers and the central bank alone cannot stop counterfeiting.

"An easy way to tell fake notes from the good ones is the inscription printed on the top right corner on both sides of Tk 100, 500 and 1,000 denominations. If the notes are held vertically, the colour of the inscription changes from magenta to green or the other way round," he added.

# 10 Rohingyas

In another BGB drive at Gholarchar in Shahporir Dwip, seven more Rohingyas -- a male, three females and three children -were held around 5:00am. They were pushed back around 6:15pm, said Lt Col Zahid. Excluding these 10, BGB

has so far sent back 1,269 Rohingya refugees over the last two months following a sectarian clash in the Rakhaine state of Myanmar from early June. Lt Col Zahid said

Rohingyas usually try to intrude into Bangladesh all the year round but the influx increases during Ramadan as they try to collect jakat or fitra donated by the local Muslims.

This year, BGB had sent 30 and two men with fake Tk back more than 2,400 Rohingyas, he added.

# Cheetah the best

FROM PAGE 20

Usain Bolt, a Jamaican sprinter now competing at the 2012 London Olympics, holds the human world record at 9.58 seconds in the 100-meter dash.

Cheetahs, of course, are

built to run faster than humans, regularly clocking speeds of up to around 96.5 kilometers per hour. During a photo shoot with National Geographic Magazine, a cheetah from the Cincinnati Zoo named Sarah covered 100 meters at 98 kph.

The sprint broke Sarah's previous world record, set in 2009 when she ran the same distance in 6.13 seconds. That sprint broke the previous record set in 2001, when a male South African cheetah named Nyana ran 100 meters in 6.19 seconds.

Sarah is 11 years old and is part of the zoo's Cat Ambassador Program. Her sprint was documented with funding from the National Geographic's cat conservation effort the Big Cats Initiative.

The record-breaking run took place on a course designed by the Road Running Technical Council commissioner of Benapole | police shot rubber bullets of USA Track & Field. Sarah chased a fluffy toy lure around the course, breaking the record on her very first

speed is in its long, flexible spine, which allows the animal to cover up to 22 feet on every stride. Cheetahs also vary their strides per second as they speed up, taking more strides per second as they run faster. That seems to be a special talent, researchers reported

in June in the Journal of Experimental Biology Other speedy creatures such as greyhounds keep a steady number of strides per second no matter how

fast they run. Cheetahs' sharp claws also act like cleats when they run, giving the big cats

traction. Cheetahs are endangered in the wild, with an estimated 9,000 to 12,000 living outside of zoos today.

## No fish export

and other species to Bangladesh if the ban is not withdrawn immediately.

Das was talking to a group of Bangladeshi journalists at no-man's land in Benapole border area on Thursday afternoon.

After being informed that the ban is temporary and was imposed to contain the soaring fish prices in Bangladesh during Ramadan, the association chief said they will wait till Eid-ul-Fitr before taking any conclusive decision on the

matter.

Akbar Hossain, joint customs, said the government has stopped exporting all kinds of fish to India in a bid to increase supply in local market and contain The secret to cheetah their prices during Ramadan.

Following an official announcement, export of all kinds of fish including hilsa came to a halt through the Benapole border on Wednesday.

Bangladesh's hilsa from the Padma River has a great demand in West Bengal.

## Pak court

FROM PAGE 1 reopen the cases against Zardari.

Last month, the Supreme Court made veiled threats Ashraf could suffer the same fate as Gilani if he refuses to do For more than two years,

the government has resisted

judges' demands to reopen

investigations into Zardari,

arguing he enjoys immunity as head of state. The showdown could force elections before February 2013 when the government would become the first in Pakistan's history to complete an elected, full

five-year mandate. The allegations against Zardari date back to the 1990s, when he and his wife, late premier Benazir Bhutto, are suspected of using Swiss bank accounts to launder \$12 million allegedly paid in bribes by companies seeking customs inspection contracts.

The Swiss shelved the cases in 2008 when Zardari became president and the government insists the president has full immunity as head of state.

But in 2009 the Supreme Court overturned a political amnesty that had frozen investigations into the president and other politicians, ordering that the cases be reopened.

Zardari had already signed the contempt law, which sought to exempt government figures, including the president, prime minister and cabinet ministers from contempt for acts performed as part of their job.

### Cops sue FROM PAGE 1

Another case was lodged with Savar Police Station against 12 named and around 200 unnamed students on the same charges. No arrests were made

until filing of the report around 12:30am. On Thursday night, Kazi

Johra Begum, mother of Tahmidul Islam Likhon Likhon, filed a case with Savar Police Station against 10 students including Riaz, Mahbub Ashrafuzzaman Liton and Shadikul Islam Nahid for stabbing her son.

Violence erupted on the campus after some unruly youths stabbed Likhon, a student of economics department and an activist of president-secretary faction of JU unit Chhatra League, near the gate No 1 of JU around 9:30pm on Wednesday.

Regarding the campus violence and police firing on students, the JU authorities will hold a press conference at the Senate Hall today. Vice-Chancellor Prof Anwar Hossain will brief newsmen at the press conference slated for noon, said a university release.

A five-member probe committee, formed on Thursday, will start its work today to investigate the rowdyism. The panel will submit its report within three weeks.

Students vacated their dormitories vesterday after the authorities on Thursday declared to shut the university until August 25.

Police were deployed on the campus as well as at some key points on the highway near the university to maintain law and order, said JU Proctor Tapan Kumar Saha. In protest against the

attack on Likhon on Wednesday, students brought out a procession on the campus around 11:00pm. Minutes later, police entered Mir Mosharraf

Hossain Hall and tried to arrest Nahid, a third year student of anthropology department. Police fired blank shots when other students resisted their attempt to

arrest Nahid. At one stage,

and shotgun shells injuring

at least five. Students took to the streets soon after Wednesday midnight and put barricades on Dhaka-Aricha highway, creating about 12-km tailback. They also vandalised 15 vehicles.

The blockades were lifted around 3:45pm on Thursday.

Likhon has been undergoing treatment at Enam Medical College Hospital in Savar.

# UN members condemn

FROM PAGE 1

It also calls for "an inclusive Syrian-led political transition to a democratic, pluralistic political system."

The United States and European powers blame Russia for the deadlock on the 15-nation council. Last month, Russia and China joined forces in their third double veto on Syria to strike down a resolution that would have called for an end to the violence and threatened Damascus with sanctions. Many of the elements from

the latest vetoed resolution were included in the text the assembly approved yesterday. Russia blames the West for

the Security Council deadlock, accusing it of encouraging and supporting Syrian rebels. US Ambassador to the

United Nations Susan Rice

welcomed the adoption of the

resolution.

"Despite the continued opposition of an increasingly isolated minority, the overwhelming majority of the UN members clearly stands resolutely with the Syrian people as they seek to fulfil their legitimate aspirations," Rice

Mark Lyall Grant told report-

The exporters usually send

hilsa weighing between 700

many as 4,494 metric tons of

hilsa worth about Tk 215 crore

was exported to India through

are allowed to catch hilsa only

between July and December.

The country produced 3.40

lakh tonnes of hilsa in 2010-

11. Of them, over 8,500 tonnes

of the fish worth Tk 352 crore

was exported, according to

destination for the hugely

popular Bangladeshi fish.

India is the biggest export

A Bangladesh Bank official

seeking anonymity said he

suspects under-invoicing in

hilsa export. Under-invoicing

is a common practice among

a section of exporters who

state price lower than what is

actually being paid to show

reduced profit and thus pay

the black money generated

through under-invoicing

makes for smuggling and

opt for less than half the price

and export an item when he

can earn more than double

developer company having

no reason behind the clem-

ency, except saying the pen

alty was cut on "overall con-

Investigation by an execu-

tive magistrate found that the

realtor has ruined biodiversity

and ecology by filling up low-

lying wetlands including

Ashkona-Kaola canal,

croplands, and rural home-

steads, according to docu-

ments obtained by The Daily

giving a primary site clear-

ance to the land filling in the

the Assistant Commissioner

(land) office concerned,

Ashiyan has filled up and

changed character of 230

acres of land without permis-

sion in Dakshinkhan and

Barua moujas including

nearly two acres of govern-

district administration show

the proposed site and it has

occupied 67 decimals of

According to records, at

least 33 affected locals have

filed complaints with the DoE

about Ashiyan's earth-filling

of Holan and Ashkona moujas

gathered with complaints

against Ashiyan of land-

grabbing and destroying their

homesteads and graveyard,

fearful of eviction, on

November 17 last year, the day

Scores of men and women

But the records of Dhaka

Ashiyan owns only 43 acres at become frequent in the local-

Still the secretary ordered

According to findings of

But the order mentioned

examined all the aspects."

sideration".

Star.

scheme.

mentland.

government land.

on their land.

"How can a businessman

money laundering.

The official also suspects

the Fish Department.

In Bangladesh, fishermen

Benapole for Tk 480 per kg.

In fiscal year 2011-2012, as

and 900 gram, he added.

ers after the vote that a "colossal majority" supported the resolution, which had been revised to remove language explicitly backing Arab League calls for Assad to step down and urging states to implement sanctions against Damascus. But the resolution still

welcomes an Arab League decision calling for Assad to step aside, without giving details of that decision. Those revisions secured

the support of dozens of countries that might have opposed it otherwise, UN diplomats

#### 'PIECE OF THEATRE' Saudi Arabia's Ambassador

Abdallah al-Mouallimi said "the number of votes in favour has exceeded all of our expectations.' French Ambassador

Gerard Araud, president of the Security Council this month, also welcomed the adoption of the resolution, but said it was unfortunate the council has been unable to act the way that the assembly did. "The Security Council is

how we could move forward on this issue." Syrian Ambassador Bashar

blocked," he said. "I don't see

Britain's UN Ambassador Ja'afari, after the vote, complained that the meeting was

without going through any

hassles of exporting?" he

MU Sea Food in Jessore, one of

the leading hilsa exporters,

said they were exporting hilsa

weighing even below 500

by exporting the fish at Tk

480," said Dejen, trying to

Saint Martin Fish at Jessore

Boro Bazar, said hilsa weigh-

ing between 500 and 600 gram

tion the export of hilsa to India

at such a low price when the

hilsa at such low prices,

because such prices do not

bring enough foreign cur-

rency," said Abu Bakar

Siddique, president of

Jatrabari Fish Wholesalers

Market, the country's biggest

banned the export of hilsa

during the holy month of

Ramadan. Siddique said

although a ban is in force,

hilsa would still be available in

the markets in West Bengal,

where a huge amount of fish is

DoE carried out its enforce-

ran the news and photograph

of a weeping woman explain-

ing her plight to government

Development Ltd has neither

environmental clearance nor

approval from Rajdhani

Unnayan Kartripakkha

(Rajuk) although both are

mandatory for any housing

scheme. As per the environ-

ment law, such a project falls

Rajuk's town planning section

in August last year through a

notice asked Ashiyan's

Managing Director Nazrul

Islam to stop illegal develop-

ment of Ashiyan City and

Ashiyan Shital Chhaya and

their advertisements on tele-

a DoE notice to stop destruc-

tion of wetlands and

croplands in October last year,

said DoE director

Mohammad Munir

ity due to the filling up of

tive engineer of Ashiyan,

confessed before the DoE to

environmental offences it has

committed and that the

appeal for exoneration was

Mridul Hasan, an execu-

adjoining floodplains.

pay the penalty.

untenable.

The developer also defied

vision and in newspapers.

A deputy director of

under red category.

Ashiyan Lands

Leading national dailies

smuggled from Bangladesh.

The government has

fish market.

Ministry goes soft

ment drive.

officials.

"There is no need to export

local demand is so high.

Businessmen also ques-

Sheikh Abbus Raj, owner of

justify the anomaly.

sells for Tk 800 a kg.

"So we can still make profit

Dejen Das, accountant of

Quizzical export

asked.

"another piece of theatre" organised by the Qatari president of the General Assembly, Nassir Abdulaziz al-Nasser, to pursue his country's agenda.

Saudi Arabia and Qatar support the rebels determined to oust Assad. Ja'fari repeated his country's accusations that both are supplying weapons to the opposition, adding that yesterday's resolution will have no impact whatsoever."

Earlier, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon told the assembly that the brutality in Syria's biggest city, Aleppo, may be crimes against humanity. He also reiterated his concern about the deadlock on the Security Council. "I have said many times how much I regret the divisions that have paralysed action in the Security Council."

He repeated that he intended to replace UN-Arab League mediator Kofi Annan, who announced on Thursday his intention to step down at the end of August. Annan said the deadlock

on the 15-nation council was among the factors that had undermined his peace efforts. He also said that neither side in Syria appeared to want peace, a point Ban echoed yesterday.

"Nonetheless, the ban

should be in place all the

time," he told The Daily Star

yesterday, adding that he

would arrange a press confer-

ence in the capital tomorrow

to urge the government to

continue the ban on hilsa

Siddique said they sold

four hilsa, each weighing 500

gram, for Tk 1,200 and four

with weight ranging

between 800 gram and 900

gram for Tk 3,000 in the

India said the ban may trigger

a diplomatic feud as fish

lovers in Kolkata and the rest

of West Bengal have been

banking on the hilsa of the

Padma this year following an

extremely poor catch in the

nosedived from 60,000 tonnes

2011-12. This year, the catch

may not even reach 8,000

tonnes, said The Times of

India on Thursday, quoting

envoy to Kabul

The US Senate late Thursday

confirmed career diplomat

James Cunningham as

President Barack Obama's

new ambassador to

Cunningham has been

serving as deputy to Ryan

Crocker, the US envoy in

Kabul who is leaving his post

**US Senate** 

confirms

AFP, Washington

Afghanistan.

postings.

Hilsa catch in West Bengal

export.

state.

sources.

### Fall in support for Israel's Likud

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party has per poll showed yesterday.

for the daily Haaretz showed that if a general election were held now, Likud's current 27 seats in the Knesset or parliament would fall to 25. A July poll said Likud would secure 29 seats. Shelly Yachimovich's

would win 21 seats in an election, well up from a July estimate of 14. A total of 513 adults were surveyed for the poll, with a

centage points. The poll also showed Netanyahu's personal popularity plummeting to its lowest point since his election in 2009 because of a series of

wholesale market. tough austerity measures. "The retailers sell the fish at three times the wholesale price. Why should we sell hilsa at such low prices when there is a huge demand at the local market?" he asked. percent said the opposite. Meanwhile, reports from

The rest had no opinion. Israel's next general election is due in October 2013.

one were held now, the centrist Kadima party would see its representation shrink from a current 28 seats to just seven (nine in July).

### FROM PAGE 20

later entered the tank and brought the bodies out of it, Farid Ahmed said. Circumstantial evidence

Abdullah Al Harun, one the

plot owners, told The Daily Star they built the tank 25 days back for a semi-pucca house intended on the plot.

### Govt moves

Dr Muhammad Yunus,

party acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said in a statement.

after a distinguished career in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria and Lebanon, among other The US embassy in Kabul is among the largest in the world, with more than 1,100 US staff, and the envoy wil oversee the US transition process as Nato countries, led by the United States

than 10 years of war. Cunningham's confirmation was among a long list of envoys confirmed by the Senate before lawmakers began a five-week summer break.

Chowdhury. Floods have Cunningham spoke of the challenges facing the United States and the region while he participated in the Senate confirmation hearing on Tuesday.

illegally filling up wetlands long-term, enduring supand gave an undertaking to port structure for Afghanistan's continuing The DoE presented arguprogress and development ments to the ministerial are now in place," he said. appeal authority that the "This makes clear to penalty was justified in light of Afghans and the region that

Cunningham added.

the security transition does not mean we are abandon-

### Elephant tramples 1 to death

UNB, Bandarban

A man was trampled to death by a wild elephant in Naikhangchhari upazila of Bandarban district early vesterday. The deceased was identi-

fied as Saber Ahmed, 45, of Chhagalkhaiya village. His brother Shaidul Islam,

29, who was also trampled by the elephant, is battling for his life.

Baishari Union Parishad chairman Monirul Islam said an elephant stormed into the house of Saber when he and his brother were asleep at about 12:00 am, leaving Saber dead on the spot.

# AFP, Jerusalem The popularity of Israeli

fallen while that of the opposition Labour party is rising fast, the results of a newspa-The opinion poll carried out by the Dialog Institute

Labour, with 13 seats now,

margin of error of 4.1 per-

Asked if they were satisfied or dissatisfied with Netanyahu's performance as premier, 60 percent said they were unhappy, while 31

But the poll showed that if

Septic tank

#### in 2010-11 to 18,000 tonnes in free from poisonous gas and has dropped further and

shows that the workers died from inhaling toxic gases, he added.

FROM PAGE 1

The government is

blinded by a personal hatred against the microlender, which is protecting the interests of millions of poor people. It is destroying the national image by harming and defaming world renowned Prof Yunus and Grameen Bank, he complained. The BNP leader vowed to

was issued a day after the

the people and the country.

They pushed the people into

misery by breaking their

oppose this "destructive" decision by uniting the people irrespective of party withdraw the remaining affiliation, opinion, class or 130,000 troops after more profession. Signed by party's Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, the statement

> cabinet approved a plan to amend the ordinance to give more power to the Grameen Bank chairman to pick its managing director. "The Awami League government never paid attention to the interests of

"Today, the pieces of a

ing Afghanistan,

promises regarding the development and prosperity of the country," said the statement. The government contin-

ues to attack someone until he is destroyed completely, if it considers them as the enemy, mentioned Fakhrul.