

GP, Agami to localise Khan Academy contents

STAR REPORT
USA based non-profit organisation Agami has recently teamed up with Gramenphone to translate the contents of international online education institute Khan Academy for Bangladeshi students. Agami Education Foundation, Bangladesh and Agami Inc, USA have signed an agreement with the mobile operator, under which 20 lakh words and 1,200 videos will be translated into Bangla in six months, officials said at a Dhaka hotel yesterday. The Khan Academy Bangla Live Site will open soon with contents organised as per the local curriculum to provide students and teachers with quality educational materials. Khan Academy was founded by Bangladeshi-American educator Salman Khan.

HC tells mobile operators to stop Hindi ring tones

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The High Court yesterday directed mobile phone operators to stop ring tones or welcome tunes which are played in Hindi and also produced from the movie songs of sub-continental countries, including songs of Indian Bangla films. The court also issued a rule upon the government and the operators to explain why the use of such songs as ring tones or welcome tunes should not be declared illegal, Deputy Attorney General Amit Talukder told The Daily Star. Music Owners' Association filed a writ petition last month saying that such ring tones or welcome tunes could not be used under the Import Policy 2012-2015.



Staff buses of different organisations occupy the footpath in front of Star Kabab Hotel and Restaurant on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the capital, leaving very little space for pedestrians. The photo was taken yesterday.

LIQUID COCAINE HAUL Importing firm staff on remand again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
A Chittagong court yesterday granted another 5-day remand for Golam Md Sohel, an employee of importing firm, Khan Jahan Ali Ltd, in a case filed in connection with the liquid cocaine haul. The court passed the order after a 5-day remand. Customs intelligence on June 6 sealed off a container which arrived at Chittagong Port on May 8. The 107 barrels inside had labels claiming the contents to be sunflower oil. Khan Jahan Ali Ltd was the consignee of the container shipped from Montevideo Port in Uruguay by Import Export El Vaiven SRL of Santa Cruz of Bolivia. Detective Branch of police on June 6 detained Sohel. He was shown arrested after a case filed with Bandar Police Station on June 27. Later, three more persons were held in Dhaka in this connection. Investigation officer Md Kamruzzaman said they have sent samples of the liquids collected on Wednesday from the 107 barrels to three laboratories in Dhaka as per the court order.

Long waits at Dhaka, Ctg

FROM PAGE 3
in advance at Kamalapur Railway Station, said railway officials, adding that additional coaches and special trains would be added to cope with the Eid rush. As Eid is likely to be celebrated on July 18 or 19, there will be no sale on July 17. Officials said every day 1.8 lakh people travel by train across the country and the additional measures would increase the capacity to 2.5 lakh. At Chittagong Railway Station, 4,171 tickets will be sold daily. The return tickets to Dhaka and Chittagong will be sold in advance at Rajshahi, Khulna, Rangpur, Dinajpur and Lalmonirhat stations.

SC stays HC bar on Lux gold locket ad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Supreme Court has stayed for three weeks a High Court order that directed Unilever Bangladesh Ltd to stop publishing the advertisement on Lux soaps to lure buyers by offering the chance of winning gold lockets. Chamber judge of the Appellate Division Justice Hasan Foez Siddique passed the order on Wednesday after hearing a petition filed by Unilever. Sumaiya Raihan, a lawyer for Unilever, told The Daily Star that there is no legal bar on her client to publish the advertisement as a campaign titled "Buy Lux and win a fragrant gold locket." The HC on July 7 directed the company to stop the advertisement following a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Abdul Matin terming it "alluring and illegal".

SPURIOUS BRAZILIAN WHEAT SC stays HC order for take back on demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Supreme Court yesterday stayed till July 26 the High Court verdict that directed the government to take back the wheat imported from Brazil from a department or organisation if they want to return the grain, considering it to be unfit for consumption. Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division Justice Hasan Foez Siddique passed the order after hearing a petition filed by Attorney General Mahbubey Alam seeking a stay on the HC judgment. The judge also sent the petition to the Appellate Division's full bench for its hearing on July 26. Following a writ petition, the HC on July 8 delivered the verdict also asking the government not to compel anyone to receive the imported wheat if he is unwilling to do so. According to media reports, the Directorate General of Food bought 2 lakh tonnes of substandard Brazilian wheat early this year. Sources said the food office has already distributed over 1.5 lakh tonnes of the wheat for the government's safety net schemes -- including Food for Work, Test Relief -- and also as ration for police. Police complained of low quality grains, prompting the food ministry to collect samples from district warehouses for testing, said ministry officials earlier. After testing some samples of the wheat in its own laboratories last month the food ministry claimed that the grain was "fit for human consumption" and its quality "conforms to the contract specifications."

Abducted businessman's wife seeks PM's help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The wife of a businessman, who was allegedly abducted a week ago in the capital's Uttara, sought the prime minister's intervention from a press briefing yesterday. "I and my two children are living a terrible life without him," said Afsana Nur Julie at Jatiya Press Club. The abductors identified them as detectives when picking up Giasuddin Kushum, 43, the owner of a ship-breaking business in Chittagong, in a white microbus at Uttara Sector-10 on July 3, she alleged. Julie, who travelled from her home in Chittagong to Dhaka, said they filed an abduction case with Uttara Pashchim Police Station on July 5 and also contacted high-ups at the administration but could not trace him. The case statement, however, did not mention about detectives' involvement. It says three persons, who have business dealings with Kushum, might have had him abducted. Kushum owes around Tk 15 crore to the trio, his business adviser Rezanur Rahman told the briefing. Muntasirul Islam, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, denied the allegation of detectives' involvement. "As far as I know, no DB team picked him up," he told The Daily Star. Kushum was abducted while going to Panthapath for business purpose, says the complaint. He came to Dhaka on July 2 and stayed at a friend's house in Uttara. As the taxi cab reached a bridge between Road 1 and 2 of Sector-10 around 12:30pm, two persons on a motorbike waylaid him, according to the case statement. Later, four to five people arrived in a microbus and bundled him and the taxi driver Mohiuddin into it. The abductors blindfolded the two and forced them to wear masks. Two hours later, the abductors released the taxi driver near Bashundhara residential area. Known to Kushum for a few days, Mohiuddin went to the house of Kushum's friend in Uttara and informed the caretaker about the matter. Police are investigating the incident.



Giasuddin Kushum

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World Population Day tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
With women and children as the top priority, Bangladesh will observe World Population Day-2015 tomorrow with the theme "Vulnerable Population in Emergencies". "Our women are still deprived," State Minister for Health Zahid Maleque said at the ministry yesterday. He said it was necessary to provide women and girls with special health care facilities during natural and man-made disasters. Around the world, about five crore people become homeless due natural disasters and violence and three-fourths of them are women and children, he added. During those times women and children remain at risk of assault, rape and further violence, said the state minister. Zahid said around 1.7 lakh people died during a cyclone in 1991 in the country and 90 percent of them were women and children. To observe the day, rallies and meetings will be held in different places across the country.

World Health Organization
Country Office for Bangladesh
House No. CWN (A) 16, Road No. 48, Gulshan - 2, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh
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