

**Did you know?**

Oriel Chambers, located on Water Street near to the town hall in Liverpool, England, is the world's first metal framed glass curtain walled building. Designed by architect Peter Ellis and built in 1864, it comprises 4,000 m2 set over five floors.



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# India to help build power plants

Officials discuss grid inter-connection, coal-fired plants for Ctg, Khulna

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

India yesterday offered assistance for Bangladesh's power sector that includes plans to build coal-fired power plants in Chittagong and Khulna.

The offer was made during the first meeting of the Joint Steering Committee for Cooperation in the Power Sector in New Delhi yesterday.

It was agreed that construction of the power plants would be undertaken as a joint venture with Bangladesh Power Development Board.

The meeting was co-chaired by Power Secretary for Bangladesh Abul Kalam Azad and Power Secretary for India HS Brahma.

The committee also raised the possi-

bility of a grid inter-connection between the two countries, as well as co-operation between India's state-run power producer NTPC Ltd and the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB).

The Joint Technical Team of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL), the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB) and BPDB estimate that it will cost Rs 869.21 crore to provide grid inter-connection.

The majority of that amount - Rs 708.88 crore - will be allocated to Bangladesh.

PGCIL will finance the work on the Indian side.

Bangladesh has requested PGCIL to act as a consultant during the project's execution, as it is the first time such a

project will be carried out in Bangladesh.

The consultancy fees will be borne by the Bangladesh government.

A press release from the Press Information Bureau of India said the committee agreed that PGCIL should utilise PGCB engineers in order to gain experience.

India and Bangladesh's state-run power producers agreed to cooperate on the following projects:

a) The preparation of a feasibility report for two coal-fired power plants at Khulna and Chittagong - approximately 1320 MW each. NTPC will be offered to develop one of these projects in a joint venture with BPDB.

b) NTPC will have the opportunity to

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This file photo shows that lease on a number of plots in Cox's Bazar Hotel-Motel Zone have been violated because no construction work has taken place. The lease of these plots was cancelled yesterday.

## India, SL fight for Idea Cup today

SPORTS REPORTER

India and Sri Lanka will lock horns in the final of the Idea Cup tri-nation series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium today.

This will be the third battle between the teams in the tournament with both teams having won once in the group matches.

India will be welcoming back their three most important players -- opener Virender Sehwag, off-spinner Harbhajan Singh and left-arm pacer Zaheer Khan -- in the final. Sehwag and Harbhajan were given rest for two matches while Zaheer was rested for the last group game against Bangladesh. Young fast bowler Sudeep Tyagi may be given the opportunity ahead of Shanthakumaran Sreesanth who has been erratic.

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## PLOT TO FOIL 2008 JS POLLS Charges pressed against JMB men in Nilphamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Police pressed charges against 30 members of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh at a Nilphamari court in a case filed in connection with conspiring to keep people away from the December 29, 2008 parliamentary elections.

In the charge sheet they also mentioned that the militants distributed leaflets and CDs in different districts, using a courier service, asking people not to cast votes. The CDs and leaflets also tried to motivate people into launching a jihad.

Jaldhaka Police told this to journalists yesterday even though they submitted the charge sheet on December 30. The court is yet to accept the charge sheet as the chief judicial magistrate of Nilphamari is on leave, police said.

Of the 30 accused, 18 are now behind bars.

The investigation officer of the case Sub-Inspector Mozaharul Islam of Jaldhaka Police Station said he found evidence of involvement of 57 JMB men but did not mention them in the charge sheet since identity details of 27 of them could not be found.

Jaldhaka police lodged the case on December 4, 2008, after they seized a number of CDs and leaflets, which the JMB men

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## Outlaw killed in 'shootout'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged criminal was killed in a 'shootout' between his cohorts and Rapid Action Battalion at Old Kochukheth Bazar in city's Kafrul early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Firoz alias Kosai Firoz, 30, of Kafrul area in Mirpur.

Maj Khandakar Golam Sarwar of Rab-4 told The Daily Star that around 3:00am a Rab patrol team challenged a gang of six to seven criminals who were roaming suspiciously at Old Kochukheth Bazar.

The gang opened fire on the Rab team prompting the law enforcers to retaliate, he said.

Firoz fell in the line of fire and was found dead in front of Nur Masjid in the area while his accomplices fled the scene.

The law enforcers took him to Dhaka Medical College

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## Ctg port paralysed for seven hours

Dock labourers stop work on 9-point demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Workers of Dock Sramik Oikya Parishad laid a siege to Chittagong port yesterday, disrupting handling of bulk cargo for seven hours.

Around 300 workers blocked the main gate of Bandar Bhaban around 8:00am to realise their nine-point demand including revival of abolished dock workers management board and reinstatement of terminated workers.

The parishad, one of the three ruling party backed workers organisations at the port, withdrew the siege at about 3:00pm after Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan over phone assured the workers leaders of holding a meeting with them on January 23 to solve the problem.

Handling of bulk cargo in four vessels, all laden with wheat, remained suspended at different jetties of the port due to the siege, sources said.

However, port authorities claimed that container handling operation as well as handling of bulk cargoes in twelve vessels at the

outer anchorage continued unhindered.

The siege also hampered administrative activities of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) as the officials and employees could not enter or go out of the office during the agitation.

CPA held a meeting with the parishad leaders chaired by member (engineering) captain Zobaer Ahmed around 1:30pm and verbally assured the workers of taking steps to meet their demands. Parishad convener Ali Ashraf and adviser Md Jahangir Alam, among others, were present at the meeting.

The dock workers later got assurance from the shipping minister over phone and withdrew the siege programme at 3:00pm.

Regarding reinstatement of terminated workers, captain Zobaer told reporters that it is a complicated issue since many of the workers have already received the money of golden handshake.

The dock workers on Monday announced the indefinite siege programme from a rally at the city's Nimali crossing.

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## 6 killed in Magura bus plunge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

At least six people were killed and 30 others were injured as a bus plunged into a roadside ditch at Ramnagar area on Magura-Jhenidah highway yesterday evening.

The deceased were identified as Shankar Kundu, 50, Sagar Mridha, 24, Bikash Biswas, 35, Rahatunnesa, 30, Zafar, 40, and Sathi, 35.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred when a Kushtia-bound passenger bus of Nirapad Paribahan from Faridpur fell into a roadside ditch around 5:30pm as its driver lost control over the

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## AL to accord reception to PM on return

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League will accord a grand reception to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Zia International Airport today for playing bold role to boost up relationship with India, establish peace in South Asia and upholding the country's interest.

The decision was taken at a joint meeting of leaders of AL central committee and its associated bodies at AL President Hasina's political office in Dhanmondi yesterday.

Meanwhile, the speaker adjourned the parliament sitting until 3:00pm Thursday. Sources said most of the ministers and lawmakers are expected to be present at Hasina's reception programme.

Following the prime minister's arrival and reception,

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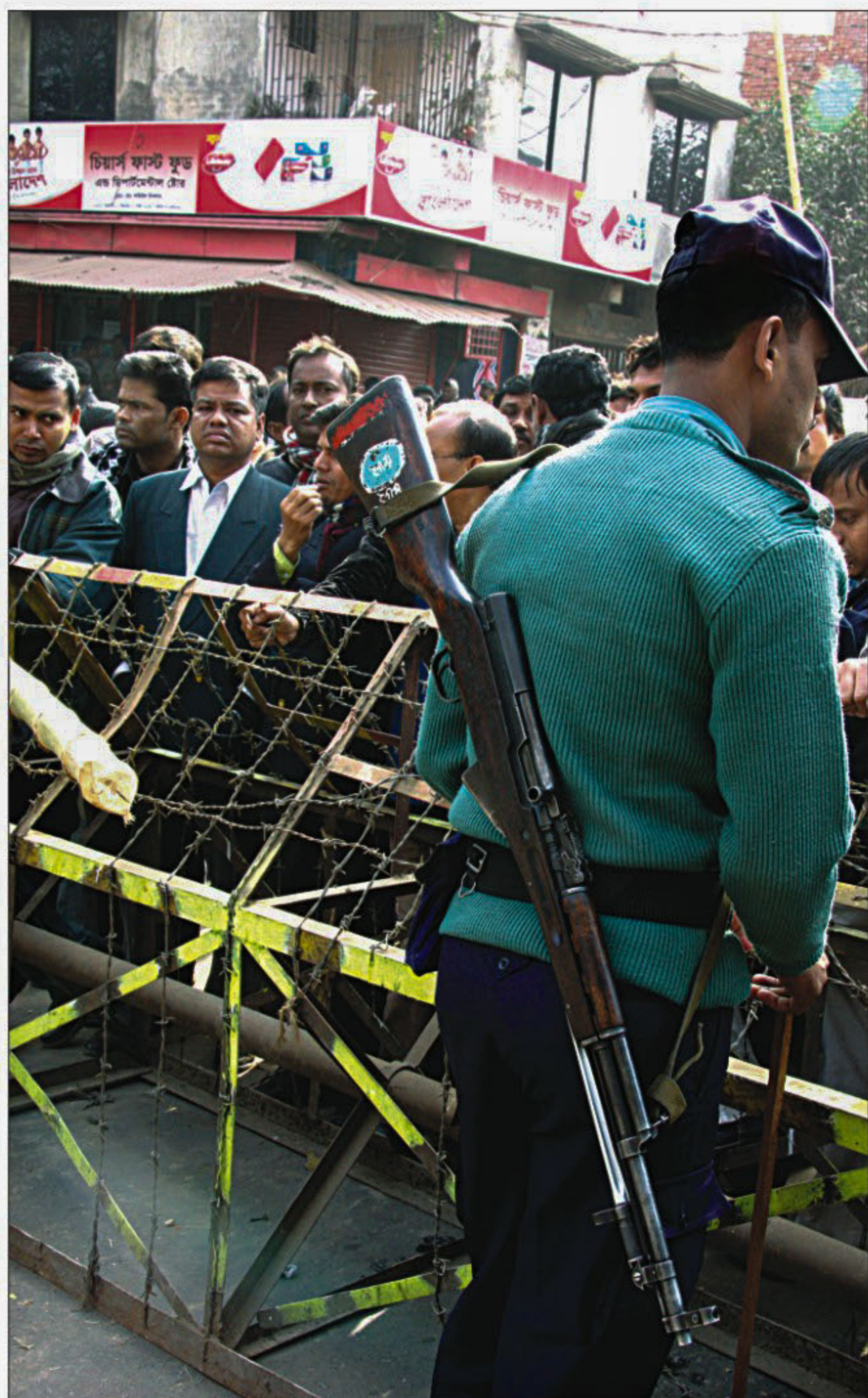
## HC benches reconstituted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Md Tafazzul Islam yesterday reconstituted 15 High Court benches, changing their jurisdictions for hearing and disposing of cases.

Earlier on January 7, the CJ reconstituted 39 HC benches out of total 48.

On January 10, some BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami lawyers urged the CJ to review the decision of reconstitute the benches by giving powers to the senior judges for hearing and disposing of the important cases.



Police cordon off the Proshika head office at Mirpur-6 in the capital yesterday after former chairmen of the organisation allegedly sent men to storm the office and take control.

PHOTO: STAR

## Top woman outlaw held in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A woman activist of outlawed Gano Mukti Foj in Kushtia was arrested yesterday.

Nasrin alias Dadi Nasrin, 25, was arrested by a team of detective branch of police at Amlapara in Kushtia.

Police arrested Nasrin on charges of her involvement in the killings of Bheramara Awami League Joint Secretary Meherul and college teacher Banda Fattah.

She is an accused in five general diaries (GDS) with different thanas of Kushtia.

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## Taliban storm Pak army post, kill 1

AFP, Khar

Dozens of Taliban insurgents stormed a Pakistani military post in a tribal town near the Afghan border yesterday, killing one paramilitary soldier and wounding three others, officials said.

More than 30 militants attacked the check post in the mountainous town of Ghanan Shah in northwest Mohmand district before dawn.

"They came from three sides and attacked the post with automatic weapons and rocket launchers," local administration official Zabit Khan told AFP. "One soldier was killed and three were wounded."

A military official

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## 13 Afghans killed in missile attack

AP, AFP, Kabul

International forces' missile kills 13 insurgents in southern Afghanistan, Nato said yesterday.

Nato said coalition troops saw a group of insurgents near a safe house preparing ammunition as well as insurgent mortar teams moving equipment in the Naw Zad area of Helmand province. The international force launched one missile, killing the 13 militants.

Meanwhile, a French soldier died yesterday from injuries suffered in an attack in Afghanistan, bringing the death toll to six in the deadliest day for international troops in more than two months.

Nato has already confirmed that five soldiers -- three from the United States, one from France and a British bomb disposal expert -- were killed in unrest in the war-ravaged country on Monday.

France's defence ministry said a second soldier died from his

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**OnlinePoll** ✓  
Do you think Bangladesh Land Developers Association will oust the land grabbers from the association responding to state minister for housing Abdul Mannan Khan's call?  
 Yes (16.1%)  
 No (81.9%)  
 No Comments (2.0%)  
**Total votes: 752**  
**TODAY'S POLL**  
 Do you think Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India is successful?  
 Please cast your vote at [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

**Prayer Timing**

January 13		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-36	5-40
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

**NAME CHANGE**

This is for kind information of the valued clients, patrons and well-wishers that the name of Oman Bangladesh Leasing & Finance Ltd. has been changed as under :-

<del>OLD NAME</del> Oman Bangladesh Leasing & Finance Ltd.	NEW NAME RELIANCE FINANCE LIMITED
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Address, Telephone and Fax numbers will remain unchanged.

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