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MOGHBAZAR-MOUCHAK FLYOVER




SHAZNEEN RAPE, MURDER CASE
Next hearing on May 10
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday continued hearing the appeals in a case filed over the rape and killing of Shazneen Tasnim Rahman in her Gulshan residence nearly 18 years ago. A five-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha also set May 10 for the next hearing. Lawyers Khandker Mahub Hossain and SM Shahjahan argued on behalf of the accused, while Nozrul Islam Chowdhury, AM Aminuddin, SM Abdul Mobin and Sarwar Ahmed represented the plaintiff. Attorney General

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Tanners take rawhide to leather city

April 10 deadline for all factories hard to meet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The latest deadline for relocating tanneries from Hazaribagh to Savar is just three days away and in all likelihood, most of the tanners are going to miss the deadline again. However, at least five tanners out of the 152 have started storing up rawhide in their factories at Savar Tannery Industrial Estate. They made the move after the government on April 1 enforced a ban on the supply of rawhide to the capital's Hazaribagh. The government extended the deadline for relocation of tanneries to April 10 as all the tanners failed to relocate within the previous deadline of March 31. Tanners said they could not start production in Savar as they were yet to get water and gas connections. The government authorities, however, claimed they were ready for the test run of the central effluent treatment plant (CETP) at the tannery estate after completion of works of the drainage system. "Although our CETP is ready, we can't operate it until at least 50 factories relocate there. This is because we need a certain volume of effluent to run the CETP. We want the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Workers pile up rawhide at a factory in Tannery Industrial Estate in Savar. At least five factories out of 152 have started storing rawhide to their tanneries there. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ



TONU MURDER
No trace of friend of Tonu's brother
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The search for clues to identify Tonu's killers has been futile so far. Now, the law enforcement agencies seem to fail too in the attempts to trace her younger brother's friend Mizanur Rahman allegedly picked up by people in the guise of police. Mizanur was picked up on March 28 from his Narayansar village home in Burichang upazila hours after he tried to communicate with Tonu's brother Anwar Hossain Rubel.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Arsenic scourge may claim several million lives

Fears HRW study on Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Human Rights Watch fears that several million people may die in Bangladesh in the coming years from diseases related to arsenic contamination as there have been negligence and corruption in mitigating the major health challenge. Depending on exposure to arsenic contamination, one to five million of the 90 million children estimated to be born between 2000 and 2030 will eventually die because of exposure to arsenic in drinking water, says a new study by the global rights watchdog. "The government acts as though the problem has been mostly solved," HRW Senior Researcher Richard Pearshouse said at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club in the capital. The HRW released the report, "Nepotism and Neglect: The Failing Response to Arsenic in the Drinking Water of Bangladesh's Rural Poor", yesterday on the eve of the World Health Day today. Arsenic is found in water mostly from shallow tube-wells in huge swathes of rural Bangladesh, mostly in the central and southern parts. If one drinks arsenic-contaminated water, he could suffer from cancers of skin, liver, kidney, bladder and lungs as well as cardiovascular diseases. According to government data, 20 million people in Bangladesh are exposed to arsenic contamination. Some 65,000 people are now suffering from arsenic-related diseases, and an estimated 43,000 people die from such diseases every year. The government keeps a national list of patients, identifying them primarily via their skin lesions.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

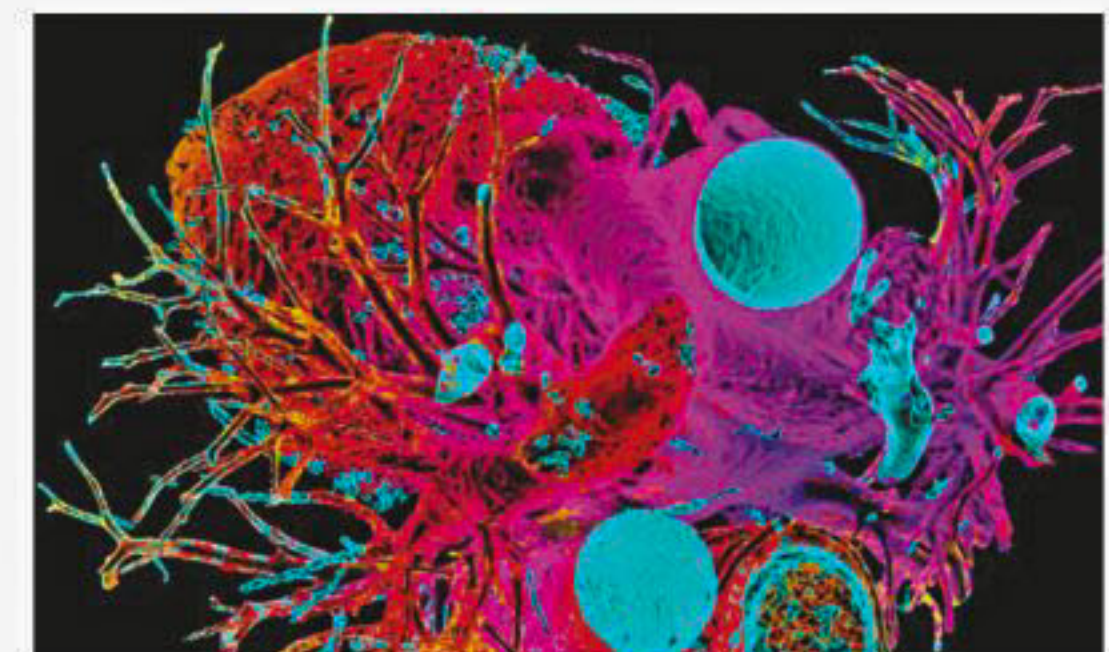
UP ELECTIONS All but AL unhappy

RASHIDUL HASAN and PANKAG KARMAKAR

Almost all the political parties which participated in the two phases of union parishad (UP) polls are unhappy with the elections. Twenty-one parties, out of the 40 registered with the Election Commission (EC), stepped in the battle of ballots on March 22 and 31. Of them, only the Awami League (AL) claimed that the elections, apart from some stray incidents, were fair. Almost all the other political parties expressed their dissatisfaction over the large scale of electoral violence that left 33 people dead and irregularities that include capturing of polling centres, ballot-stuffing and intimidating rival candidates by alleged AL men. Also, the parties, some of which are components of the AL-led alliance, strongly criticised the EC for "failing to ensure a free and fair voting", saying it would cause people to lose their confidence in the country's electoral system. The Daily Star learnt about the reactions after talking to several leaders of the parties and through their press briefings and statements.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 6

Pig hearts may save human lives



BBC ONLINE

Scientists say they have kept a pig heart alive in a baboon for more than two years. The result could boost hopes for the successful transplantation of animal organs into people, amid a shortage of human donors. Cross-species transplants provoke a powerful immune reaction, leading to rejection of the organ by the host. But a US-German team used a combination of gene modification and immune-suppressing drugs. Their work is described in the journal Nature Communications. "It is very significant because it brings us one step closer to using these organs in humans," co-author Muhammad Mohiuddin, from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute in Maryland, told the AFP news agency. "Xenotransplants - organ transplants between

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

8m people suffer from diabetes

World Health Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 80 lakh people in Bangladesh have diabetes, says State Minister for Health Zahid Maleque. "According to the World Health Organization, over 34 crore people across the globe are suffering from diabetes. And some 15 lakh people died of the disease in 2012 worldwide," he said at

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



PRAYER TIMING APRIL 7

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
4-40	12-45	4-45	6-21	7-45

JAMAAT 5-15 1-15 5-00 6-24 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

US PRESIDENTIAL RACE Day of the underdogs

REUTERS, Milwaukee

Republican Ted Cruz's decisive victory over Donald Trump in Wisconsin gave him momentum at a crucial time and put pressure on the front-running Trump to show he can absorb the shock and bounce back in upcoming primary states. Cruz, a US senator from Texas, dominated Tuesday's vote in a sign he is increasingly viewed as the main Trump alternative by those Republicans who cannot bring themselves to support the billionaire to be their presidential nominee for the November election. His win increased the chances of a rare contested party convention in July. On the Democratic side, US Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont easily defeated front-runner Hillary Clinton in Wisconsin, adding to Clinton's frustration that she has not been able to swiftly knock out a rival who has attacked her from the left and march to the presidential nomination. Clinton, a former secretary of state and US senator, stepped up her criticism of Sanders yesterday, saying he lacked a depth of policy understanding and would be unable to accomplish some of his key campaign pledges.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



A trader shows a hilsa at a market on Port Road in Barisal. Prices of the delicious fish have shot up in the wholesale market in the district before Pahela Baishakh because of supply shortfall triggered by a government ban on catching the fish in some major rivers.

PHOTO: ARIFUR RAHMAN

Hilsa scarce ahead of Baishakh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The price of hilsa has shot up just a week ahead of Pahela Baishakh because of supply shortfall triggered by a ban on catching the fish in some certain parts in the rivers. During a visit to the Hilsa-Mokam in Port Road area of Barisal, a small supply of the fish was seen because of the ongoing two-month ban on hilsa fishing in a 340-kilometre area of five major rivers in the six southern districts. The ban imposed by the Department of Fisheries began on March 1 with a view to prevent fishermen from catching fish fry including jatka and to facilitate safe spawning of the fish, said District Fishery Officer Wahiduzzaman. Different government bodies including the administration and law enforcement agencies are trying to implement the ban strictly. As a result, the hilsa traders on Port Road are selling seasonal watermelons, said Bimal Chandra Das of the DoF, Barisal. Ajit Das Manu, a hilsa trader of Port Road, said they are forced to sell watermelons as they are not receiving any supply of hilsa or other fishes due to the ban. Farid Mia of the same area said, "Hilsa is not available in the market. But there is a

SEE PAGE 13 COL 8