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HIGHRISE AT MOUCHAK

Mall spreads to walkway

TAWFIQUE ALI

Some directors of Fortune Shopping Mall at Mouchak have been building 11 shops that encroach on the pavement of one of the busiest intersections in the capital. The constructions have clearly deviated from the “approved design” of the building.

The structures are clearly choking the pavement near the Mouchak footbridge, said Abul Hossain, a pedestrian.

Global Engineers and Developers Ltd, the construction company for the 15-storey shopping arcade, was erecting the shops for some directors of Fortune Shopping Mall, said an office staff of Fortune Shop Owners' Association.

Interestingly, eight out of 11 directors of Fortune Shopping Mall are also directors of Global Engineers and Developers Ltd.

Afsar Uddin, authorised officer of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha, said the shops were illegal and an approved layout design of the building would not have allowed such a bizarre provision for shops.

He said, “We served two notices upon the builder asking for the building's approved layout design but it did not respond.

“We served the final [third] notice on May 4 asking them to produce the design and remove the illegal structures within a week.”

He said, “We will declare the entire building illegal in case they fail to produce the approved design.”

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The illegally built shops at Fortune Shopping Mall at Mouchak leave no room for pedestrians who want to go straight and not cross the street. The pavement, *inset*, has been significantly narrowed down by the encroachment.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



BSF picks up 2 schoolboys

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) picked up two Bangladeshi schoolboys along Gokmondal border point at Phulbari upazila of Kurigram on Friday night.

They are Mizanur Rahman, 14, son of Islam Haque, and Aminul Islam, 16, son of Abul Hossain, of Uchatari village of the upazila. Mizanur is a class-seven student while Aminul a class-eight student of local West Phulmati High School.

According to Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) sources, the BSF men of Kharida-Harida BOP camp in Cooch Behar district picked up the schoolboys while they were going to their relatives' house in Kharida-Harida village around 8:00pm.

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Two most powerful men together for 6 hours

Obama, Xi seek new US, China ties

AFP, Rancho Mirage, California

President Barack Obama and China's President Xi Jinping wrap up their debut summit yesterday, grasping for a personal understanding that could ease often prickly US-China relations.

Obama and Xi spent nearly six hours together at the secluded Sunnylands resort in a sweltering desert oasis in California on Friday, wrestling with the future shape of relations between America and the rising Asian giant.

In an unusually public airing of views, they also discussed cyberhacking with reporters -- following reports that Chinese Internet spies have snapped up billions of dollars in US commercial secrets as well as military designs.

Skipping the usual summit pageantry, Obama and Xi went without neckties, in a departure from the stifling formality that marked Obama's halting interactions with China's ex-president Hu Jintao.

In their first meeting since Xi assumed power in March, Obama hoped for a “new model of cooperation between countries based on mutual interest and mutual respect.”

“It is in the United States' interests that China continues on the path of success because we believe that a peaceful and stable and prosperous China is not only good for the Chinese, but also good for the world and the United States.”

Hovering over the summit at a resort once

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Speaker dispels opposition's fear

Asks it to place polls-time govt proposal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury believes the opportunity for dialogue on how to hold the next parliamentary polls is still there, even though the opposition withdrew a formal proposal for talks last week.

The Speaker said this at a discussion on “Gender mainstreaming in Bangladesh parliament” at a hotel in the capital yesterday.

BNP lawmaker Mahbubuddin Khokon on May 22 submitted an adjournment motion in parliament to discuss the restoration of the caretaker government system.

He withdrew the proposal on Monday, the BNP parliamentary party said on the same day.

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Budget fate depends on politics

Says FBCCI

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The implementation of the proposed budget for the next fiscal year depends largely on political stability, FBCCI President Kazi Akram Uddin Ahmed yesterday said.

Political agitations and protests have negative impacts on investment, import and production at the factories, thus hold back the whole economy, he said, adding the politicians should practise political tolerance.

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PHOTO: MAIL ONLINE

SONTE film can be stuck to windows or shower doors and can be made opaque or clear at the touch of a button.

End of curtains?

Wi-Fi enabled windows change transparency at the click of button

MAIL ONLINE

Getting out of bed to draw the curtains may soon be a thing of the past after scientists developed revolutionary technology that changes the transparency of windows.

The Wi-Fi-enabled window shade, designed by Californian start-up SONTE, can be stuck to any glass including windows, showers and mirrors and can be controlled wirelessly using a smartphone.

The energy-saving film also provides UV protection, can save money on heating bills by controlling the amount of heat that enters your home, and doubles up as a video projector screen.

SONTE film is the first ever 'Wi-Fi-enabled digital shade' that instantly switches from opaque to clear in one second.

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BANGLADESH GARMENT SAFETY

US keeps the pressure on

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United States was actively engaged with the highest levels of the Bangladesh government, exporters and buyers on workers safety related issues in the readymade garment industry, said US State Department spokesperson Jen Psaki.

Responding to a question on a hearing at Senate's Foreign Relations Committee on Thursday, the spokesperson at the daily press briefing in Washington, DC on Friday said Undersecretary Wendy Sherman had extensive discussions in Bangladesh over factory and workers' safety issues.

He said US Ambassador to Dhaka Dan Mozena regularly engaged with the Bangladeshi authorities and the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, and had pressed them on the issues.

“So it is something we are in regular contact with, we are discussing and thinking about in the building, and we will continue to focus on,” Psaki said.

During Thursday's hearing, US senators called on the White House and major American retailers to bring

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'Minus two' formula still on

Alleges PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday alleged that conspirators were still after the “minus-two” formula of the army-backed caretaker government.

A section of people in the country have a great longing to go to power, but they do not have the courage to go to people for votes, she noted.

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PRAYER TIMING			June 9
Azan	Jamaat		
Fajr	4-05	4-40	
Zohr	12-45	1-15	
Asr	5-00	5-15	
Maghrib	6-45	6-50	
Esha	8-15	8-45	

Source: Islamic Foundation

Forbes sued

Saudi prince unhappy as it says he's only worth \$20 billion


LONDON, Reuters

Saudi billionaire Prince Alwaleed bin Talal has sued Forbes magazine for libel in a British court, alleging its valuation of his wealth at \$20 billion was short of the mark by \$9.6 billion, Britain's Guardian newspaper reported on Friday.

The prince, a grandson of Saudi Arabia's founder and nephew of King Abdullah, had attacked the US magazine's ranking of

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The Daily Star



Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think it was justified for Finance Minister AMA Muhith to hike duty on powder milk and newsprint?

Yes

(26%)

No

(74%)

TOTAL VOTES: 562

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that her government is capable enough to implement the next fiscal budget?

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JUSTICE MIZANUR'S CONTROVERSIAL CONDUCT

Probe not done in three months

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Even three months after its formation, the Supreme Judicial Council is yet to complete a probe into the alleged misconduct of High Court judge Justice Mizanur Rahman Bhuiyan.

Without giving details about progress in the probe, the Supreme Court sources said Justice Mizanur is now on a two-month medical leave, which would end in the first week of June.

SC Registrar AKM Shamsul Islam told

The Daily Star that he was not aware of the proceedings of the Supreme Judicial Council, since it works behind closed doors.

Allegations of misconduct were raised against Mizanur after he distributed copies of a newspaper report, published by the daily Inqilab on February 17, among the judges of the HC and the SC.

The report termed slain Ahmed Rajib Haidar, an activist of Gonojagoron Moncho -- a platform set up to demand the highest punishment for all war criminals of the

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OCT 25 LAST DAY OF JS

BNP hails Hasina's statement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP last night appreciated the prime minister's announcement that October 25 would be the last working day of the present parliament.

The standing committee of the party at a meeting also decided to take the upcoming elections in four city corporations with all seriousness and send a

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