



GREEN TAX

It will be imposed from next fiscal year to check pollution

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IT'S 'WINTER SLEEP'

Turkish director Nuri Ceylan wins Palme d'Or at the Cannes

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PAPAL DIPLOMACY

As he tours Middle East, Pope Francis invites Peres, Abbas to Vatican to pray for peace

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Bribe 10pc

TIB study exposes how local govt institutions make ministry officials happy to get projects, allocations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bribe, nepotism and political influence are at play in almost all activities of local government institutions, according to a study of Transparency International Bangladesh.

With corruption apparently institutionalised, the local bodies -- from union parishad to city corporation -- bribe officials of different ministries up to 10 percent of project funds for their approval.

They give Tk 5,000 to Tk 80,000 in bribe as well as gifts to audit officials for preparing reports in their favour.

Moreover, municipality mayors bribed ministry officials Tk 20 lakh to have their honoraria increased, says the study conducted between February 2013 and May this year.

TIB researchers Farhana Rahman and Rabiul Islam presented the study -- Local government sector: challenges of good governance and ways out -- at a discussion in the capital's Brac Centre Inn.

The study says 35.7 percent of households surveyed fell victim to irregularities in obtaining different certificates, including those for citizenship, and birth and death registration. On average, they paid Tk 94 beyond the government-set fees.

Similarly, 35.8 percent households gave bribes to get included in social safety net programmes, and of those, 50.4 percent paid a bribe of Tk 1,048 on average, says the study.

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A herd of elephants graze on the hills at Poragaon union of Nalitabari upazila of northern Sherpur. This and two other herds entered several villages looking for food. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Wild elephants raid villages for food

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

It's a battle for survival.

Loss of habitats and food sources has forced at least three herds of around 60 to 70 wild elephants of Tangail's Garo hills to march to adjacent villages in search of food, triggering a conflict with villagers.

These mega-herbivores, that can consume a year's harvest in just a few days, are raiding the croplands and gardens of toiling people of around 60-kilometer area of Nalitabari, Jhenaigati and Sreebardi upazilas.

According to Sherpur district administration, a herd of about 15 to 20 wild elephants entered the Garo hills in Bangladesh from Meghalaya of India's Assam in 1997. They did not go back as the hills offered them abundant food and habitat.

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MURDER IN FENI

Prime suspect Jihad captured by cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Feni police yesterday arrested Jihad Chowdhury, the prime suspect in the gruesome murder of Phulgazi upazila chairman Ekramul Haq.

Jihad, also known as Jahid, is joint general secretary of Phulgazi Awami League and a close aide to Feni-2 AL lawmaker Nizam Hazari.

Police caught him around 6:00pm from



Jihad Chowdhury

the district's Baraipur area, said Shamsul Alam Sarkar, additional superintendent of Feni police.

His arrest came a day after Rab produced eight suspects in the murder before the media on Saturday.

During primary interrogation, the eight confessed to the elite force that Jihad along with Abidul

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He's in thick of things

Family members of murdered Nazrul want arrest of Shamim Osman right away

EMRAN HOSSAIN and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

The arrest of Shamim Osman is key to cracking the Nazrul murder case, said the victim's family members.

They alleged the Awami League lawmaker knew all along about the plan of the abduction and killing of Narayanganj panel mayor Nazrul Islam.

Shamim needs to be extensively quizzed, they said.

Nazrul was among the seven people abducted on the Dhaka-Narayanganj link road on April 27. None of them came back alive.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Nazrul's brother Abdus Salam said, "I believe people now know who masterminded the killing."

"Immediate arrest of Shamim Osman is necessary for solving the case as the phone conversation reveals he might have helped Nur Hossain escape."

Salam also said they are going to launch a movement to press for the arrest and trial of Shamim.



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HC GETS PROBE UPDATE NEXT WEEK ... PAGE 16

HSC maths questions available on Facebook

18 leaked questions found same as original; Dhaka board on denial mode

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Board HSC examinees took their maths first part exam yesterday, amid allegations that the question paper was leaked in the social media the night before.

Students and parents contacted The Daily Star on Saturday to inform about the leak. Around 10:00pm, this correspondent found some questions on a Facebook page named HSC Exam 2014. After the test was held yesterday, it was found that 18 of the 22 questions matched with those leaked on the page.

The Facebook page and the leaked questions were still available yesterday. The profile picture of the page had "Prashnopotro Fash" (question paper leaked) written on it.

Besides, some students and parents alleged that hand-written copies containing the questions were also available on Saturday, and those were identical to those on the original question paper.

But the board authorities refuted the claims.

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KHALEDA'S INDICTMENT HC gives split order on judge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court bench yesterday delivered dissenting orders on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's writ petitions challenging the appointment of a trial court judge, who indicted her in two separate corruption cases.

On March 19, Bashudev Roy, judge of Special Judge's Court-3 of Dhaka, framed charges against Khaleda and

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PRO-BNP LAWYERS Court boycott across country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pro-BNP lawyers yesterday boycotted courts across the country, including the Supreme Court, for about two and a half hours, protesting the government's action that foiled their rally on the SC premises on Saturday.

Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi

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