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Ban soon on billboards at road turns

DNCC formulates draft guideline

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A draft guideline proposes banning all kinds of billboards at turns in major roads of Dhaka to make the city safe and look beautiful.

Over the years, a huge number of billboards have been set up in an unplanned way in the capital, in many cases illegally. For a lack of proper maintenance, these structures have now become unsafe.

According to reports, at least three people have been killed and 14 hurt in billboard collapse in the city since

To regulate the use of billboards and restore beauty of the city, authorities of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) recently formed a committee to draw up a guideline.

The draft has been sent to organisations and experts concerned for review, which is hoped to be done by next week, said environmentalist Iqbal Habib, a member of the DNCC committee. "It has been suggested in the draft guideline that the ideal

place for billboards can be where vehicles wait or are parked," he told The Daily Star over the phone yesterday. "It has been recommended that no billboards should be

placed at turns in main roads of the capital as they create SEE PAGE 17 COL 2



People gather at the historic Dhakeshwari National Temple for one last view of Durga and her children on the last day of Sharadiya Utsav yesterday. Today, Hindus will bid farewell to the Goddess through immersion of her idol.

PHOTO: **RASHED SHUMON**

Khaleda to return soon

Says Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some ruling Awami League leaders' speculation that Khaleda Zia might not return to the country fearing legal action is "baseless", BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said yesterday.

"It's a baseless speculation that our chairperson might not return home from London very soon. In Bangladesh, speculation is a great problem which sometimes buries the truth," he said.

Fakhrul was replying to reporters' queries at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on his return from Singapore.

He said, "Khaleda Zia would return home very soon after completing her medical treatment in London.' Asked, the BNP leader

said the date and time of her return would depend on her doctors' advice.

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UN Day programme cancelled

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations in Bangladesh has cancelled its reception marking the UN Day and UN's 70th anniversary scheduled for October 25 over "security reasons".

UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC) Robert Watkins had invited diplomats and high dignitaries for a reception at Hotel Lakeshore at Gulshan-2, but the programme has been cancelled, a highly placed UN source told The Daily SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

Holocaust responsibility 'very much our own'

Merkel says after Netanyahu claims Grand Mufti of Jerusalem convinced Hitler to exterminate Jews

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The German government has clarified it is responsible for the Holocaust following Benjamin Netanyahu's controversial comments in which he blamed the extermination of millions of Jews on a former Palestinian Arab nationalist and Muslim leader.

Addressing the 37th World Zionist Congress in Jerusalem, Netanyahu claimed the Grand Mufti Haj Amin al-Husseini convinced Adolf Hitler that if he expelled the Jews they would settle in Palestine and exhorted him to "burn them".

Asked about Netanyahu's comments,

Steffen Seibert, spokesman for German Chancellor Angela Merkel, said there was "no reason to change our view of history".

"All Germans know the history of the murderous race mania of the Nazis that led to the break with civilisation that was the Holocaust," he said.

"This is taught in German schools for good reason, it must never be forgotten and I see no reason to change our view of history in any way.

"We know that responsibility for this crime against humanity is German and very much our own."

The claim the Grand Mufti, who sup SEE PAGE 17 COL 6

Justice Manik attacked in London

Says his daughter, blames BNP

UNB, Dhaka

Former Supreme Court judge AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik came under attack in London on Wednesday, his daughter Nadia Choudhury said in a Facebook status yesterday.

Some unidentified men assaulted the ex-judge when he and his daughter were leaving the York Hall in Bethnal Green after visiting a Durga Puja Mandap there.

"On our way home from the London Heathrow Airport, dad spontaneously decided to make a detour to see the Durga Pooja at York Hall in Bethnal Green, where, he came to know, many of his acquaintances were present at the time,"

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Snake 'not guilty of killing Cleopatra'

BBC ONLINE

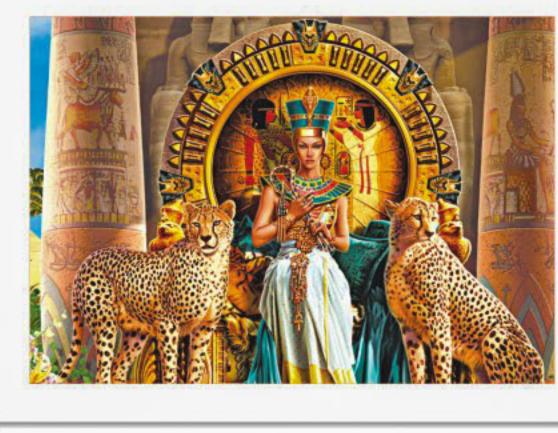
The story that Cleopatra, ancient queen of Egypt, was killed by a snake bite has been rejected as "impossible" by University of Manchester academics.

Egyptologists and snake experts have combined to examine the plausibility of the tale of the queen being killed by a cobra hidden in a basket of figs.

They believe a snake big enough to kill the queen and two maids would not have been small enough to be concealed.

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Radisson



Clarification, our reply

The Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges has sent a clarification in response to our report published in The Daily Star on Thursday with the headline "Unfit vehicles are mobile bombs". The ministry pointed out

that the photo accompanying the story was of an old bridge, next to it was a new bridge, in Golakandail area on Dhaka-Sylhet highway. It says vehicles of the highway are using the new bridge while small vehicles and pedestrians are using the old one. The publication of the photo of the old bridge has caused confusion among people, it claimed.

The clarification said the new bridge built beside the old one was opened in September 2014 and the old one is still in use there because of the requests of the local lawmaker and people. However, it says, SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

The star-cast of six franchises had a hectic day at the Radisson Blu yesterday, when they entered the players' auction for the third Bangladesh Premier League, a glamorous domestic T20 cricket competition that starts on November 20 after a gap of two years. Story on page 18

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

'Robber' killed in 'police gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

An alleged robber was killed in a "gunfight" with police in Laxmipur Sadar upazila in the early hours yesterday.

Deceased Abdur Rahim, 38, son of Faiz Mia of Durgapur village in Digholi union of the upazila is an accused in at least eight criminal cases with Chandraganj Police Station for charges including murder, robbery and rape, police said.

He was a life-term convict and fugitive in a rape case, said Humayun Kabir, officer-in-charge of the police station.

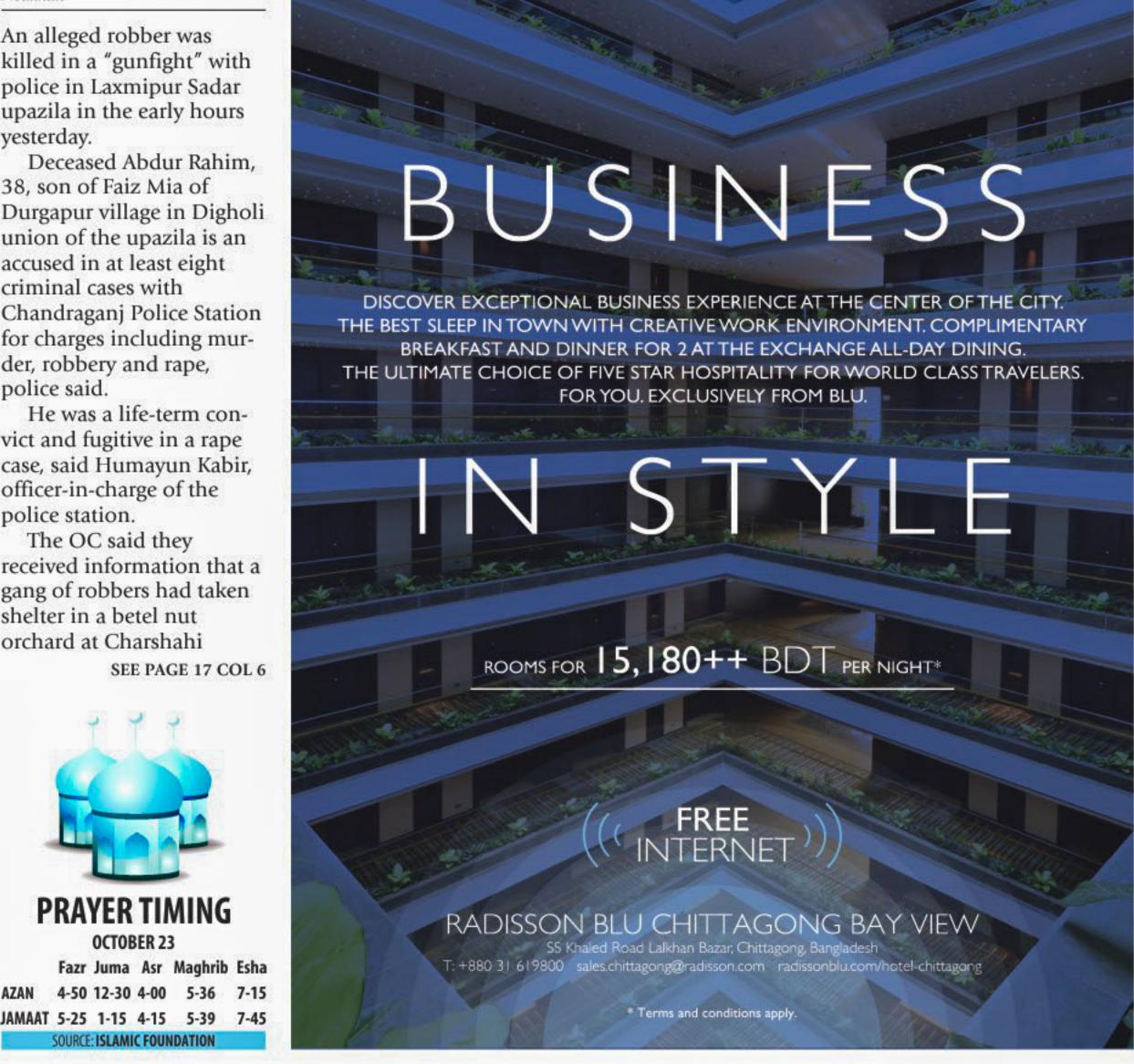
The OC said they received information that a gang of robbers had taken shelter in a betel nut orchard at Charshahi

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Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



WikiLeaks releases CIA boss's emails

AFP, Washington

The CIA accused WikiLeaks of "malicious intent" after the anti-secrecy campaign group published an initial tranche of documents Wednesday it said were from the personal email account of director John Brennan.

The Central Intelligence Agency said that so far there was no indication that any classified information was released, but the leak is nevertheless hugely embarrassing for America's SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

BENGHAZI HEARING

Fireworks erupt between Hillary, Republicans

CNN, Washington

The bitter political undercurrents surrounding the Benghazi attacks erupted yesterday with Democrats and Republicans feuding over the role of a special investigative panel while Hillary Clinton came under intense fire for her handling of the tragedy.

The panel's top Republican, Trey Gowdy, and Democrat, Elijah Cummings, began shouting and interrupting each other over what information the committee should release while Clinton sat silently in the witness chair, watching the heated exchange and nodding her agreement with Cummings. The Democratic presidential front-runner -- who seemed

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