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INSURANCE OF PUBLIC PROJECTS
Sadharaan Bima and foreign contractors are in a tussle over the schemes
PAGE B1

TENSION IN KASHMIR
Pakistan accuses Narendra Modi of 'vilification campaign'
PAGE 8

TRIBUTE TO KANAN DEVI
Star Melodies will hold a programme on Tuesday in her memory
PAGE 9

China likely to pledge big

During President Jinping's visit next month, China may commit loans under 5-year cooperation plan involving billions of dollars

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

China may commit to a five-year comprehensive cooperation plan, including assistance in several billion-dollar projects, during the Chinese president's Bangladesh visit in the middle of next month.

Already, the Chinese government has expressed initial interest in giving around \$23 billion in soft loan for 20 projects to be implemented between 2016 and 2020. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is likely to be signed in this regard when Xi Jinping comes to Dhaka on October 13 or 14, SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

CHINA COMMITMENT IN LAST 14 YEARS	PROJECTS ON CHINESE WISH LIST
FY02-FY09 \$303.01 million	Padma Bridge rail link \$3.3 billion
FY2010-FY16 \$915.82 million	Dual Gauge Rail line (Akhaura-Sylhet) \$1.76 billion
Since independence \$1.52 billion	Dhaka-Sylhet 4-lane highway \$1.6 billion
Next 5 years China may help in 20 projects involving \$23 billion	Dhaka-Ashulia Elevated Expressway \$1.39 billion
	Expansion, Strengthening of Power System Network \$2.04 billion

■ MORE ON PAGE 2



VILLAIN TO HERO: Bangladesh pacer Taskin Ahmed was finding his return to international cricket yesterday to be quite taxing after the Afghans had taken him for 49 in his first six overs at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium. However he turned things around spectacularly, claiming four wickets for just ten runs off his next two overs, as the hosts clinched a win and took a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



Great calibre sees Tigers through

BISHWAJIT ROY

The Tigers survived a scare from Afghanistan on their return to ODI cricket after a long break with a nerve-racking seven-run win at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur last night. Dismissing the last Afghan batsman off the last ball, Taskin Ahmed went for his trademark airplane celebration while captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza was punching the air as the victory in the first ODI of the three-match series brought great relief to the Tigers' tent.

Bangladesh snatched victory from the jaws of defeat and Taskin deserves credit for the way the agile pacer bounced back in the SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

The Faridpur baby girl dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

She died twice since her birth three days ago.

First she was declared dead by a doctor in a Faridpur hospital moments after she was born, four months prematurely, on Thursday.

But the baby girl cried out when family members were about to bury her. She was then flown to Dhaka for treatment at Square Hospitals, where she died around 11:45pm yesterday.

Aftab Yusuf Raj, a consultant at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) of the hospital, confirmed her death to The Daily Star.

The 23-week-old baby, who was named Galiba Hayat, weighed only 450 grams and had heart problems and infections, he said, adding that doctors tried their best to save her.

Earlier in the day, the SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Amazing growth in maize output

Emerges as second top cereal after rice

MAIZE PRODUCTION (IN TONNES)	
1997-98	65,000
2008-09	7,30,000
2015-16	27,50,000



REAZ AHMAD

Subtly and silently maize, also known as corn, has emerged as the most important cereal crop after rice in Bangladesh, relegating wheat to third.

Country's annual maize output reached the new high of 2.75 million tonnes in 2015-16 and 90 percent of the home-grown maize is feeding a burgeoning poultry and fish feed industry.

With over 34 million tonnes of annual rice output, Bangladesh is now self-sufficient in the staple while the country largely depends on imports to meet over five million tonnes of yearly wheat requirements.

Domestic production of wheat hovers around one to 1.3 million tonnes only, depending on weather and acreage factors. Last season's wheat crop suffered a blow due to wheat blast -- a fungal attack that Bangladesh experienced for the first time.

Since the inception of commercial farming of maize in Bangladesh in mid-90's, its yearly output has grown from a paltry 65,000 tonnes in PROMOTION COULD TRIGGER MAIZE PRODUCTION BOOM - PAGE 3 SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Tight security planned for Durga Puja

PANKAG KARMAKAR

In the wake of recent terrorist attacks in the country, law enforcers and Hindu community people are planning to ensure tight security measures before and during the Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Hindus.

Puja organisers will hold several meetings with the home minister, law enforcers, local representatives and other stakeholders to chalk out security plans both for urban and rural areas.

Bangladesh Puja Uddjan Parishad will sit with Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque at police headquarters today where most of the deputy inspector generals of police and other senior police officials will be present. SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

CONCERN OVER SUNDARBANS

Govt to reply to Unesco in a week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will respond within a week to Unesco's concern over the Rampal power plant close to the Sundarbans and recommendation for cancellation of the project.

Nasrul Hamid, state minister for power, energy and mineral resources, said this yesterday after inaugurating a workshop on research in power and energy sector at Bidyut Bhaban in the capital.

"We will send our replies to Unesco within a week, stating our position over its concern on the Rampal power plant," he said while responding to reporters' queries.

Nasrul hoped that getting the government response, the UN body would understand that there is no actual reason for concern over the Rampal plant.

All environmental issues will be addressed properly, he said. "The government assesses the environmental impact before setting up a new plant in the country."

The state minister said the government planned the power plant as part of its effort to ensure electricity supply to every household within 2018. SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Uber taxis to hit Dhaka streets soon



INAM AHMED

For Dhaka commuters, taxi woes may be over soon.

Uber, the global taxi service company, is all set to hit the Dhaka streets within weeks. With Uber taxis plying around, Dhaka's commuting experience will change forever.

"Bangladesh has similar traffic chaos like in Indonesia," said a source linked to Uber. "Our service will help ease the situation. We have been preparing the ground to launch the service in Bangladesh for the last SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Dengue Menace on the Rise in Capital

A recent report shows that the number of reported dengue patients so far in 2016 in the country is 3,114. More than 90% of these reported cases occurred between 1st July and 18th September. Frequent rainfall before and after Eid-ul-Adha has increased the menace. Water logging around the house, in coconut shells, broken bottles, under construction building, rubber tyres creates an ideal ground for Aedes mosquitoes, which spread the Dengue virus.

According to experts, the number of patients in the capital has multiplied by 3. There is no alternative to preventing it. It will come forward and remove this

7 Dead from Dengue Fever!
The mortality rate of dengue patients this year in the country is reaching an alarming rate. Till September, the number of dengue related deaths is 7. According to the information published in various reports, all these 7 deaths occurred from May. 1 died in May, 2 died in June, 2 died in July, 1 died in August and 1 died in September so far. The number of patients admitted to hospitals this year is higher than that of the last few years. Proper prevention strategies of dengue mosquito menace are a must right now.

Dengue is breaking out everywhere due to the rapid spread of Aedes mosquitoes. To keep your home free from mosquitoes use the most effective Aerosol. Also keep your surroundings clean.

Stay safe from mosquitoes in your home and surroundings. Stay away from dengue.

ACI AEROSOL
The Most Effective Insect Killer

