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# Red-tape stops 3 new roads

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) is yet to start the construction work of the three important roads in the city due to bureaucratic tangle though the initiative was taken in 2004.

The roads are Grameen Bank to Pangu Hospital via west Agargaon, Darussalam to Kachukhet Road crossing Rokeya Sarani and Hazaribagh Kalunagar to Jafarbad Bheribadh.

Rajuk also has failed to construct two roads from Notre Dame College to Janapath Sarak via behind the Bangladesh Bank colony and Hosaf Towar, Malibagh to Janapath.

The construction work of four more roads-- Bijoy Sarani to Nabisco, Ring road around the Hatirjheel and Zia Colony of Dhaka cantonment to Mirpur cantonment via behind section-12 of Mirpur and 300 feet wide road from Kuril Biswa Road to Purbachal are, however, going on.

Executive Engineer of Zone-7 of DCC Abdur

Razzak said the proposed road stretching from Grameen Bank to Pangu Hospital via west Agargaon is now under process of land acquisition.

The proposal on land acquisition for Darussalam to Kachukhet Road has been waiting for approval by the ministry concerned for last three months.

A 3.64 km long and 100 feet wide road from Darussalam to Ansar Camp to Kachukhet Road crossing Rokeya Sarani will be constructed at a cost of Tk 199 crore.

This road will reduce the traffic jams on section-10 and section-1 of Mirpur as it will connect its east and west portions, said Razzak.

Both the roads were taken under the master plan of Rajuk in 1995 for which Rajuk did not give approval to construct any building in the area but an unplanned urbanisation is going on, he said.

Executive Engineer of Zone-3 of DCC

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As the price of sugar hikes at Tk 63 to 65 a kg, people are seen in a long queue in front of the National Press Club, Dhaka just to buy it at Tk 42. Deshbandhu Sugar Mill is providing the sugar at a lower rate.

PHOTO: STAR

## Tree-grabbing Jubo League man caught

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Agitating mob caught a union level Jubo League leader and set fire to two motorbikes when he along with his men was cutting down roadside trees at Machhinda village in Shahjahanpur upazila early yesterday.

Police later arrested Gohail union unit Jubo League general secretary Sabuj Sonar who was sent to jail in the morning after he was produced before the court.

Officer-in-Charge Anisur Rahman of Shahjahanpur Police Station said local people caught hold of Sabuj while he along with his men was cutting some Belgium trees beside the road at around 1:30am and gave him a beating but his accomplices

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## 2 killed in 'shootouts'

### Gang leader Shahar Ali dies in Mirpur, other in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two criminals, including one of the top-listed ringleaders of the capital, were shot dead in two separate "shootouts" with law enforcers in the city and Khulna yesterday.

They are Shahar Ali, 35, of East Monipur of Mirpur, and Farukh Khan, 32, of Banishanta union of Dakop upazila in Khulna.

As a Rab patrol team signalled a white microbus crossing Dhaka City Corporation office at Mirpur-10 to stop at 1:30am,

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## Workers of RMG unit agitate for arrears

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Garment workers of a factory staged demonstration in front of their factory at Kakoli in the city's Banani yesterday, demanding payment of their salary arrears.

Local said around 300 agitating workers of Textex Garment also tried to put up barricade on Airport road in front of the factory at about 12:30pm.

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## Basic health service to breathe again

Roundtable praises govt's move to make community clinics functional

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The project on community clinics, awaiting approval of Executive Committee of National Economic Council, will help ensure basic health services for the grass-roots people, said Additional Secretary of the health ministry, Makhduma Nargis.

She was speaking at a roundtable titled "Community Clinic -- Effect on Health Services" jointly organised by The Daily

Star and Health 21, a platform for health rights activists.

Health experts welcomed the Awami League government's move to make the community clinics functional.

The previous Awami League government started setting up community clinics for every 6,000 people in rural areas in 1998. About 11,500 such clinics had been established by 2001.

But they have remained non-

functional since then. Now the present government has taken initiative to set up another 6,500 clinics and make the existing ones functional.

There is no alternative to making community clinics functional to provide people with door-to-door health service, said experts at the roundtable.

The project includes recruitment of permanent health workers for community

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## Worry over less rainfall

Rain-fed water management

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The occurrence of less rainfall this year may lower the groundwater table hampering cultivation in dry season, speakers expressed their concern in a seminar yesterday in the capital.

Addressing an international seminar on 'Water resources and disaster management at macro and micro

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



Posing as a site for mosque, a recent innovation, soil pirates are indiscriminately cutting hills at Khulshi area in Chittagong.

PHOTO: STAR

## Govt moves to sue hill plunderers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

State Minister for Forest and Environment Hasan Mahmud yesterday said the government will take legal actions against those involved in hill cutting in the port city.

No body would be allowed to cut hills causing environmental damage, he said.

The state minister was talking to the journalists after visiting different areas including Lalkhanbazar, Motijharna, South Khulshi and Bayezid. These areas have seen a number of hills levelled for last couple of months.

He directed the officials of Department of Environment to lodge cases immediately

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### OnlinePoll

Do you support the half-day hartal called by the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports for September 14?

☐ Yes (52.7%)  
☐ No (46.5%)  
☐ No Comments (0.8%)

Total votes: 1692

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the deaths of the animals in the Zoo show sheer negligence and corruption of the Zoo administration and apathy of higher authorities about the captive animals?

Please cast your vote at [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

### Shri, Iftar timings

| Ramadan | Sept | Shri | Iftar |
|---------|------|------|-------|
| 22      | 13   |      | 7-08  |
| 23      | 14   | 5-24 | 7-07  |
| 24      | 15   | 5-24 | 7-06  |

### Prayer Timing

| September 13 | Azan | Jamaat |
|--------------|------|--------|
| Fajr         | 5-23 | 5-33   |
| Zohr         | 1-45 | 2-15   |
| Asr          | 5-30 | 5-45   |
| Maghrib      | 7-08 | 7-18   |
| Esha         | 8-45 | 9-15   |

Source: Islamic Foundation

## 50 killed in spate of Afghan attacks

### 2 US soldiers among the dead

AP, Kabul

Nearly 50 Afghan civilians, security forces and militants were killed in a spate of attacks around the war-torn country, including an overnight military raid targeting insurgents in the increasingly violent north, officials said yesterday. A roadside bomb killed two US troops in the east.

Two Taliban suicide bombers attacked an office of intelligence officers in the southern city of Kandahar, killing one agent. In Kabul province, gunfire broke out after an apparent spat between a US service member and an Afghan police officer, seriously wounding both.

A roadside bomb in eastern Afghanistan killed two US service members, said Capt Elizabeth Mathias, as US military spokeswoman. No other details were released.

Taliban attacks have risen steadily the last three years as have deaths of Afghan civilians caught in the grinding war between the Taliban and US and Nato forces.

Taliban violence which had been largely confined to the country's south and east in the years after the 2001 US invasion has spread to the country's northern provinces this year.

Coalition and Afghan forces Saturday killed 11 militants during an overnight raid in northern Kunduz province, said Abdul Razaq Yaqoubi, the provincial police chief.

The operation targeted Taliban fighters who helped foreign fighters and suicide bombers infiltrate the region, said Mathias.

She said "a number" of militants were killed after the forces exchanged fire. Roadside bomb-making material, ammunition and rocket-propelled grenades were found at the compound, she said.

The raid did not appear to be connected with the kidnapping

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## US offers direct talks to N Korea

AFP, Washington

In a policy shift, the Obama administration said Friday it is prepared to hold direct talks with North Korea in a bid to bring Pyongyang back to six-nation nuclear disarmament negotiations.

The administration -- which has conditioned talks with North Korea on Pyongyang's agreeing to return to a nuclear deal it quit in April -- made the offer after consulting partners China, South Korea, Japan and Russia.

"We had consultations with our partners in the six-party process," Assistant Secretary of State Philip Crowley told reporters at the daily news briefing.

"We are prepared to enter into a bilateral discussion with North Korea, but it's important to characterise it properly," Crowley added.

"It's a bilateral discussion that (is) hopefully... within the six-party context, and it's designed to convince North Korea to come back to the six-party process and to take

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