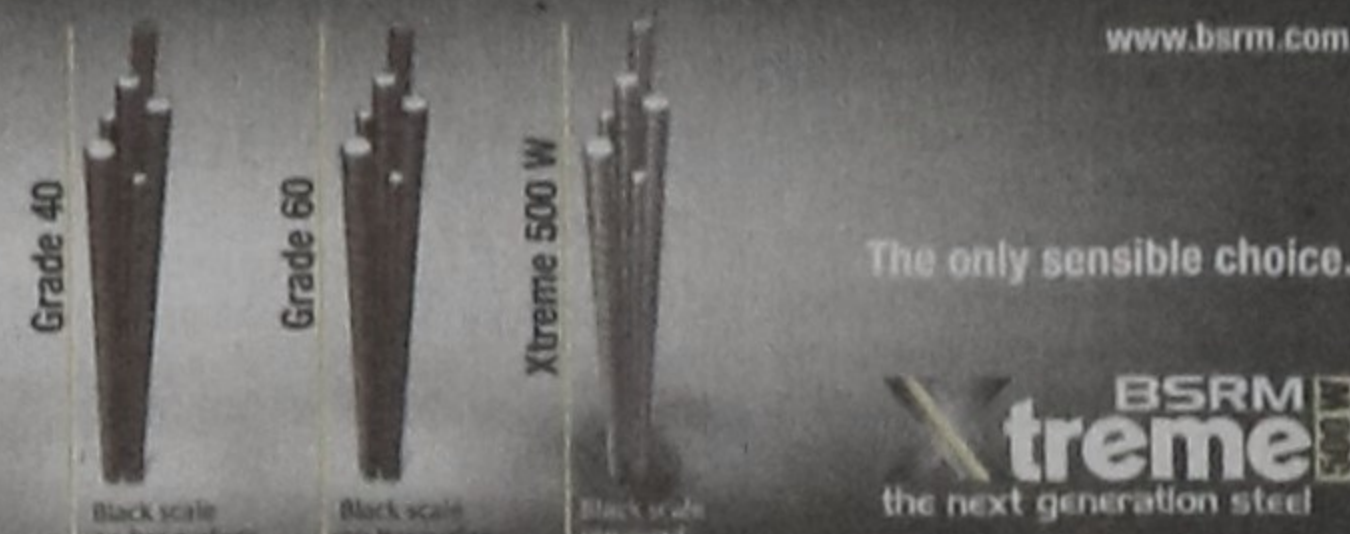


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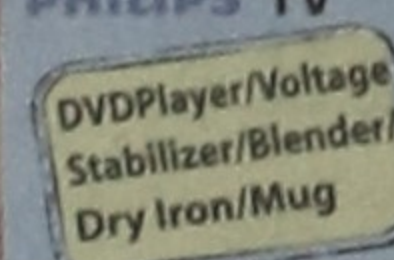
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On the second day of using automated signalling system, traffic congestion worsens further all over the city just like this photo showing an unending gridlock on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Writ plea not for fugitive convict

Govt challenges Shah Alam's petition against realising Tk 52cr from his company

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The attorney general's (AG) office yesterday challenged the authority of Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan Shah Alam for filing a writ petition with the High Court as a fugitive convict.

Shah Alam on Sunday filed the writ petition challenging the then caretaker government's action of taking Tk 52 crore from his company Meghna Cement Mills Limited.

Challenging the petitioner's authority, the AG office said Ahmed Akbar Sobhan Shah Alam, the managing director of the company, is a fugitive from justice, and he has no authority to file such petition with this court.

Shah Alam was sentenced to a total of 10 years' imprisonment in two cases filed on charges of money laundering and tax

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## Signals not the only answer

Say experts on Dhaka's traffic management as tailbacks worsen

TAWFIQUE ALI

An automated signalling system cannot provide the answer to Dhaka's traffic woes without improving the existing width and coverage of roads, say transport experts.

Professor Alamgir Mojibul Hoque of Buet, who acted as team leader on Dhaka's Strategic Transport Plan said, "Tangible improvements can be made if authorities establish proper systems for traffic and parking management as well as making small scale improvements to reduce bottlenecks."

Commuters in the capital endured extraordinarily long traffic jams on Sunday and yesterday as a result of the DCC's overnight decision to switch from manual to automated traffic signalling.

The frustrating driving conditions were exacerbated by Dhaka Metropolitan Police's failure to synchronise signal durations.

Dr M Rahmatullah, policy adviser of the Transport Sector Management Reform, said that constantly monitoring the duration of each signal is most vital in ensuring a successfully automated system.

In a synchronised signal system, a commuter who gets a green signal at Jahangir Gate will pass through green lights at subsequent intersections, including those at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Bijoy Sarani, Farmgate, Sonargaon Hotel, Bangla Motor, Sheraton Hotel and Shahbagh.

However, Sabera Haq, a commuter from Uttara, spent an hour yesterday travelling one kilometre from the PMO to Karwan Bazar.

The lack of synchronisation also caused traffic to come to a complete standstill during the office rush hours on a stretch of Gulshan Avenue in the morning.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

## SQ Chowdhury barred from going abroad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP lawmaker Salauddin Quader Chowdhury yesterday was barred from leaving the country for Singapore.

He along with his wife was scheduled to go to Singapore for treatment but the immigration authority of Zia International Airport did not allow them to leave the country.

"They [immigration] told me that direction from the higher authority is needed,"

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## Nahid gets death threat

Asked not to formulate education policy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid received death threat from an anonymous person who asked him not to formulate the National Education Policy.

"Refrain from formulating 'erroneous' National Education Policy or get ready for death," says a letter sent to the minister.

"Otherwise August 15 or 21 would take place once again in the country," the letter reads.

Senior Public Relations

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## BABRI MOSQUE DEMOLITION

# Vajpayee, Advani, Joshi implicated

ANI, PTI, New Delhi

A section of Indian media yesterday reported that the Justice Liberhan Commission has named former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee along with Leader of Opposition LK Advani and senior BJP leader Murli Manohar Joshi as being responsible for spearheading the Karseva movement to demolish the Babri Masjid (mosque) in December 1992.

The leakage of Liberhan Commission report on the demolition of Babri Masjid stalled Parliament on Monday despite the government's assurance that the report along with the ATR would be tabled in the current session.

The mosque was demolished by Karsevaks on December 6, 1992.

The report quoting the commission's observation said the entire build-up to the

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## Council won't be deferred

Says BNP as preparations get momentum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The national council of the main opposition BNP billed for December 8 will not defer, though the party is facing huge difficulties in holding councils for its grassroots levels.

The main opposition in its preparation for the upcoming council has already finalised its logo, website and the theme song.

"The council will be held on December 8 and there is no scope of deferring it," Goyeshwar Chandra Roy, joint secretary general of BNP, said at a press briefing at party's Nayapaltan office yesterday.

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## Salam Pintu on fresh remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Former deputy minister Abdus Salam Pintu was placed on a two-day fresh remand, for the third time, in a case filed for the bomb attack on Awami League (AL) office at Chasara in Narayanganj in 2001.

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### Prayer Timing

November 24

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	6-05	6-40
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-21	6-24
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

## BANGLADESH AWAMI JUBO LEAGUE



To Secretary General Amnesty International

An Appeal Regarding the Bangladesh Supreme Court's Judgement (Short order) on November 19, 2009 Affirming the Death Sentences of the Convicts of Bangabandhu Murder Case.

Greetings from Bangladesh Awami Jubo League

We are writing to Amnesty International to express our opinion on the Appellate Division's decision on November 19, 2009, rejecting the appeals of the five of the convicts who had been sentenced to death for killing the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members on August 15, 1975.

We know that, vital role of Amnesty International is to abolish death penalty world wide to uphold human rights. Considering the strong stand of Amnesty International against death penalty, this request has been placed before them in the context of recent declaration of death penalty of the accused for the murder of father of the nation of Bangladesh and his family. The murders of Bangabandhu and his family were the heinous crime in the history of Bangladesh and the aftermath effort of some political groups to shelter the self proclaimed murderers are the most black chapter of post independent Bangladesh. For political vested interest and consistent effort of some groups not to make the trial effective, it took long 34 years for the nation to have justice for this murder. At last, after a due process and giving the accused all the rights to be defended, the apex court of Bangladesh has ruled for death penalty for the accused. The whole nation has been waiting for this ruling for a long time and after all the struggle, nation's aspiration for justice is going to be heard.

We found that, as always Amnesty International has voiced against death penalty; as it is mentioned in their objective- 'Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases without exception regardless of the nature of the crime.' This time also they protest and take stand against these death penalties. Though we always appreciate their stand, on Human right issue we would like to draw their concern on some issues of the recent declaration of death penalty of Bangabandhu murder case with the hope that before taking any stand against these death penalties, Amnesty International should think over our invoked issues. First of all, the murder of Bangabandhu is not like other murder cases. A whole nation's dream and hope were involved with him and with his death; a nation's fate has been shattered. This is the urge of whole nation to give strictest punishment to the accused so that in future, no group can carry such crime for political motive.

Secondly, the accused of these murder cases have self proclaimed their guilt and narrated the story of the commission of the crime in a number of interviews to the media. Later, they were given shelter, and hindering the due process of law, the trial for this murder case has been stopped for a long time by law, known as Indemnity Ordinance 1975 which was proclaimed within 40 days after the murder and Zia government patronised the killers in different ways, even the case was not taken by the police. Amnesty International was very vocal against this law. This is not the end of the story. The killers murdered four national leaders in the central jail on 3rd November 1975. The killers played key role against all democratic struggles. They made dozens of attempts to kill the Daughter of the Father of the nation. The most nasty attempt was made during 21 August, 2004 when 23 people died by a grenade attack on Sheikh Hasina. The killers made many conspiracy plot to kill Awami League president and daughter of the father of the nation. Even today she is under death threat. Barrister Fazle Nur Taposh, MP, the young lawyer for state in Bangabandhu murder case, was bomb attacked by the same killers and their beneficiary. With their beneficiaries they will do this time and again, if they are not sentenced with capital punishment. Till this judgement for death penalty, it has been considered that rule of law has been helpless to address the death of the father of the nation of Bangladesh. Fortunately, the recent political turn over has made the justice a reality for this murder case. For the purpose of Bangabandhu murder case, all the accused have gone through due process of law and exercised their each and every right to defend themselves. After a long process, as the prosecution has proved the case beyond reasonable doubt, the apex judiciary has come to this conclusion. Even California court observed, in one of the killers' case (Mohiuddin) that Bangladesh judicial system did a fair trial. Therefore, the imposition of death penalty has come from the exercise of a fair trial and application of the laws of Bangladesh to address this national issue.

Thirdly, unfortunately some groups in the country are very active to protect the murderers for vested political interest. As the accused have been protected for vested political reasons for a long time, it is very clearly foreseeable that if the accused would have been given life time imprisonment and if the allied political groups of the accused would come into power after five or ten years, they will again repeat the act to protect the self proclaimed murderers – as they have done in the previous years and thus denied the important human right to access to justice.

Lastly, to see the self proclaimed murderers of Bangabandhu to walk the gallows is the demand of the nation – as these are the people who killed the leader of the independence of Bangladesh, who took the whole nation to the misery of undemocratic rule and who dragged the nation in to phases of denial of human rights. Therefore, these death penalties are the answer to the aggrieved people who have waited for long 34 years in seeking justice for the murder of their father of the nation. Considering all these issues, we keep our humble request before the Amnesty International – not to protest against these death penalties and thus show respect to the aspirations of a nation asking for justice.

With thanks and best regards

Md. Omar Faroque Chowdhury  
Acting Chairman  
Bangladesh Awami Jubo League

Mirza Azam MP  
Whip, Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad  
& Secretary, Bangladesh Awami Jubo League

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"Oh heart, if one should say to you that the soul perishes like the body, answer that the flower withers, but the seed remains"

- Kahlil Gibran



Mr. Md Nurul Haque Sikder, Chairman of Palmal Group of Industries left us on November 18, 2009, Wednesday. He was associated with UCB since its inception - a source of inspiration and a major driving force for our business growth. He was one of the pioneering entrepreneurs of the country and his role and contribution in developing the fledgling garments industry during its early days will always be remembered with fondness by all. We all grieve at his sudden demise.

May Almighty Allah bestow eternal peace on his departed soul and give strength to his family and loved ones to bear this unbearable loss, Ameen.

**UCB**

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## 'No execution until review plea disposal'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Execution of the five convicts in Bangabandhu murder case, who are now in condemned cells, remains stayed until their review petitions are disposed of by the Supreme Court, the chief counsel for the state in this case said yesterday.

If the apex court dismisses the review petitions and finally upholds the High Court verdict confirming their death sentence, the jail authorities

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

### OnlinePoll

What is your experience with the new traffic signal system in the capital?

It didn't work (48.6%)  
It worked (27.9%)  
No Comments (23.5%)

Total votes: 834

TODAY'S POLL

Do you support Amnesty International's appeal to the government not to execute the convicted killers of Bangabandhu?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net