

ANTHRAX OUTBREAK

Monitoring lapses real concern

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, back from Ullapara, Sirajganj

Cattle farmer Aksed Ali of Koira Soratola in Ullapara was worried when one of his cows fell sick and died almost immediately. After his second cow became sick, he slaughtered it and sold the meat to a local butcher at a cheap rate.

"One of my six cows fell sick and died two weeks ago, causing me a loss of Tk 40,000. When my second cow got infected, I slaughtered it and sold the meat to recover some loss," Aksed said.

Ali Ahmed, also from the same village, slaughtered a diseased cow after it fell sick last month.

Asked why he slaughtered the diseased cattle, Ali said he had done so only to recoup some losses. "I just got half the price of the cow."

Aksed and Ali are among the 44 people of Koira Soratola who were diagnosed with anthrax infection. According to district health officials, it happened because the duo were involved in the processing of meat. REASONS OF OUTBREAK

Reckless slaughtering of diseased cattle was the reason behind the recent outbreak of anthrax in Ullapara, Shahzadpur and Kamarkhand upazilas of Sirajganj, according to the district health department.

Officials of the district livestock department said that although they were trying to make people aware, locals were SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Rampal plant yet to get environmental clearance

Says minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The proposed coal-based Rampal power plant near the Sundarbans is yet to get environmental clearance from the Department of Environment (DoE), a minister said in parliament yesterday.

However, the DoE has already approved the Environmental Impact Assessment report on the project, incorporating 59 conditions to be complied with under the **Environment Conservation** Rules 1997, said Environment and Forest Minister Anwar Hossain Manju in reply to lawmakers' queries.

If actions are taken properly as per the suggestions, there will be no possibility of the plant harming the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest, he said.

The 1320-megawatt

SEE PAGE 7 COL 7

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS 11 3-38 6-49 12 3-38 6-50



PRAYER TIMING JUNE 10 Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

3-44 12-30 5-00 6-49 8-15 JAMAAT 3-49 1-15 5-15 6-59 8-45 SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Israel enraged by Tel Aviv attack

Suspends Palestinian entry permits, plans to send more troops to West Bank after gunmen kill 4 Israelis in a crowded market

REUTERS, Jerusalem

The Israeli military yesterday revoked permits for 83,000 Palestinians to visit Israel and said it would send hundreds more troops to the occupied West Bank after a Palestinian shooting attack that killed four Israelis in Tel Aviv.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the assault by the two gunmen on Wednesday in a trendy shopping and dining market near Israel's Defence Ministry, but Hamas and other Palestinian militant groups were quick to praise it.

The assailants came from near Hebron, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. They dressed in suits and ties and posed as customers at a restaurant before pulling out automatic weapons and opening fire, sending diners fleeing in panic.

The dead included two women and two men, while six people were wounded. The attack followed a lull in recent weeks after what had been near-daily stabbings and shootings on Israeli streets. It was the deadliest incident in eight months. The attackers, cousins in their 20s who security experts said appeared to

have entered Israel without permits, were quickly apprehended. One of them was shot and wounded. "It is clear that they spent time planning and training and choosing their

target," Barak Ben-Zur, former head of research at Israel's Shin Bet domestic security agency, told reporters. "They got some support, although we don't know for sure who their

supporters are," he said, adding that they appeared to have used improvised automatic weapons smuggled into Israel.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

KILLING OF SP'S WIFE Lone arrestee's family alleges frame-up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Family members of Abu Nosor Gunnu, arrested in connection with the killing of SP Babul Akhter's wife, yesterday claimed that he was framed for the murder because of his rivalry with another woman over a shrine in Hathazari.

Police, however, insisted they had evidence that Gunnu was at the spot where Mahmuda Khanam Mitu was murdered five days ago.

A team of the Detective Branch of Chittagong Metropolitan Police picked up Gunnu, aged about 45, from Musabiya Mazar (shrine) at Farhadabad of Hathazari upazila on Wednesday.

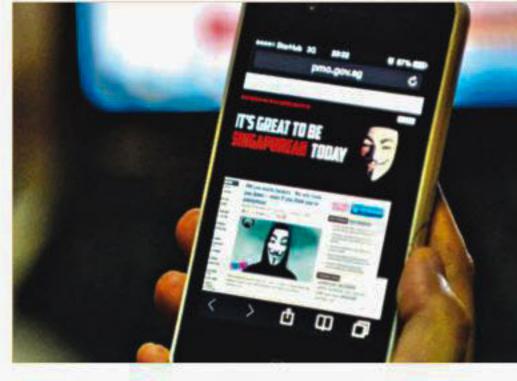
Devdas Bhattacharya, additional commissioner (crime and operation) of CMP, said the arrestee was "involved with Islami Chhatra Shibir", student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami. After examining CCTV footage and other information, police suspected that he may have been involved in the murder.

Thirty-two-year-old Mitu was stabbed and shot dead by bike-riding assailants before her son at the port city's GEC intersection around 6:35am on Sunday.

The following day, a murder case was

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

SINGAPORE PUBLIC SERVANTS No internet on office computers



BBC ONLINE

Public servants in Singapore will be blocked from accessing the internet on work computers from May next year.

The moves aims to plug "potential leaks from work e-mails and shared documents amid heightened security threats," the Straits Times newspaper said.

Officials said employees across government would also be barred from forwarding any workrelated information to personal emails.

Singaporeans have responded with shock and scepticism online.

Some people thought the move contradicted Singapore's much-promoted Smart Nation technology initiative.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

Sore, man takes back gift after polls defeat OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Thakurgaon

What a defeated member candidate in a recent union parishad election in Thakurgaon Sadar did is not often heard of. Following his defeat,

Hasan Ali, also a local BNP activist, took home a ceiling fan he had donated to his village mosque days before the polls to Salondar union on May 28. Later, he told The Daily

Star that he "took the step" as the villagers did not keep their "promise" that they would vote for him. He said Dangapara

mosque had no ceiling fans and therefore, people saying prayers there would have to suffer. Considering the suffer-

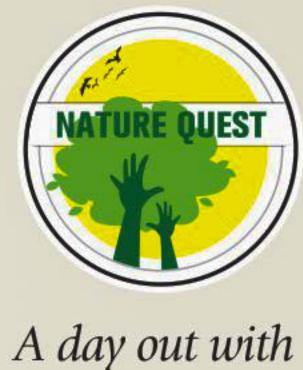
ings, he donated the fan and asked the locals to vote for him in the election, added the former member candidate for ward-8 of the union.

Several villagers, including Mohammad Shahabuddin who has been

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

A pair of flying lizards on a tree. Such lizards can be found in the forests of greater Sylhet and Chittagong regions.

SAYAM U CHOWDHURY



flying dragons

SAYAM U CHOWDHURY

Almost tumbling down the damp and slimy slope, with thorny rattan snagging my arms, I struggled to keep my balance under the weight of my camera and tripod. I stopped to check on my two other companions, who were carrying even heavier equipment. They seemed fine but their eyes reflected disappointment, as they missed a rare opportunity to take a photo of the white-cheeked partridge. Although I was fortunate to capture the species in frame, we were

SEE PAGE 7 COL 7

'HONOUR KILLINGS' IN PAKISTAN

Mothers comfort scared daughters

AFP, Lahore

Two young girls stand inches away from charred bricks and ash, staring at the detritus of a "kind and gentle" teenager who taught them the Quran but was savagely burned by her mother for marrying the man of her choice.

Maham and Muskan were pictured Wednesday with their eyes riveted to the spot where, just hours before, 16-year-old Zeenat Bibi was doused in kerosene and set alight.

That night, Maham's mother told AFP, she had to reassure her tearful and confused daughter that she loved her.

"She cried a lot and wept a lot, she did not eat anything," Rani Bibi, who shared the common last name with Zeenat's family, said Thursday.

"She slept with me. Before sleeping she asked many SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

