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PINAK-6 DISASTER

Shipping dept surveyor suspended

TAWFIQUE ALI

Shipping Department on September 21 suspended the ship surveyor who illegally issued operating permit to the unfit passenger vessel Pinak-6 that capsized in the Padma river on August 4, killing over a hundred passengers on board.

The action was taken following a government enquiry findings on the tragedy and the authorities are going to sue others responsible for the tragedy with the marine court.

We have suspended the surveyor, as he, among other officials, was directly liable for the tragedy, Commodore M Zakiur Rahman Bhuiyan, director general of Department of Shipping (DoS) told The Daily Star yesterday.

Mirza Saifur Rahman, the DoS surveyor, allowed Pinak-6 to travel with temporary fitness certificate (token) thrice though the Inland Shipping Ordinance has the provision of such permission once for 45 days.

"The vessel sank as it was allowed to ply on temporary permits issued in violation of the law despite the fact that you [Saifur] identified several faults with the vessel," read the suspension order.

"The enquiry committee deemed your act as a sheer

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Traffic police carry wheel clamps, introduced in the city recently, to catch and fine vehicles for illegal parking on Kuril Biswa Road yesterday. The idea is to fine a number of illegally parked vehicles at once instead of fining one and having to let others get away. Even though the clamps were there for use for some time, police started using them more in the recent months on thoroughfares and in front of malls and markets. However, some in the traffic department say that only the vehicle owners are punished while the malls and markets with no parking space do not.

PHOTO: STAR

New pay scale effective from next fiscal yr

Says Muhith

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The new pay scale for the government employees is likely to be implemented from July 1 next year, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said yesterday.

"The government employees, for sure, will get their salaries under the new pay scale from the next fiscal year.... However, if its implementation is delayed, it will be effective retrospectively from July 1," he told reporters after a

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Obama for global action on climate threat

AGENCIES

US President Barack Obama yesterday urged all nations including emerging economies to act against climate change, warning that time was running out to prevent further damage.

Addressing a UN climate summit hours, Obama said the "urgent and growing threat of climate change" would ultimately "define the contours of this century more dramatically than any other issue."

"We know what we have to do to avoid irreparable harm. We've to cut carbon pollution in our own countries to prevent the worst effects of climate change," he mentioned.

The world also has to "adapt to the impacts that unfortunately we can no longer

avoid," said the president.

Obama added: A future climate agreement -- which a 2015 conference in Paris aims to seal - needed to be both "ambitious" and "flexible."

The US leader said he met in New York with Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli of China, which has surpassed the US as the world's top emitter of greenhouse gases blamed for climate change.

Obama said he "reiterated my belief that as the two largest economies and emitters in the world, we have a special responsibility to lead. It's what big nations have to do."

"Today I call on all countries to join us -- not next year or the year after that but right now -- because no nation can meet this global threat alone," he said.

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JUDGE REMOVAL Law within 3 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is likely to enact in three months a law determining the procedure for removal of Supreme Court judges on grounds of incapacity and misbehaviour, Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said.

"Formulation of any law is a continuous process and I have already begun the procedure for holding discussions about a law [regarding the impeachment of judges]," he said, while talking to reporters after attending a

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SHOWING 2 ARRESTEES AS WAR CRIMES SUSPECTS

Tribunal rejects prosecution plea

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the first time since its inception in March 2010, an international crimes tribunal yesterday did not allow the prosecution plea to show two suspected war criminals arrested in connection with committing crimes against humanity.

The International Crimes Tribunal-2, however, asked the prosecution to submit on November 2 a progress report on the investigation into Mahidur Rahman and Afsar Hossain's alleged war-time crimes committed in Chapainawabganj.

Mahidur and Afsar had been arrested at

Chapainawabganj on September 16 in a criminal case, not a war crimes case.

The three-member tribunal, led by Justice Obaidul Hassan with members Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Md Shahinur Islam, directed the jail authorities to send the duo back to Chapainawabganj jail.

After the prosecution submitted a petition asking the court to show them arrested in a war crimes case, the tribunal on Thursday asked jail authorities to produce them before it yesterday.

Yesterday, Prosecutor Sahidur Rahman

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11-day hilsa catching ban from Oct 5

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has imposed an 11-day ban on netting, sales and transportation of hilsa across the country from October 5 to ensure safe spawning of the popular fish during the peak breeding period.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Muhammed Sayedul Hoque made the announcement yesterday while talking to reporters before a meeting on preservation of hilsa at Mathsaya Bhaban in the capital.

Representatives of different agencies including navy, coastguard, police and Rab were present in the meeting, said sources.

Law-enforcing agencies were given directions regarding the ban, sources added.

The government has been imposing similar bans to protect the mother fishes since the 2003-04.

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With good catches by fishermen, hilsa prices have dropped at Karwan Bazar in the capital. The asking price of the four in the picture, weighing between 800gm to 850gm, was Tk 2,000 yesterday

PHOTO: STAR

MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK ACC approves graft charges against Khoka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday approved a charge sheet against former Dhaka City Corporation mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka and three others in a 2012 case filed over corruption in a multi-storey car park project.

Other charge-sheeted accused are Mansur Ahmed, the then executive engineer of DCC; Mafizur Rahman, the then acting executive engineer, and Aminur Rahman Chowdhury, DCC deputy assistant engineer of the time.

ACC Deputy Director Harun-ur-Rashid filed the case with Shahbagh Police Station in March 2012, accusing seven people, including Khoka.

Three other accused were exempted from the charge as they had not been found involved in the graft, said a top ACC official.

The corruption took place between 2007 and 2009 and caused a Tk-827 crore loss to the national exchequer, according to the case statement.

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Hasina-Modi meet to be substantive

Says Indian govt spokesperson

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Issues of substantive nature will come up for discussion during the first meeting between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi in New York on September 27.

"Since this will be the first meeting between the two leaders, they will discuss issues which are substantive in nature", said Syed Akbaruddin, spokesman of Indian External Affairs Ministry.

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PRAYER TIMING September 24		
Fajr	4-40	5-15
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-05	6-10
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

Railway knocks down 715 illegal structures

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The railway authorities yesterday demolished around 715 illegal shops and establishments on railway land at Khilkhet in the capital but spared a thana level Awami League office.

Around 2,500 illegal structures, mostly commercial shops, have so far been demolished from Khilgaon to Khilkhet area in last seven days.

The authorities launched the drive on September 12 following a train accident

that claimed four lives at Karwan Bazar.

Railway officials had earlier announced to conduct the drive till September 29 and resume it after the Eid break.

But they were compelled to postpone the drive during the hartal called by the Jamaat-e-Islam and BNP-led 20-party alliance due to lack of manpower from the police force, said a railway official.

Yesterday's drive began around 9:00am

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PHOTO ON PAGE 3

Body soon to set up nat'l broadcast commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A committee consisting of all the stakeholders would be formed shortly after Eid-ul-Azha for the constitution of National Broadcast Commission and drafting of National Broadcast Act, said Information Minister Hasanul Huq Inu yesterday.

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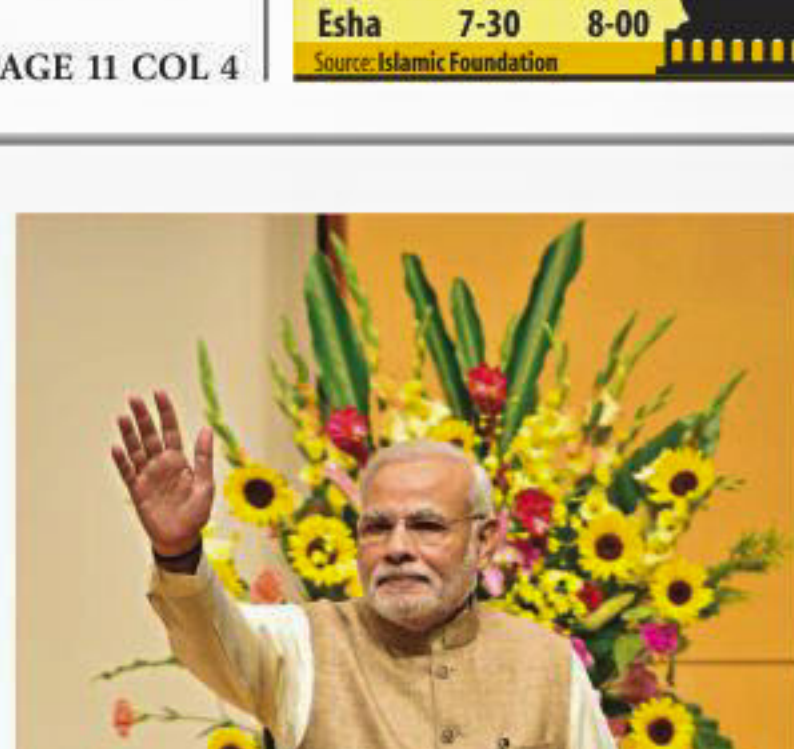
Modi opts for new fashion for US visit

AFP, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is pulling out all the fashion stops for his upcoming visit to the United States, hiring a top Mumbai designer to create outfits that will sell his vision of a newly confident, aspirational India.

India's politicians are often mocked

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think it would be justified for the government to take back part of the 2,492 acres of land allotted to the Korean Export Processing Zone (KEPZ)?

Yes

30%

No

70%

TOTAL VOTES: 152

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think it was justified for the launch owners to demand allowing their vessels to carry more passengers than the government-set limit during the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha?

Yes

30%

No

70%

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

www.thedailystar.net