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HILL SLIDE IN CTG Narrow escape for 11 kids

SHAHADAT HOSSAIN, Ctg

Yesterday was another nice weekend for schoolkid Imran Hossain and his friends.

Around 10:30am, they were out playing cricket in a small open space adjacent to Wahabi Hill in the city's Kusumbagh Residential Area.

Two hours later, a sudden loud sound reverberated in the air and turned things into a mess.

Even before taking a glance at the origin of the sound, Imran along with his six friends started running for safety.

But within moments, three of them -- Imran, Yasin and Akbar -- found themselves under heaps of soil that slid off the hillside. Only their heads were above the soil.

"It nearly took my breath away and we started crying for help," said Imran, a second grader at Omar Gani Govt Primary School.

Hearing screams for help, locals rushed to the scene and rescued the three after making frantic efforts.

Talking to this correspondent yesterday afternoon, nine-year-old Imran said he could not believe that he was still alive. Fears lurked in his eyes.

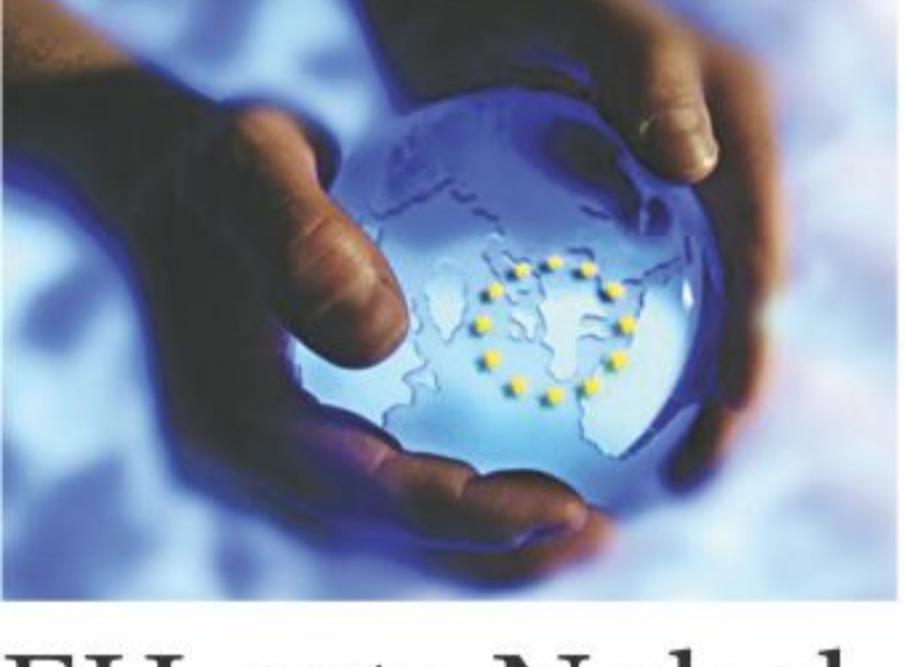
Witnesses said there were four more boys who escaped unhurt while playing with tops. All the boys aged

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Following days of downpour, a few children were almost buried alive in a landslide at the bottom of Wahabi Hill at Lakhn Bazar in Chittagong city yesterday. Luckily, they survived without a scratch. But the fire brigade and rescuers were not taking any chances. They kept on searching, inset, to see if they missed anyone under the mud.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



EU gets Nobel Peace Prize Praises, shocks follow

STAR REPORT

Praise, gratitude and shock have followed the news that the Nobel Peace Prize this year goes to the European Union.

Speaking shortly after the Nobel announcement in Oslo, European Commission president José Manuel Barroso, said he was honoured by the decision and that it was a reminder that even during the current crisis, "the EU is something very precious".

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

IMF foresees bright economic prospect Urges Muhith to increase petroleum prices

REJAUL KARIM BYRON, from Tokyo

The mid-term future of Bangladesh's economy was bright as the country had stuck to the economic reform programme supported by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), a top official of the Washington-based lender said yesterday.

Masahiko Takeda, a deputy director of the IMF Asia and Pacific Department, said Bangladesh's economy was relatively more exposed to the European situation because of the country's textile industry, which is very important part of the economy and an export driver.

"So in that sense, Bangladesh's export growth has slowed markedly, and that has been a negative sort of drag on the economy. But at the same time, partly because of the economic reform efforts being made with the IMF's support, the economic conditions are improving gradually," he said.

Takeda said the main objective of the programme was to make room for the government to increase the development spending which would lay the foundation for medium-term sustained growth.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

WB may release Padma fund early Muhith, Gowher meet bank's external panel in Tokyo

REJAUL KARIM BYRON, from Tokyo

The World Bank panel, assigned to review the investigation into the Padma bridge graft allegation, may give the green signal to the bank for a speedy disbursement of fund if it initially finds Bangladesh's handling of the charge satisfactory.

The three-member panel of international experts, who are due to arrive in Dhaka tomorrow to assess the Anti-Corruption Commission inquiry, has been asked to submit a report within a month, finance ministry officials said.

The assurance of quick fund disbursement came at a meeting between the panel led by Luis Moreno Ocampo, a former chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Finance Minister AMA Muhith and prime

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REDRAWING CONSTITUENCY

EC lags behind polls roadmap

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) could not yet complete preliminary work for redrawing the boundaries of parliamentary constituencies, raising doubts if it would be able to have it done by December, the stipulated timeframe.

According to its roadmap announced on August 5, a draft list on redrawing the areas of 300 constituencies was to be prepared by September 15, and the EC was supposed to approve it in the same month.

But it could not complete the tasks within September. The delay almost made it certain that the EC will not be able to publish the draft list by October, complying with the stipulated timeframe.

As per the roadmap, the EC is to invite

objections to its proposals on redrawing the boundaries and dispose of them by November to finalise the task by December.

Election Commissioner Shah Nawaz Thursday said they might need one more month to publish the draft list as it was a huge and sensitive task.

When his attention was drawn to the timeframe given in the roadmap, he said the work has been delayed a little. "However, it will not have any impact on the overall timeframe and we will be able to complete the entire task by December," he told The Daily Star.

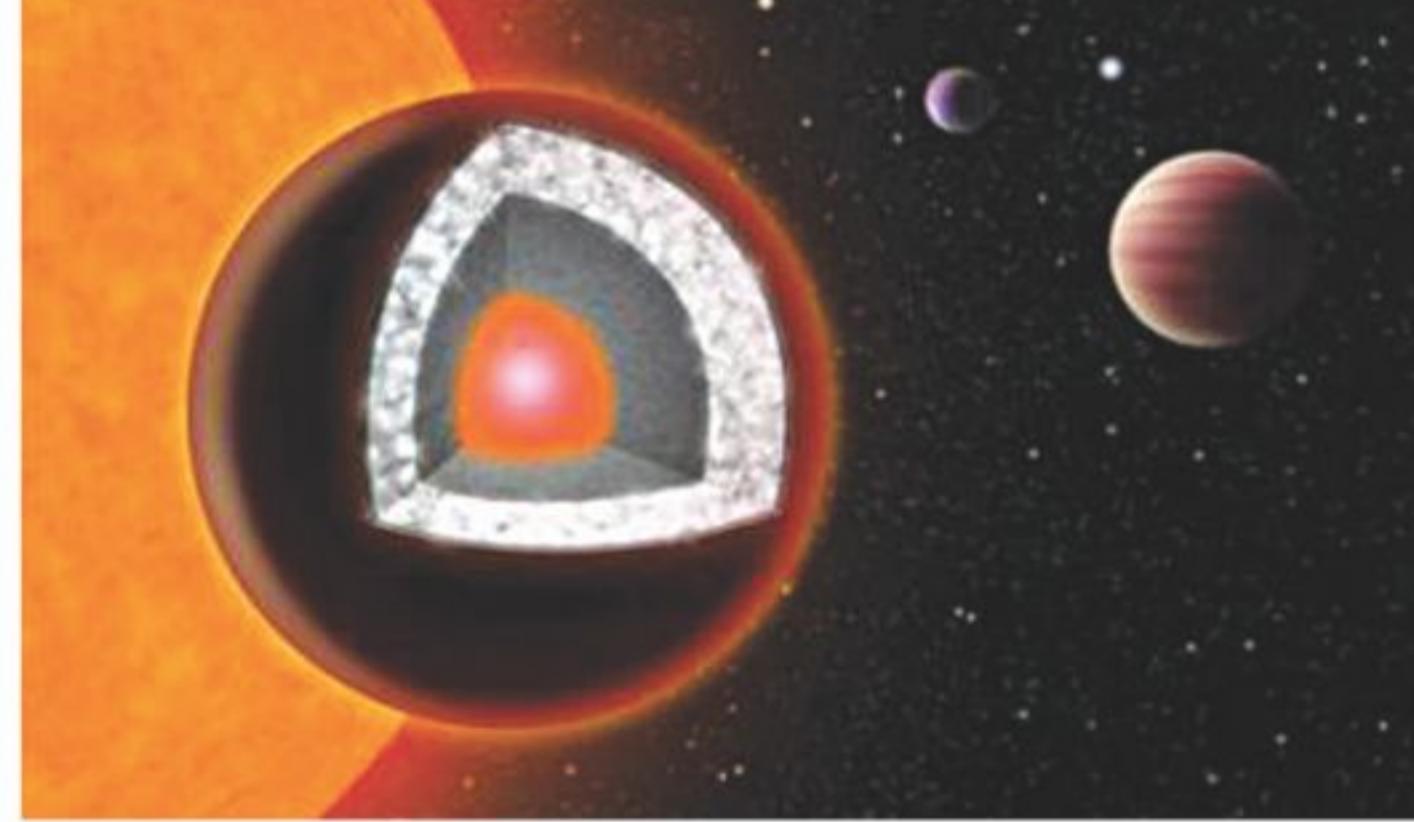
Referring to talks with civil society personalities and senior journalists, Shah Nawaz said the EC would sit next week to proceed with its next course of action.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

A diamond bigger than Earth?

REUTERS, London

1



This artist's rendition released by Yale University shows interior of rocky planet, 55 Cancri e. Scientists suggest that 55 Cancri e orbiting a nearby star is a diamond planet.

PHOTO: AFP

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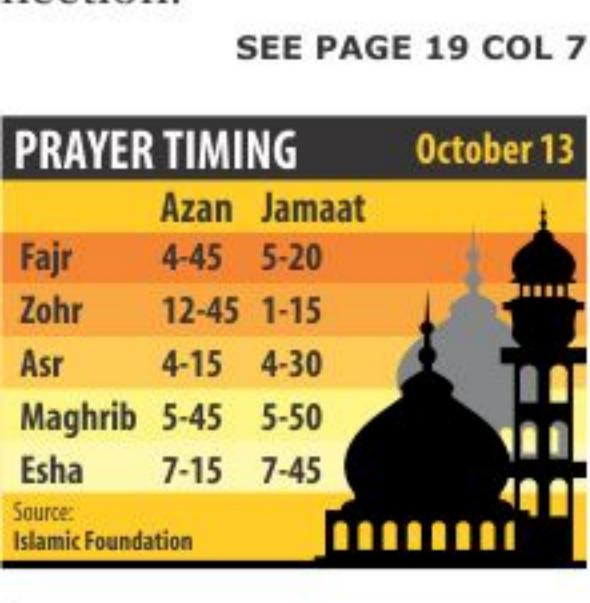
HUMAN TRAFFICKING Nine rescued in Benapole

UNB, Benapole

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) rescued nine people from Putkhali border in Benapole yesterday while they were being trafficked to India.

The BGB personnel also arrested a trafficker, Arif Hossain, in this connection.

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US VICE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE Biden, Ryan fight hard for a draw

CNN ONLINE

Vice President Joe Biden and Republican challenger Paul Ryan hit the campaign trail yesterday after a combative debate in which they challenged each other's facts and claims while offering starkly different visions for the direction the country should follow.

In the lone debate between the vice presidential contenders, Biden achieved his goal of bringing the fight to his GOP foe in battling Ryan to a draw, boosting the spirits of Democrats disheartened by President Barack Obama's lackluster performance in the first presidential debate last week.

Ryan, meanwhile, made a positive impression with his command of both domestic and foreign policy issues that showed him to be a formidable national candidate after a career of local congressional races in his native Wisconsin.

A snap CNN-ORC International poll showed voters who watched Thursday's debate narrowly favoured Ryan over Biden by 48%-44%, a statistically even result after GOP presidential challenger Mitt Romney scored a clear victory over Obama last week in their first of three debates.

Martha Raddatz of ABC News aggressively moderated the debate, challenging

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

OCT 2 VIOLENCE 43 BNP leaders charged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday pressed charges against 43 leaders and activists of BNP, including the president of Jubo Dal, in a case filed for vandalising and torching vehicles in front of the party's central office in Naya Paltan on October 2. Inspector

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ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with journalist leaders that the home minister's latest remarks on the murder of the journalist couple Sagar and Rumi is unclear and misleading?

Yes (49.60%)
 No (48.40%)
 No Comments (1.90%)

TOTAL VOTES: 411

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with the leaders of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) that the Awami League-led grand alliance government has failed to implement its electoral pledges?

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নির্বাচন-২০১৪

Invitation for Submission of Nomination Forms of IEB Election for the Term 2013-2014

Applications are invited for Election of all posts of IEB Headquarters, Centres/All Engineering Divisions/Overseas Chapters and Engineers Recreation Centre as outlined in the schedule of posts for the term 2013-2014. Nomination Forms along with instructions and schedule of posts may be obtained from the IEB Headquarters, Ramna, Dhaka-1000 and also from the Local Centres & Chapters on payment of Tk. 1000/- for the posts of Executive Office Bearers for IEB Headquarters, Centre, Division and Engineering Recreation Centre and Tk. 500/- for other posts. Nomination Form will be available from 15 October, 2012 at the Office of the Headquarters, Centres, Overseas Chapters and Sub-Centres. Nomination Forms for all Headquarters posts are to be submitted directly to CEC in IEB Headquarters, Ramna, Dhaka. Nomination Forms for all Centres, Chapters, Engineers Recreation Centre post shall be submitted to the respective LEC. Nomination Forms shall have to be submitted on or before 20:00 hrs. of 23 October, 2012 positively. Nomination forms submitted beyond the schedule time shall not be received at all. The Election will be held on 24 December, 2012. The polling will be started at 09:00 hrs. and will be closed at 17:00 hrs.

Engr. Md. Khizir Khan, F-5898
Chairman
Central Election Committee 2012