

## DCC deals double blow to Gulshan Lake

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has undertaken construction of two "unplanned" bridges under a World Bank-aided project over the Gulshan-Banani-Baridhara Lake, which is threatened by severe pollution and indiscriminate encroachment.

The same project with a component to construct a box culvert at the same place was cancelled following a series of reports published in The Daily Star recently.

The reports had pointed out that a box culvert would greatly hinder flow of water in the lake and thus encourage potential encroachment.

The World Bank and the government then went on to cancel the project and also the work order for the construction, which had guaranteed the contractor an undisclosed amount in payment from the project.

However, officials of the Tk 1,100 crore Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DUTP) revised the plan and got the nod for construction of two bridges at the



Unplanned urbanisation... construction work for two bridges over the Gulshan-Banani-Baridhara Lake in the city, endangering the water body further.

## DU gunfight 2 JCD armed cadres held in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch (DB) of police yesterday arrested two of the six armed men involved in the gunfight between Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) on the Dhaka University campus on November 13.

The arrested were identified as Suman and Bhagabati. They belonged to JCD, campus sources said.

They were seen on the roof-top of Mohsin Hall during the gunfight and their photographs were published in a section of the press on the following day.

DB men arrested Bhagabati from Sutrapur area and Suman from Bailey road in the city.

Suman is a 4th year student of Marketing department and a resident of Suryasen Hall while Bhagabati is an ex-student, campus sources said. Bhagabati was a resident of Jagannath Hall when he was arrested.

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## BNP for UZ polls in mid-March

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling BNP has tentatively chosen the middle of March for holding upazila elections while the Election Commission (EC) has expressed its readiness to conduct the voting within the winter, EC sources said.

A two-member BNP delegation led by Industries Minister MK Anwar met the Chief Election Commissioner MA Syed at the latter's office yesterday as part of a series of meetings the EC plans to hold with political parties to discuss about the election to the core local government body.

Election Commissioners MM Munsef Ali and AK Mohammad Ali, and senior EC officials attended the meeting. Political Secretary to the Prime Minister Haris Chowdhury was the other member of the BNP delegation.

The CEC informed the ruling party delegation about the EC's election preparedness.

The BNP delegation told the

meeting that it would later inform the EC about the party's final opinion on the election timetable, an EC release said.

The BNP delegation thanked the

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## Gas reserve at Ruppur?

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Villagers claim there is a 'gas reserve' at Ruppur in Maligaicha Union in Pabna district and they are using this gas in cooking.

This has created a sensation in the area with people wondering what it actually is. Ruppur village is eight km from Pabna town.

For long, bubbles appeared in water in the paddy field of a villager, Mobir Uddin Biswas. Some aged villagers say they saw

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## 7 held in Uttara on charge of toll collection

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Uttara thana police yesterday arrested seven persons from Azampur and Abdullahpur area on charge of toll collection from passenger vehicles.

They are Nasir Uddin, Rafiqul Islam, Mirza Mohammad Selim, Mohammad Abul Hashem, Abdus Salam, Uzzal Chandra Das and Sohel.

The action was taken following a report published in The Daily Star yesterday on massive toll collection by a section of youths from the area in the name of workers union and ruling party.

When contacted, the officer-in-charge of Uttara Thana told The Daily Star that the seven were arrested under Section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Specific charges will be brought against them once the statements of witnesses are available the OC said.

Newly elected member of parliament from the area Major Quamrul Islam said he has no link with the extortionist and instructed the police personnel to pick up anybody who would try to use his name while collecting toll.

## Mouze Ali murder Ershad Shikdar acquitted with 13 others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All the 14 accused including Ershad Shikdar have been acquitted in Mouze Ali murder case as their guilt could not be proved by the prosecution side.

The judgement was delivered today by Khandaker Hasibuddin Ahmed, Additional District and Sessions Judge, Khulna.

Besides Ershad Shikdar the other acquitted accused are Liaquat Lashkar, Faruque Jamai, Nasir Khan, Siddiqur Rahman, Mostafa Ali Bhutto, Nazim Sarder, Ashraf Barho Mia, Mizanur, Haroon, Badsha, Selim, Alkas and Shah Alam. Six of the accused were tried in absentia. They are Mizanur, Haroon, Badsha, Selim, Alkas and Shah Alam.

Ershad Shikdar and seven others were produced in the court under tight security to hear the judgement.

Boyra CSD godown handling worker Mouze Ali was murdered on

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## 'Grabbing' of Muktiyoddha Sangsad office Hasina blasts govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina has condemned and protested 'grabbing' of the Muktiyoddha Sangsad office by 'a minister' and 'armed terrorists.'

Hasina also deplored that the government with an ulterior motive is 'destroying' Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU). She asked the government to protect the highest seat of medical education in the country.

In a statement yesterday, the Opposition Leader said 'grabbing' of the Muktiyoddha Sangsad office by the State Minister for Liberation War Affairs after forcing out its elected chairman Ahad Chowdhury has stunned the people.

The incident of breaking open the lock of the Sangsad office by armed terrorists 'led by the minister' is a manifestation of 'fascist attitude' of the government, she added.

The immediate past prime minister also referred to incidents of

'illegal occupation' of public property ranging from 'MP Hostel to public toilets' since the takeover by the present government.

She blasted the new government

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## Stand-off at BSMMUH BMA denounces govt decision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) has demanded immediate cancellation of the government move to retain the previous status of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital (BSMMUH).

The BMA leaders made the demand at a press conference at its office yesterday in the wake of the volatile situation at the BSMMUH.

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## Barricade on Airport Road for two hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The transport workers put up barricade on the Airport Road disrupting road communication from Airport to Mohakhali for about two hours following the assault of a bus driver near the over bridge at Khilkhet yesterday.

The incident occurred when police sergeant Bazul Rahman manhandled the driver of a Gazipur-bound passenger bus which hit a taxi-cab at Khilkhet at about 2:30pm.

It angered other bus drivers who put their vehicles indiscriminately under the over bridge blocking the road. As a result, several hundred vehicles were stranded on the Airport Road.

Additional police were rushed to the spot from Cantonment, Badda, Airport and Uttara police stations to bring the situation under control. Senior police officials went to the

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The Bangladesh Nari Progoti Sangha formed a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, demanding a check on violation of human rights and violence against religious minorities.

## Bangladesh Hindus 'will not go back'

MOAZZEM HOSSAIN, BBC West Bengal

(This report has been downloaded from the BBC website.)

Hundreds of Bangladeshi Hindu families who have crossed the border into India to escape repression at home are refusing to return to their country.

They are now living with their relatives and friends in the border districts of West Bengal and intend to stay there permanently.

In the frontier town of Bongaon in West Bengal, I found several Bangladeshi Hindu families who fled following last month's general elections.

To escape any possible move by the Indian authorities to send them back, these families were apparently hiding in a village near the Thakurnagar railway station.

All these families have horrific stories to tell.

Dipali Adhikari, who did not give out her real name for fear of reprisals against relatives in Bangladesh, related how she and seven other members of her family had managed to cross the border.

### Horrific tales

Several days after the election, a group of armed men entered their house of and looted everything they had.

They poisoned the family's fish pond, the main source of their income.

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## 250 Bangladeshi Hindus held in West Bengal

AFP, Kolkata

Indian police have arrested nearly 250 Bangladeshi Hindu migrants in the past three days for illegally crossing the border into West Bengal.

"Police are looking for the Bangladeshi infiltrators, who have reportedly taken refuge at different houses in villages of West Bengal bordering Bangladesh," West Bengal superintendent of police Harisen Verma told AFP.

"So far, we have arrested nearly 250 Bangladeshi Hindus from different areas in Bongaon subdivision over the past three days."

The arrested people have been sent to a jail in Bongaon, a district town, about 70 kilometres (43 miles) east of Calcutta, state capital of West Bengal.

"All of them would be sent back to their country after discussing the matter with the Bangladesh govern-

ment," he said.

Verma said police have stepped up their vigil in all border villages in West Bengal.

Indian officials say Bangladeshi Hindus have been pouring into India to escape attacks on the country's minority Hindu community after the Islamist-allied Bangladesh Nationalist Party government came to power in last month's general election.

Bangladeshi officials earlier downplayed Indian media accounts of the attacks and dismissed reports of a Hindu exodus as propaganda.

On November 9, however, the Bangladeshi government pledged to investigate the reported migration. A committee headed by the principal secretary to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has been asked to submit a report on the situation.

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## JS tidbits

NAZMUL ASHRAF

Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar yesterday was delighted to invite a treasury bench member, having the same family title as his although the two spell them differently, to raise a supplementary question.

While giving Amjad Hossain Sarkar of BNP the floor, a cheerful speaker said, "... Mr. Sarkar, Sark-a-

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## Oli inducted in Business Advisory Committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar yesterday recast the Business Advisory Committee of the Jatiya Sangsad, the crucial parliamentary body that dictates the business of the House.

It was recast following departure of Deputy Leader of the House Prof. AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury from the committee. Badruddoza Chowdhury was recently elected president of the republic.

Senior member of the treasury bench Col. (ret'd) Oli Ahmed has been inducted in the committee in place of Badruddoza Chowdhury.

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## Alleged mugger beaten to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged mugger was beaten to death at Purana Paltan in the city yesterday morning.

Mohammad Alam, 30, was rescued by Motijheel police with serious injuries. They sent him to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he succumbed to injuries at 1:20 pm.

The incident took place when a gang of three tried to snatch valuables from a female rickshaw passenger. As the passenger cried for help, the pedestrians chased the muggers and caught Alam. They beat him mercilessly.

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Noted writer and columnist Shahriar Kabir is being escorted to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court for hearing on bail and remand petitions yesterday.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Nov 26		5-11 pm
Nov 27	6-22 am	

Prayer Timings		
Nov 26		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-57	5-03
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-14	5-20
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation