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These recent photos taken in front of the city corporation market in Dayaganj area of the capital show the sorry state of two manholes in the middle of the road. One is without a lid and the other is damaged. This was hindering vehicular movement on the busy road so badly that a traffic policeman was deployed to warn motorists of the danger. The policeman himself was in danger of being run over or falling into them.

PHOTO:  
FIROZ AHMED

It will hinder press freedom

TIB reacts to Suranjit's threat to sue media

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former railways minister Suranjit Sengupta's "threat" to take legal action against some TV channels will obstruct independent journalism and the free flow of information, said Transparency International Bangladesh yesterday.

The TIB, an anti-graft watchdog, demanded that law enforcers provide

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SHRINKING TRANSBOUNDARY RIVERS

Livelihood at stake

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Teesta river swelled and overflowed its both banks just three weeks ago. Now anybody can cross the river on foot, said Vinod Das.

"A thin stream of water is flowing in the shape of a river. My boat is grounded in the sands of the Teesta. The decade-old fishing net is also torn. It is hard to manage food, let alone buying a new net as most of the time we cannot fish," said Vinod, a fisherman from Khorda village in Sundarganj, Gaibandha.

"We cannot fish even for two months in a year. The rest of the time

we try to fish in other waterbodies or do something else. It is like a dying situation here," Vinod added.

The recent years of his 73-year-old life have experienced such hardship, he informed.

Not only fishermen Vinod, lives of boatman Salimuddin Mia of Latshala and farmer Amzad Ali of Kapsia, among many others, are also in peril due to narrowing of trans-boundary Teesta.

They came to Dhaka to share their sufferings at an international consultation meeting titled "Framework for Cooperation on South Asian Trans-boundary Water," organised by

Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) yesterday.

"Our situation would not be like this if India would give us our due share of Teesta water," Vinod told The Daily Star while describing their sufferings.

Degradation of common rivers is causing immense sufferings to millions of people like Vinod and Salimuddin in this region, speakers said at the two-day meeting attended by regional water experts from India, Pakistan and Nepal.

Eminent Hydrologists and Vice-chancellor of BRAC University Dr

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'Which one of you is Malala?'

Friend describes the moment Taliban gunman shot her

AGENCIES

The horrific moment a Taliban gunman boarded a packed school bus and shot a teenage education activist twice at point blank range has been relived by her devastated friend.

Malala Yousufzai, 14, remains in a Rawalpindi hospital after being attacked for simply defending the right of girls to go to school. And police are questioning men with alleged links to the attack.

On Friday, an international team of neurological



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BSF kills 1 on Thakurgaon border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot dead a Bangladeshi cattle trader along Mondumala border of Baliadangi upazila in Thakurgaon early yesterday.

The dead was identified as Abdur Khalek, 30, of Moradhar village of the district.

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) sources said the BSF personnel of Sonamoti camp opened

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Criminal killed in 'gunfight' with cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A criminal was killed and another sustained bullet wounds when a gang of hoodlums "exchanged fire" with police after a chase on a road in Ashulia on the outskirts of the city yesterday afternoon.

The dead is Rony aged about 22. He was from Kaundia area of Savar.

Police arrested six members of the gang including the wounded and recovered one revolver, ten bullets, two machetes and two knives from their possession,

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EID-UL-AZHA Five pairs of special trains from Oct 24

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railway will arrange five pairs of special trains for October 24, the day before Eid-ul-Azha, to cope with the rush of Eid holidaymakers.

The trains will also run for the next seven days of the Eid day only for the people returning to Dhaka, railway Director

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The Daily Star

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ONLINE 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?

Yes (45.4%)

No (54.2%)

No Comments (0.4%)

TOTAL VOTES: 537

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government is sincere about finding the real instigators of Ramu violence?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT facebook.com/dailystarnews

Supercomputer to ape human brain

CNN ONLINE

There's no escaping the fact that the Human Brain Project, with its billion-dollar plan to recreate the human mind inside a supercomputer, sounds like a science fiction nightmare.

But those involved hope their ambitious goal of simulating the tangle of neurons and synapses that power our thought processes could offer solutions to tackling conditions such as depression, Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's.

The Human Brain venture is the next step in a long-running program that has already succeeded in using computers to create a virtual replica of part of a rat's neocortex -- a section of the brain believed to control higher functions such as conscious thought, movement and reasoning.

Scientists at its forerunner, the Switzerland-

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