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Tagore's 71st death anniversary today

STAR REPORT

The 71st death anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore will be observed today, the 22nd day of the Bengali month of Sraban. To mark the day, different social and cultural organisations have taken up special programmes. The versatile personality throughout his life enriched Bangla literature

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

Faulty, old launches get facelift

Raises risks in journey on river routes

PANKAJ KARMAKAR

Like in the previous years, around 100 faulty launches are getting quick fixes in docks of Keraniganj during Ramadan this year so that those could be pressed on service to ferry Eid holidaymakers.

The Department of Shipping, the government body to regulate water transport, has issued notices and instructions upon many of these launches for repairs. It had said repairs were needed to obtain their fitness certificates.

In the last one month, the department's Ship Surveyor Shahdat Hossain identified over two dozen faulty launches sailing to different destinations from Dhaka.

"We have issued notices to over 15 launches, which have major faults, and we gave verbal directives to the rest of the launches, which have minor faults, to have them repaired immediately," he said.

MV Keya-1, MV Jamal-3, MV Al Walid, MV Tarika-7, MV Prince of Barisal, MV Shahidut MV Prince of Russel and

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1



Workers are patching up old and faulty launches at Keraniganj dockyards. They are doing the repairs in haste as owners, targeting to catch Eid holidaymakers, have instructed them to complete the work within the next one week.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Lack of true democracy leads to instability

PM speaks at int'l seminar on People's Empowerment and Development

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday attributed the mass upsurges in different parts of the world to lack of participatory democracy and justice.

She observed that without true democracy, social stability and peace cannot be durable.

The premier was addressing the inaugural ceremony of an international seminar on People's Empowerment and Development at

Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in the capital.

"Absence of democracy and social justice can be linked to sustenance of poverty, inequality, deprivation and marginalisation, which in turn instigates extremism and terrorism," Hasina told the audience.

The premier said she firmly believes that justice is an important requisite for sustainable peace, and it is possible to attain through empowering people for meaningful engage-

ment in development activities at all levels of the society.

Hasina thanked the delegates for taking heartily her concept presented in the 66th UN General Assembly (UNGA) session on People's Empowerment for Peace, Justice and Development, and said their input would make the concept a classic, universal and workable one.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1
MORE ON PAGE 2, 5, B1

Youth shot dead by criminals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified criminals shot a youth to death at Pallabi in the capital yesterday afternoon.

The deceased, Mohammad Ali, 35, was a worker at a small handicraft factory at Shyampur. Pallabi police said he sustained three bullet injuries.

Sub-Inspector Nurul Afzar of Pallabi Police Station said locals heard several gun shots at

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

WAR CRIMES TRIAL

Contempt petition filed against Sajeda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Defence counsels of Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah have filed a contempt of court petition against Deputy Leader of Parliament Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury for allegedly making statements allegedly disrespecting the international crimes tribunals.

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 -- the second of two courts formed to deal with crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War -- yesterday fixed August 27 for hearing the petition.

Tajul Islam, a defence counsel, told The Daily Star that the petition had been filed on the basis of a report published in Bangla daily Amar Desh on July 28.

According to the report, Sajeda at a programme the day before said Razakars had not followed any law while committing crimes against humanity in 1971 and so, laws were not needed to be followed in trying them.

One or two of those charged with war crimes should be hanged to prevent them from taking advantage of loopholes in the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

Nasa's rover lands on Mars today

AFP, Washington

Are we alone? Or was there life on another planet? Nasa's \$2.5 billion dream machine, the Mars Science Laboratory, aims to take the first steps toward finding out when it nears Mars's surface today.

Scientists have found signs of water on Red Planet, which is Earth's neighbor, hinting that

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

7 held with Tk 50 lakh fake notes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Detective Branch of police arrested seven people with Tk 50 lakh counterfeit money in separate drives in the capital's Postogola area early yesterday.

A laptop, three printers and some

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

PARTIES' POLLS EXPENDITURE

EC sits on reports for over 3 yrs

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Election Commission has not taken any move in the last three and a half years to scrutinise the election expenditure reports submitted to it by political parties contesting the 2008 parliamentary polls.

Almost all the 39 political parties contesting the election, including Awami League, BNP, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami, submitted incomplete expenditure reports. But none of them faced any action for non-compliance of electoral laws properly.

According to the Representation of the People's Order (RPO), the EC is legally bound to scrutinise the election expenditure reports of political parties.

Officials at the EC Secretariat said the possibility of the new EC's doing the job is very slim since it is getting busy

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

EC prepares roadmap to JS polls

People accepted no-caretaker provision, says EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The next parliamentary polls will be held under the current constitutional provisions as the people have "accepted" the 15th Amendment to the constitution, Election Commissioner Abdul Mobarak said yesterday.

The 15th amendment scrapped the caretaker government system and introduced the provision of holding the parliamentary election within 90 days prior to dissolution of parliament.

According to the amendment, the Awami

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

PRAYER TIMING August 6		
Fajr	Azan	Jamaat
4-09	4-14	
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-42	6-52
Esha	8-15	8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		



MR. NOODLES SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS			
RAMADAN	DATE	SEHRI	IFTAR
17	6 Aug		6.42 pm
18	7 Aug	4.04 am	6.41 pm



আফতাব গার্মেন্টস লিমিটেড [সার্কুলার নিটিং, কাটিং, সুইং এবং ফিনিশিং]

(আফতাব গ্রুপের একটি প্রতিষ্ঠান)



AFTAB GARMENTS GAZIPUR FACTORY

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B.I.T.'s second campus in Uttara is now complete - therefore the Head Office will be re-located there -- the new session will begin from August 2012.

In Uttara the classes will be from Play Group to Advanced Level.

In Gulshan, the classes from Play Group to Class V will remain in Gulshan.

Girls' Section will have classes from Class I - Class X and will remain where located.

Parents who have been wait-listed for admission, may now complete the formalities.

BIT Campuses, Uttara



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Junior School



Middle School (under construction)

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Founder-Principal, B.I.T.

Office Hours: Sunday - Thursday (09.00 AM - 01:00 PM)