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Don't want a concrete jungle

Housing minister says; warns against building code violation in the capital; vows tough action against rule breakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

No one will be allowed to construct buildings without approved design, open spaces, firefighting equipment and garage in the capital, Housing and Public Works Minister SM Rezaul Karim warned yesterday.

Addressing a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU), the minister said the government would not spare any rule violators no matter how influential they were.

"I don't want the city to become a concrete jungle through corruption and irregularities."

In May, the Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha found irregularities in constructing 1,818 buildings. Many building owners are politically and financially so powerful that they did not think they would be served notice, the minister said.

He said they already instructed the Rajuk to take action against them. "We don't want to keep a single building outside of the law."

Earlier at a press conference at the secretariat in May, he said around 63 percent of the 1,818 buildings, 10 storeys and higher, lacked fire safety measures.

Of them, only 539 had fire extinguishers, fire alarms, hosepipes, and fire hydrants.

The Rajuk did the survey following the FR Tower fire in Banani claimed at least 25 lives on March 28.

The city development regulator launched a drive with 24 teams to inspect high-rises to see if they had proper fire safety and approvals.

Of the 1,818 buildings, 566 were found to have no emergency fire exits

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The Kansat mango market in Chapainawabganj is abuzz with buyers and sellers. Although the prices are higher compared to last year, growers are not happy due to lower production of the summer fruit this year, thanks to adverse weather conditions. The fruit was selling for between Tk 2,500 and Tk 4,000 per maund depending on the size, quality and variety, up from Tk 1,600 to Tk 2,800 last year. The photo was taken on Wednesday.

PHOTO: STAR



Toufiq M Seraj

Sheltech MD dies 'mid-air'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Toufiq M Seraj, managing director of real estate company Sheltech (Pvt.) Limited, yesterday died on a Qatar-bound flight from Dhaka.

The 63-year-old engineer was heading to Spain's Barcelona with a transit in Qa-tar, said Sheltech Chairperson Kutubuddin Ahmed, who was

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US in no hurry for strikes on Iran

Trump says he aborted retaliatory attack to spare lives

AGENCIES

President Donald Trump said yesterday he is in "no hurry" to bomb Iran, revealing that US forces were "cocked and loaded" to retaliate after the downing of a US spy drone but that he called them back in order to avoid mass casualties.

"I am in no hurry," Trump said in a series of tweets detailing his thought process during the late Thursday decision to send, and then recall, US forces.

"10 minutes before the strike I stopped it," the president said, explaining that a general had told him to expect 150 deaths on the Iranian side and that he had concluded this would not be a "proportionate" response.

Trump said the Pentagon had selected three sites in Iran for bombing. He also said that he preferred to move forward with economic pressure.

"Sanctions are biting & more added last night," Trump said. "Iran can



SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

NUSRAT'S HARASSMENT Home questions police probe into magistrate's laxity

Top cops term it 'unfortunate'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

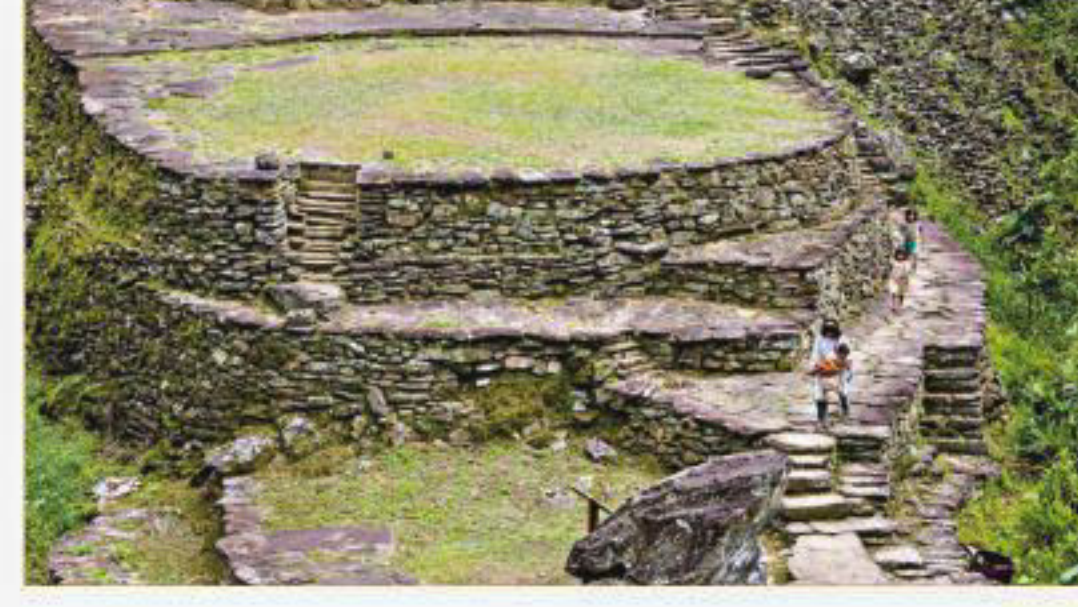
The home ministry has questioned the jurisdiction of a police probe body to investigate possible negligence of duty by Feni Additional District Magistrate PKM Enamul Karim, also the president of the governing body of Sonagazi Islamia Fazil Madrasa.

The Police Headquarters had formed a five-member committee to investigate the killing of Feni madrasa student Nusrat Jahan Rafi.

The committee found negligence of duties by four cops. The probe report mentioned the allegation of Nusrat's mother Shirin Akhter that she, along with her son and Nusrat, went to Enamul's

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

The 'Lost City' older than Machu Picchu



CNN ONLINE

Hidden deep in the jungle of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta mountains in Colombia sits Ciudad Perdida, the "Lost City." Built by the Tairona people more than 1,000 years ago, the archaeological site only became an attraction after it was uncovered in the 1970s.

Named Teyuna by the Tairona but dubbed Ciudad Perdida upon rediscovery, the ancient wonder is often compared to Machu Picchu as both are archaeological sites perched on hillsides

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Man held for harassing girl in train

Two girls raped in Savar, Habiganj

STAR REPORT

Passengers of Rajshahi-bound Silk City Express caught a man and handed him over to police in Ishwardi railway station area on Thursday night for allegedly harassing a schoolgirl sexually inside the train's toilet.

The arrestee is Mominul Islam, 27, of Chapainawabganj's Thanatola village. Yesterday, he was sent to Natore jail after being produced before a local court in a case filed by the victim's aunt.

The incident happened around 9:00pm on Thursday when the train from Dhaka entered Lalpur upazila of Natore, said OC Subir Kumar Dutta of Ishwardi Railway Police Station in Pabna.

Quoting the victim, the OC said the 14-year-old girl, along with her aunt, boarded the train at Shahid Captain Mansur Ali Railway Station in Sirajganj for Rajshahi.

Mominul entered the toilet forcibly and harassed the eighth grader sexually when she was about to come out of the toilet.

As the victim screamed for help, some passengers rushed there, rescued her

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2 siblings die as launch hits boat again in Buriganga

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two siblings drowned in the Buriganga river yesterday as a boat capsized after being hit by a launch near the capital's Sadarghat launch terminal.

The dead -- Mishkat Farazi, 12, and his sister Nusrat Akhter, 5 -- were children of Babul Farazi, a trader in Keraniganj, said Kazi Nazmuzzaman, deputy assistant director of Fire Service and Civil Defence.

Their mother Josna Begum and uncle Shamim Mirdha were also on the boat which was carrying them to Keraniganj, he added.

The boat sank near the Terminal-1 around 6:30am when a launch of MV Pubali-5 hit it while

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Navy divers recover the body of a child who along with his sibling drowned in the Buriganga around 7:00am yesterday after their boat capsized on way to Keraniganj from Sadarghat. The photo was taken near Sadarghat Launch Terminal in the city.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Water crisis in India worsens

More than 500 arrested after clashes in Chennai; cities from Mumbai to Delhi face dwindling supplies

CNN ONLINE

Millions of people are running out of usable water in the southern Indian city of Chennai, which is experiencing major droughts and a rapidly worsening water crisis.

At least 550 people were arrested on Wednesday in the city of Coimbatore for protesting with empty water containers in front of the municipal government's headquarters, accusing officials of negligence and mismanagement.

The situation in Chennai reflects an ongoing nationwide crisis as a fatal heat wave sweeps across the country, and cities from Mumbai to Delhi face dwindling water supplies.

Meanwhile, four reservoirs that supply Chennai, the state capital and India's sixth largest city, have run nearly dry.

Lake Puzhal, the city's largest, was full of blue water on June 15, 2018. One year later, the reservoir has been reduced to an almost completely dry lake bed.

The same is true further south in the smaller reservoir of Lake Chembarambakkam, where only the deepest parts of the lake bottom still hold water.

There was some respite for Chennai residents Thursday when the city received its first major rainfall of the year.

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PRAYER TIMING JUNE 22

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-52 8-17
JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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