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## Relax height limit rules

JS body also suggests allowing high-rises near Old Airport

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary body yesterday recommended that the government relax the height limit for buildings to pave way for construction of high-rises around the Tejgaon Old Airport in the capital.

The parliamentary standing committee on housing and public works ministry also ruled out the allegations of interference in plot distribution in the city's Purbachal by Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk).

"Although big aircraft cannot use the Tejgaon Old Airport, construction of high-rise buildings has been restricted in the area because of it," committee Chairman

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## KERANIGANJ CENTRAL JAIL

# Govt set to spend Tk 324 crore more

## Red tape, delay in construction blamed

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

The government will have to count an extra Tk 324 crore from public exchequer as bureaucratic tangles and legal complications are delaying the construction of Keraniganj central jail, sources in the home ministry said.

They said construction of the 8,200-capacity modern prison would take years lingering sufferings of the inmates crammed into various jails across the country.

Prisoners of the Dhaka Central Jail, the largest but most crowded among 67 prisons, will be shifted to Keraniganj once it is completed.

When the Prisons Directorate floated the "Construction of Keraniganj Central Jail Project" in 2004, the estimated cost for it was Tk 317 crore.

Recently, the project evaluation committee, headed by Additional Secretary to Home Ministry Md Ghulam Hussain, made an estimate of almost double the amount at Tk 641 crore.

Officials involved in the project said the increase was nothing but to adjust the rising costs of construction materials.

The project was aimed at completing the work in five years. Accordingly, a piece of 194-acre land was acquired in Keraniganj, but the bureaucratic tangles took three years to finalise and approve the project.

"The project was approved in an Ecneec meeting in September 2007. But then came the legal complications as four land owners filed writs with the High Court against land acquisition and filling," Deputy Secretary to Home

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A Rajuk team yesterday in a drive demolishes a commercial structure to retrieve parking space in the city's Mirpur area. Inset, a fake car parking sign-board is seen on the ground floor of the building.

PHOTO: STAR

## Bangladeshi miracle twins 'inspiration'

Says Australian cleric

AFP, Sydney

One of Australia's top Catholic clerics yesterday said people all over the world should take inspiration from the separation of conjoined Bangladeshi twins Trishna and Krishna.

Adelaide city Archbishop Philip Wilson said the twins' astonishing recovery from marathon surgery five weeks ago to separate their fused heads had touched people across the world, bringing joy and hope to many corners of the globe.

They were released from hospital Monday in time to celebrate their third birthday and first Christmas apart, after being rescued from almost certain death in a Dhaka orphanage by Australian aid workers.

"The twins' journey from the orphanage in Bangladesh to the triumphant moment of separation... is a wonderful symbol of the regeneration of life that is given to us through the birth of Jesus Christ," said Wilson in his annual Christmas message.

"Let the faces of Krishna and Trishna be a constant

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



PHOTO: AFP

A handout photo shows formerly conjoined Bangladeshi twins Krishna, left, and Trishna wearing Santa Claus hats in Melbourne yesterday, a day before Christmas.

## 1,360 MW new power by March

### JS body told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 1,360 MW power would be added to the national grid within next three months to deal with the power crisis in the country.

Maj Gen (retd) Shubid Ali Bhuiyan, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on energy, oil and mineral resources ministry, said this to reporters after its meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.

"Of the 1,360 MW power, 960 MW will be added to national grid by January next year while 400 MW power by March to improve the power situation," Bhuiyan said.

The authorities concerned said at the meeting that the road show in UK, New York and Singapore received huge responses as about 56 foreigners and 22 non-resident Bangladeshis expressed their interests to invest in the energy sector of the country.

Asked whether the committee discussed the recent report on prime minister's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy and her adviser Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, the committee chief replied in the negative. "We may discuss the issue, if any member of the committee raises the issue before the committee's next meeting," he replied after repeated questioning on the issue from reporters.

The 1,360 MW power would be generated on completion of renovation of several power plants, including the plants at Sirajganj, Bogra, Ashuganj and Fenchuganj, said Bhuiyan, also a ruling Awami League lawmaker.

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## Criminals fire on workers, 2 injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed criminals shot at workers of an under construction building at East Kazipara in the capital's Kafrul yesterday, leaving two workers injured.

The victims Kabir Hossain, 22, and Mohammad Saddam, 20, hailed from Chapainawabganj, were construction workers of a four-storey building owned by Akbar Ali in the area.

They were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with bullet injury to their left leg. Moreover, Saddam was

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Prayer Timing		
December 25		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	6-25	7-00
Juma	1-30	2-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-24	6-27
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Parking space retrieved

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A number of commercial premises in Mirpur in the capital were demolished yesterday in a bid to retrieve designated car-parking spaces from commercial use.

An assortment of shops, warehouses and offices had been set up by building owners in the ground floor of five multi-storey buildings in the area, forcing customers and visitors to park on the street.

The eviction drive was carried out by Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk), which is responsible for coordinating urban development in Dhaka.

Executive Magistrate Md Rokon Ud-Doula led the eviction drive with a team of building inspectors, technicians and 40 labourers.

The eviction drive targeted Patwary Tower in Mirpur section 11, Upama Plaza and Carry Family in section 2, Sharat Garments in the section between 11 and 12, and Mirpur Diagnostic Centre near the section 10 intersection.

The owner of Carry Family produced a four-month stay order of the court and therefore prevented the bulldozers from moving in.

Two months ago the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) identified 198 buildings in the capital that were using designated car parking space for commercial purposes.

Rajuk subsequently launched a series of demolitions between October 11 and October 26 and then resumed its campaign yesterday.

## Piles, Constipation, Dysentery, Cancer

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## OnlinePoll

Do you think tree felling will be stopped following the PM's order to draft a law with a non-bailable provision for the offenders and also a provision to punish people who buy or use those?

☐ Yes (36.8%)  
☐ No (60.5%)  
☐ No Comments (2.7%)

Total votes: 1023

TODAY'S POLL

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