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INDIAN PRESIDENT BJP picks Ram Nath Kovind as candidate
 AFP, New Delhi
 India's ruling party yesterday named a lawyer from the lowest Dalit caste as its candidate for president, a move seen as an attempt to reach out to the marginalised community.
 Ram Nath Kovind, 71, is likely to take up the largely ceremonial post when the term of Pranab Mukherjee ends next month.
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EXCISE DUTY ON BANK SAVINGS Muhith comes under fire at JS
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 In a rare instance, several senior Awami League lawmakers came down heavily on Finance Minister AMA Muhith in parliament yesterday for his rigid stance against withdrawing the excise duty on bank accounts proposed for fiscal 2017-18.
 Until now, banks have been cutting Tk 500 yearly excise duty from accounts with more than Tk 1 lakh but below Tk 10 lakh. Muhith in the budget for next fiscal beginning the next month proposed increasing the excise duty to Tk 800, triggering a storm of criticism among the public.
 Participating in a discussion on the budget proposals, lawmakers also lambasted Muhith for the 15 percent uniform VAT rate that he sought to implement, and his failure to curb corruption and looting of banks.
 The increased VAT and excise duty have worried people, they said, putting forward the demand that the finance minister scrap the excise duty and reduce VAT.
 Referring to the default loans and loan scams involving state banks, senior AL MPs said Muhith should recover the looted money instead of imposing increased VAT rate.
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Bangladesh Army and the Roads and Highways Department repairing the Chittagong-Rangamati road near Sapcharhi in Rangamati on Sunday. The army and the RHD have jointly fixed most of the 18-kilometre stretch of the road that was damaged in the recent mudslide. The ISPR yesterday said the road would be fully functional within a month. Story on page 3.
 PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Musa finally rescued
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Mountaineer Musa Ibrahim and two fellow Indians were rescued yesterday after being trapped for six days at the base camp of the Mount Carstensz Pyramid following conquering the summit.
 "Just arrived timika airport... We returned safe..." Musa posted on Facebook after they were airlifted by a helicopter to the township of Timika in Indonesia.
 His wife Ummeey Sharaban Tahura told The Daily Star he had called her around 6:00am (Bangladesh time) through a messaging app.
 From the airport, they would be taken to a hotel in Papua and were likely to go to Bali, she added.
 It was the third rescue attempt in as many days as the earlier efforts on Saturday and Sunday were called off due to bad weather.
 Musa along with Indian mountaineers Satyarup Siddhanta and Nandita Chandra Shekhar scaled up the summit on June 13 and reached the base camp the same day but remained trapped there due to rough weather.
 By scaling up the Carstensz Pyramid, which is located in the Papua province of Indonesia and the highest peak of the Oceania and Australia, Musa has put another feather in his crown as he had earlier conquered the Mount Everest and
 SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Registration must for online mass media
Cabinet okays draft of National Online Mass Media Policy
 UNB, Dhaka
 The cabinet yesterday approved the draft of the National Online Mass Media Policy, 2017 incorporating a proposal for setting up a National Broadcast Commission to facilitate the operation of online mass media in a well-organised manner.
 The approval was given at the weekly cabinet meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.
 Briefing reporters after the meeting at the
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LIBERATION WAR Govt to build 'hate statue'
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Huq said in parliament yesterday the government would build a statue to express hate towards the Pakistani collaborators of the 1971 Liberation War.
 "We have a plan to build a hate statue to express hatred towards Razakars,
 SEE PAGE 13 COL 4

276,200 Myanmar refugees in Bangladesh
Says UN report; finds 65.6m forcibly displaced worldwide
 UNB, Dhaka
 The number of refugees from Myanmar rose to 490,300 by the end of last year, up from 451,800 in the previous year, with Bangladesh hosting the largest number of 276,200, says a new global report.
 Out of the 276,200 refugees, 243,000 are in a refugee-like situation, according to the report published yesterday by UNHCR ahead of the World Refugee Day today.
 The Bangladesh government, however, estimates the population to be between 300,000 and 500,000.
 Other countries with large numbers of
 SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

The scent of money
 MAIL ONLINE
 A master perfumer has crafted a new fragrance to mark the launch of the new £10 next month — money.
 It was created by Roja Dove, a former perfumer at Guerlain in Paris, and has been described best as 'Cologne de Cash'.
 He was commissioned to produce a perfumed tribute to old-fashioned paper banknotes, that were made up of cotton.
 "I was thinking of a note at the end of its life," Dove told The Times.
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We Deeply Mourn



Paramount Family expresses grief and sorrow at the sad demise of

Nina Nawaz
 Wife of Mr. Nawaz Ahmad
 Chairman of Paramount Insurance

We the Paramount Family convey our deepest condolences to the Members of bereaved family and pray to The Almighty Allah to give them strength to bear this irreparable loss. Her Namaz-E-Janaza will be held after Zuhr at Azad Masjid, Gulshan-2, Dhaka on Tuesday, 20th June, 2017. May the Almighty with His infinite mercy bless the departed soul.

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ছড়াকার - আহসান মালেক

সিটি ব্যাংক, এন.এ.
 বাংলাদেশ

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SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS

Ramadan June	Sehri	Iftar
24	20	6-52
25	21	3-38 6-52

PRAYER TIMING JUNE 20

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 3-44	12-45	5-00	6-52	8-15
JAMAAT 3-54	1-15	5-15	7-02	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION