

Did you know?

The Rose Rotana, a 72-storey hotel in Dubai, is the world's tallest building used exclusively as a hotel. Originally, the tower was to be 380 m (1,200 ft) high, but further design modification reduced it to 333 m (1,090 ft).



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BANGABANDHU KILLERS Clemency petitions rejected

BSS, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman has rejected the clemency petitions filed by three of the five convicts of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman assassination case.

"The president has rejected their mercy petitions," a senior Bangabhaban official told BSS yesterday.

He said the presidential

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JU teacher shot, robbed of Tk 5 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed muggers snatched Tk 5 lakh after shooting a university teacher yesterday at Savar and another gang took away Tk 50,000 by stabbing an electronics trader at the capital's Baitul Mukarram Market yesterday.

Meanwhile, another gang of three armed extortionists fired indiscriminately and stormed into a car sales centre

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HAITI QUAKE 70,000 buried in mass graves

Death toll 2 lakh

AFP, Port-au-Prince

Rescuers pulled dazed survivors from the ruins of Haiti's flattened capital as thousands of US troops headed in to shore up the beleaguered international relief effort yesterday.

Six days after the magnitude 7.0 quake, aid workers are still struggling to reach hundreds of thousands of homeless, injured and traumatised

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Taliban launch serial attacks across Kabul

Five killed as suicide bombers attack hotel, cinema, shopping malls

AFP, Kabul

Taliban gunmen and suicide bombers attacked buildings across the heart of Kabul yesterday, triggering fierce gun battles with security forces and killing at least five people including a child.

Fires were blazing after two shopping centres, a cinema and the only five-star hotel in the Afghan capital were targeted by heavily-armed militants who set off a wave of explosions, witnesses and officials said.

Five people including civilians and security personnel were killed and 38 wounded, the public health ministry said, in the most spectacular strike on Kabul since Taliban militants laid siege to government buildings in February 2009, killing at least 26 people.

Defence ministry spokesman Mohammad Zahir Azimi said a child was among the dead, also telling Afghan television that "four terrorists" had been killed, two who blew themselves up and two shot dead by security forces.

President Hamid Karzai said the situation was "under control" after hours of fighting in the highly fortified capital.

"The enemies of the Afghan people conducted a series of attacks today, causing fear and terror among the population," Karzai said in a statement.

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ST MARTIN'S ISLAND Rare Rosy Starlings sighted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Golapi Shalik or Rosy Starling is one of the rarest migratory birds in Bangladesh, eight of which were recently sighted by Dr Reza Khan, a nature lover, on St Martin's Island also known as Narikel Jinjira.

He sighted the birds, also called Sturnus Roseus, on the south-eastern corner of the island during a bird watching tour.

Rosy Starlings had earlier been sighted just a few times by Bangladeshi birdwatchers.

Dr Khan first saw a flock of six starlings in Raha Boinna, a completely denuded old mangrove forest area that is now occupied by a tourist lodge, and in Moora, the highest elevated place on the island supporting a graveyard for the people of Dakshin Para and Siradia.

Almost all but one Shalik was in full winter plumage while one

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PHOTO: DR REZA KHAN

Golapi Shalik or Rosy Starling, one of the rarest migratory birds in Bangladesh, was recently sighted on St Martins' Island.

All grabbed canals, land to be reclaimed

Govt already started drive, minister tells House

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has already started recovering all grabbed canals and khas land across the country, State Minister for LGRD Jahangir Kabir Nanok told the House yesterday.

"The job of recovering grabbed canals and government land has already started from the capital's Mirpur area. We will recover those no matter how influential the grabbers are," Nanok said while replying to a lawmaker's query.

Awami League lawmaker Kamal Ahmed

Majumder in a scripted question said a canal named Bogar Mar Khal, which once stretched from the city's Ibrahimpur to Kalyanpur, has been grabbed and many structures have been built on it illegally. He enquired about the government's steps to recover the canal.

In a supplementary question, Awami League MP Sanjida Khanam said two canals in her constituency--Shympur Khal and Titas Khal--have been grabbed and structures were built on it illegally.

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PM to visit China soon

Deals likely on road, rail links, ports

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will visit China soon to sign deals on road and rail links between Kunming and Chittagong, and the use of two seaports.

"The agreement on the use of Chittagong and Mongla ports will be signed with China like India, Nepal and Bhutan," Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam told journalists yesterday at

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Foreign friends of Liberation War to be honoured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has taken an initiative to honour foreign organisations, journalists, singers, politicians, and poets who stood beside Bangladesh during the Liberation War.

State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Ministry Capt (ret'd) ABM Tajul Islam said this to the House yesterday while replying to a call attention notice of Awami League lawmaker Abul Kalam Azad.

He said his ministry has asked the foreign ministry to communicate with them and their family members and bring them to Dhaka to honour them on the occasion of Victory Day 2010.

"We are working under the prime minister's directives," the state minister said.

He said this is the right time to show respect to them for their immense support and contribution to the country's Liberation War.

"We need to prepare a list... the people who inspired our freedom fighters and helped in many ways... so that our next generation can know about them," the state minister said.

He said many foreign dignitaries including journalists, writers, artists, singers, politicians, political parties, public representatives, human rights activists and several social and cultural organisations protested the brutality of the Pakistani army.

They portrayed the barbarity to the world community and helped to get support of their respective governments for Bangladesh, he said.

He mentioned a few names like Edward Kenedy, Joan Baez, George Harrison, Bob Dylan, Rabi Shankar, Gobinda Halder, Deb Dulal Bandyopadhyay, Peter Sore, Simon Drink and Mark Tally.

Lawmakers welcomed the government's move to honour the foreign dignitaries.



Zia's birth anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 74th birth anniversary of late president Ziaur Rahman, the founder of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

Ziaur Rahman was born on this day in 1936 at Bagbari

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Prayer Timing		
January 19		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-40	5-44
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation



Police recovers arms and bomb making materials during a drive at a Shibir hideout in Mistirpara of the port city yesterday. One of the pistols has Made in Pakistan imprinted on it. PHOTO: STAR

WE MOURN

Alhaj Asaduzzaman, Vice Chairman of Islam Group, passed away Friday, 15th January, 2010 at 4 pm (Inna Lillah eRazeun). He was 74. Since his joining in 1966 till his death, his inspiration & enthusiasm always invigorated us. He was always there to share our pain and pleasure. Islam Group has suffered an irreparable loss at his untimely departure.

Our heartfelt condolence and prayers go out to the bereaved family members. May Allah give them the strength to bear their grief.

We pray for Mr. Asaduzzaman's departed soul. May his soul rest in peace and in heaven. Amen.

All Officers & staff of Islam Group

OnlinePoll ✓

BNP in 2005 had supported Japan for permanent membership in the UNSC during an agreement. Now they are criticising the AL gov't for the similar support to India. How do you look at it?

- Unacceptable (70.3%)
- Acceptable (27.8%)
- No Comments (1.9%)

Total votes: 1306

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with BNP Chairperson Khaldea Zia that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's India visit is a failure and harmful for nation?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Achieving 2021
A Digital Age for Bangladesh

Highlighting the social and economic impact of mobile broadband

Mobile Broadband as offered through the GSM family of technologies incorporating GSM, GPRS, EDGE and now 3G and HSPA has been a huge success around the world. This success has led to great economies of scale which allow prices of both services and devices to be within the reach of all.

The GSM Association is acutely conscious of the importance of enhancing Broadband connectivity for the people of Bangladesh. We believe that widespread adoption of broadband in both urban and rural areas is extremely necessary for enhancing employment opportunities both in the private and public sectors.

Around the world today there are many 3G Mobile Broadband networks helping to improve and enrich the quality of life through the delivering of services like healthcare, education and government initiatives local.

The GSMA invites you to attend the Achieving 2021 - a Digital Age for Bangladesh seminar, which will answer why 3G Mobile Broadband is vital to Bangladesh.

We are very pleased that the Honorable Minister, Ministry of Post & Telecommunications Mr. Rajjuddin Ahmed Raju will be participating as Chief Guest.

Date: **21 January, 2010**
Venue: **Grand Ballroom, Radisson Hotel, Dhaka**
Time: **9.00 AM** (registration)

This seminar will focus on:

- the positive social and economic impact that 3G Mobile Broadband has on the growth of countries;
- showcasing the applications and how people from all areas - rural and urban - use 3G Mobile Broadband as a solution for broadband access;
- case studies from operators around the world and the different Mobile Broadband service propositions they offer;
- the latest information in products and services to facilitate broadband access including low cost devices, shared access kiosks and green initiatives for power generation.

To register for this free event email mbb@gsm.org or call Sandra Gilligan on +447917046591

Mobile Broadband