

3RD BURIGANGA BRIDGE

Govt issues work order

Work to start in a month

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The government has issued work order for the third Buriganga Bridge at Basila, releasing Tk 33 crore fund for it, the project director said.

"We hope to start construction work of the bridge within a month," said Mozammel Haque, director of the Tk 49 crore project.

The construction work on the 2,300 feet long and 33 feet wide

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REPORT ON HC

Contempt rule issued on Prothom Alo editor, publisher

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday issued a contempt rule on The Prothom Alo Publisher Mahfuz Anam, Editor Matiuir Rahman and Reporter Zahid Hossain for publishing a report on harassment of justice seekers in the HC Division of the Supreme Court.

Following a contempt petition filed by a Supreme Court advocate,

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Prayer Timing		
August 10		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-25	5-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-41	6-44
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Israel approves wider ground offensive

11 Israel soldiers killed; UN powers rethink Lebanon draft

AGENCIES, Jerusalem

Israel's security cabinet yesterday approved a wider ground offensive in south Lebanon that was expected to take 30 days as part of a new push to badly damage Hezbollah, the prime minister's office said.

The decision by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and top ministers to send troops deeper into Lebanon, possibly as far as the Litani river, up to 20 km (13 miles) north of the border, would bring a major escalation despite UN diplomacy to end the war.

The US and France, meanwhile, have started revising a draft Lebanon ceasefire resolution, after

Arab states appeal to the UN. An Arab League delegation argued that a resolution should call for an immediate Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon. France and the US do not want major changes to their text and diplomats say prospects for an early vote are fading.

Currently, some 10,000 soldiers are fighting Hezbollah in a four-mile stretch from the frontier. "The assessment is it will last 30 days. I think it is wrong to make this assessment. I think it will take a lot longer," Cabinet Minister Eli Yishai said.

The decision, approved by nine ministers with three abstaining, gave authorisation to Defense

Minister Amir Peretz and the prime minister to order the wider offensive and to decide its timing. However, it did not obligate them to act.

Such a decision is risky. Israel would set itself up for new criticism that it is sabotaging diplomatic efforts, particularly after Lebanon offered to deploy its own troops in the border area.

Meanwhile, Arab satellite TV Al-Jazeera reported yesterday that 11 Israeli soldiers were killed in heavy fighting with Hezbollah guerrillas near the border in southern Lebanon.

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20,000 acres of land gobbled up in 3 dists

JS body wants to disclose list of 30,000 grabbers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 30,000 land grabbers have gobbled up over 20,000 acres of public land in Dhaka, Narayanganj and Gazipur districts, local administrations informed a parliamentary body yesterday.

After discussing the issue, a meeting of the parliamentary stand-

ing committee on land ministry decided to disclose the names of the grabbers, most of whom are influential, at its next meeting.

Only 312 acres of land have so far been recovered and the lists of grabbers have already been submitted to the land ministry, DC offices of the three districts reported to the

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Congress suspends Natwar's membership

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India's ruling Congress Party has suspended its veteran leader Natwar Singh, indicted by an inquiry into the Iraqi oil-for-food swindle, from primary membership of the party on charges of indiscipline.

The decision to suspend the 75-year-old former external affairs minister was taken around

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Participants of a roundtable on "The Verdict of the High Court and Voters' Right to know About the Election Candidates" organised jointly by The Prothom Alo, The Daily Star and Shujan at the English daily's office in the capital yesterday.

POVERTY-FREE BANGLADESH BY 2021

Fighting graft, rich-poor gap main challenges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fighting corruption, making public institutions credible, bringing transparency in utilising national resources and reducing inequality between the poor and the rich are some of the challenges Bangladesh will face to be a poverty-free country by 2021, experts told a consultation meeting organised by the Nagorik



Committee 2006. Eminent economist Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud and Metropolitan Chamber of

Commerce and Industry (MCCI) President Latifur Rahman co-chaired the third expert group consultation meeting on 'Vision 2021 for Bangladesh: Goal 3: To be a Poverty-mitigated Middle-income Country' at Cirdap auditorium in the capital yesterday.

It is very natural that the political leadership will make commitments

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4th Expert Group Consultation today

STAR REPORT

Nagorik Committee 2006 organises its fourth Expert Group Consultation session on the Vision 2021 for Bangladesh at 2:30pm today at Cirdap Auditorium in the capital.

Today's consultation will be on Goal Five: To have a health-endowed nation.

The committee has identified eight inter-related goals for the Vision 2021. Earlier it organised three consultation sessions on

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