

তারিখ ২৩/৬/৬২

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Bangkok is sinking

BANGKOK June 28: Thai scientists here have alarmed residents that Bangkok is sinking and that something must be done to save the capital, reports ENA.

A survey that they conducted found that areas in central Bangkok which have been sinking by an average of five to ten centimetres annually have spread significantly in the past three years, reports Hsinhua.

The pumping of ground water resulting in a lowering of the city's ground water level has been found to be the main reason for the 'sinking phenomenon' of Bangkok. A 'cumulative compression' of clay layers also has caused land subsidence.

The survey reported that the land subsidence has seriously aggravated flooding, drainage and sewerage problems. The scientists said that to prevent land subsidence laws must ensure that ground water pumping is controlled because no further decline in ground water levels can be tolerated.

Bangkok is located on a flat deltaic-marine plain with natural ground elevations ranging from 0.5 to 1.5 meters above sea level.

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Daughter's ordeal

MANILA June 28: A tearful 16-year-old Filipino girl told police authorities that her own mother had detained her in a provincial house and 'sold' her to different men, published reports said Saturday states AFP.

The girl said her ordeal began late last year when her mother allegedly forced her to date a male caller. She said she felt drugged after taking drinks at a restaurant and later woke up inside a motel and realised she had been raped.

A few days after this incident the girl recounted her mother brought her to a house in nearby Bulacan province where she was kept for several months.