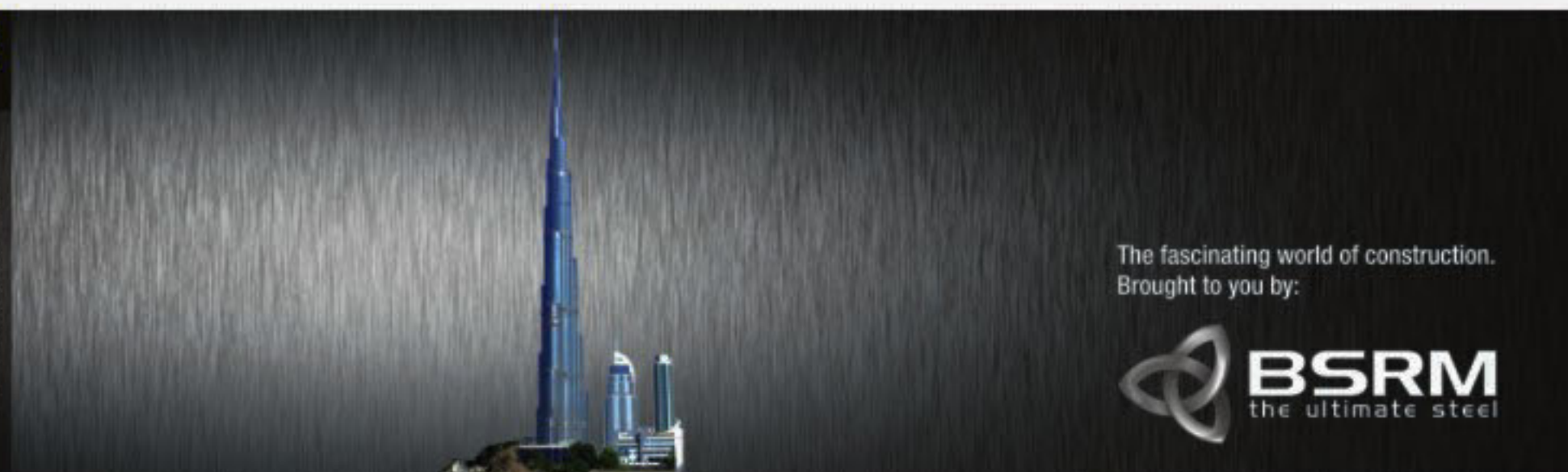


Did you know?

Burj Dubai, a supertall skyscraper under construction in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, is the tallest man-made structure ever built, at 818 meters. The tower is expected to be completed and ready for occupancy in 2010.



The fascinating world of construction. Brought to you by: BSRM the ultimate steel

PHILIPS Buy specific models of Philips Iron. Get sure gifts.*

Amazing New Year Offer for an exciting Trade Fair

Iron board/Talking Clock

TRANSKOM DIGITAL Your Trusted Electronics Retailer For More Information: 8855366-8, 01712 665463

PM to head committee on Rooppur nuke power plant

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is considering formation of a high-powered cabinet committee headed by the prime minister to supervise Rooppur nuclear power plant and give directives for implementation of the project.

State Minister for Science and ICT Yeafesh Osman said this in parliament yesterday.

Citing that setting up a nuclear power plant is very expensive, complicated and sensitive, he said the government is also thinking of forming a high-level technical committee.

The technical committee will prepare a detailed report on selection of proper technology and funding of the project and submit it to the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Upazila parishads to be made effective

Syed Ashraf says govt to amend law to ensure their independence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashraf Islam said yesterday the government has taken initiatives to make upazila parishads effective and independent.

The Upazila Parishad Act will be amended soon to enable elected representatives of people in upazila parishads to work independently, he said.

And parliament members will remain advisers to upazila parishads for a short period, the minister added.

Ashraf, who is also general secretary of the ruling Awami League, was speaking as chief guest at a meeting of chairmen and vice-chairmen of upazila parishads from across the country, held at the Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

The meeting, organised by Bangladesh

Upazila Parishad Association and chaired by its Convener Harun-Or-Rashid, was also addressed by a number of chairmen and vice-chairmen. They include Gias Uddin, Abdur Rouf, ABM Abdus Sattar, Mushfiqur Rahman and Abdul Halim.

The speakers alleged that they are not being allowed to discharge their functions properly, and expressed dissatisfaction that parliament members have been made advisers to upazila parishads

The minister said a vested quarter is out to provoke upazila chairmen and vice-chairmen against the government.

The same quarter is also trying to foment communalism and fundamentalism in the country following the prime minister's successful visit to India, he said.

Ashraf alleged that this particular quarter

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

3 of a family killed in car crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four people, including three of a family, died when a truck running on the wrong side of the road in heavy fog hit a car at Jatrabari in the capital yesterday.

The family was returning to their Green Road home from holiday destination Cox's Bazar.

The victims were identified as SM Tayebul Islam, 55, his wife Rokeya Islam, 45, daughter Sanjida Islam Momo, 11, and car driver Mohammad Abdul Nasir, 38.

Witnesses said the truck crushed the car around

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

ANTI-GOVT MOVEMENT BNP sits soon to discuss strategy

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

BNP's newly formed National Executive Committee will soon hold its maiden meeting to discuss the party's next course of action for waging a greater movement against the government.

The party rank and file will also get the opportunity to discuss the policies and recent activities of the government as well as the organisational affairs of BNP in order to mobilise public support.

Party's Joint Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir told The Daily Star that the central committee would soon meet to discuss strategies on different issues and enhance democratic practices within the party.

BNP insiders said Chairperson Khaleda Zia would direct the National Executive Committee on some specific issues to create a public sentiment, which they believe would later turn into a greater movement.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Biswa Ijtema begins tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thousands of devotees arrived at the Biswa Ijtema venue yesterday as the three-day congregation begins tomorrow on the bank of river Turag at Tongi.

Around two million devotees including one lakh females from home and abroad are expected to participate in the second largest congregation of Muslims next to hajj.

Around 9,000 foreign devotees from 27 countries have so far arrived at the Ijtema site, said the organisers.

The event will start

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



Scouts attend a programme at their 8th National Jamboree in Gazipur yesterday. About 13,000 boy and girl scouts from across the country and abroad are participating in it.

PHOTO: STAR

Scouting for change

PORIMOL PALMA, back from Gazipur

Warmth of friendship and enthusiasm for learning various life skills through fun and games mark the ongoing 8th National Scout Jamboree at Mouchak. The ecstasy and chatter of about 13,000 boy and girl scouts from across the country and abroad have broken the pristine silence of the Salforest in Gazipur.

Bangladesh Scouts is holding its biggest domestic event at the National Scout Training Centre, about 45km north-west of the capital.

Scouts aged between 12 and 17 are living in tents they have made and eating food they cook on stoves lined in between the rows of green trees.

Resolute to achieve the highest mark and build a peaceful society, the boys and girls are participating in a wide range of activities that help elevate their physical, mental and spiritual selves and become good citizens.

Often they get injured while performing the challenging tasks, find it difficult to sleep in tents amid this shivering cold, but nothing can defeat their enthusiasm about the jamboree and the fun it holds.

"My hands have got sores during a course of Tarzan Swing, but this is nothing. I am participating in all the challenging courses," said Afsana Akhter Anki, a student of Nababganj Pilot Higher Secondary School in Dhaka.

Afsana wants to become a model scout who can face any challenge in life and help people during any natural disasters, she told The Daily Star at the jamboree site on Tuesday.

Titled "Scouting for Change", the jamboree of Bangladesh Scouts began on January 14 and will end on January 22. A few Nepalese and Indian scouts are attending the event as guests.

Bangladesh Scouts also facilitated participation of some street children and physically challenged youths.

Scouting, a worldwide youth movement, began in 1907 when Robert Baden-Powell, a Lieutenant General in the British Army, held the first scouting camp in England.

Scout units from school level, after succeeding in the district level contests, attend the National Jamboree held once in four years. This year, over 1,100 units, each comprising eight scouts and one scout leader, are participating in the jamboree.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6 MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 3



PHOTO: STAR

People buy rice from an Open Market Sales (OMS) centre at Nimtali in the capital as the programme began yesterday.

OMS of rice starts in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday started the much-expected Open Market Sale (OMS) of rice at Tk 22 per kilogram on limited scale to make the stuff available to low-income group in Dhaka City Corporation areas.

"Dealers in 40 rice-laden trucks started selling rice in Dhaka, and ten more trucks each containing five tonnes of rice will join tomorrow (Thursday).

"The programme will start in full swing from Friday," an official of the ministry of food and disaster management told The Daily Star yesterday.

Rice will be available in the sales centre of the dealers six days a week from 9:00am to 4:00pm, except on Friday.

One can buy highest five kgs of rice in a day.

The programme, however, will be operated this Friday

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

JAMUNA FUTURE PARK Mall built without traffic clearance

DMP writes to Rajuk for action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has requested the Rajuk chairman to take action against Jamuna Future Park Shopping Complex in Kuril of the capital, for its construction without a clearance for the vehicular traffic it will generate.

DMP also asked in the letter dated January 18, how could Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) approve the complex's design without the DMP clearance for vehicular traffic.

The project will generate heavy vehicular traffic in the area leading to tailbacks, the letter said.

The letter also mentioned that Jamuna Future Park authorities applied to DMP for a clearance for implementation of the project that comprises a park, a shopping complex, a hotel, a hospital, and other related structures.

But the police department told the project authorities to re-submit the application indicating compliance with a number of recommendations including construction of an alternative access road to the project directly from Airport Road, the letter added.

The recommendations also included having two other entrances to the project, one from Pragati Sharani-Rampura Road according to the proposed project design, and another

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

RID PHARMA Property of absconding accused to be attached

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A court here yesterday directed the jail authorities to produce Managing Director of Rid Pharmaceutical Ltd Mizanur Rahman before the court on February 14 in a case filed for manufacturing toxic Paracetamol syrup that claimed at least 28 children's lives.

District and Sessions Judge

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Prayer Timing		
January 21		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-43	5-47
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

OnlinePoll ✓

Do you think police played their due role during the clashes between two factions of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal at Dhaka University?

Yes (55.3%)
No (42.9%)
No Comments (1.8%)

Total votes: 1276

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia that ruling Awami League men are responsible for the unrest at Dhaka University?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Fresh earthquake, Haitians panic

AP, AFP, Port-au-Prince

A powerful aftershock struck Haiti yesterday, shaking buildings and sending screaming people running into the streets only eight days after the country's capital was devastated by a major earthquake.

The magnitude-6.1 temblor was the largest aftershock yet to the apocalyptic January 12 quake that shattered Haiti's capital. It was not immediately clear if it caused additional damage or injuries.

The new quake hit at 6:03 am (1103 GMT) about 56km north-west of the capital of Port-au-Prince and 22km below the surface.

Wails of terror rose from frightened survivors as the earth shattered at 6:03 am.

Last week's magnitude-7 quake killed an estimated 200,000 people in Haiti, left 250,000 injured and made 1.5 million homeless, according to the European Union Commission. A massive international aid effort has been launched, but is struggling with overwhelming logistical problems.

Still, search-and-rescue teams have emerged from the ruins with some improbable success stories including the rescue of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

300 killed as riot spreads in Nigeria

AFP, Kano

Nigeria sent more troops to the troubled city of Jos as clashes between Muslim and Christian mobs, that have left about 300 people dead, spread to new districts.

Vice President Goodluck Jonathan ordered extra soldiers to Jos late Tuesday to clamp down on the violence as authorities enforced a 24-hour curfew.

The unrest erupted on Sunday over plans to build a mosque in a mainly Christian district of the city, which has riven by sectarian tensions for many years.

Mobs have set fire to buildings while many of the fatalities were just shot dead. Muslim leaders said about 200 bodies had been taken to the central mosque in Jos.

Several hundred have been reported wounded and casualties have filled hospitals. Some clinics were reportedly running out of

medical supplies.

Residents said the fighting spread during the night to areas on the fringes of Jos, capital of Plateau State.

Idris Sarki, who fled into Jos from the nearby town of Kuru Karama, said "attacks are still going on in areas in the southern parts of the city including Kuru Karama, Bisiji, Sabongidan and Kanar.

"The area I came from has been sacked, all residents like me who are fortunate have left, but many, many have been killed," he told AFP. Other residents said they had seen the army reinforcements on the streets.

The vice president vowed the government was "determined find a permanent solution to the Jos crisis."

"This is one crisis too many and the federal government finds it most unacceptable, retrogressive and capable of further sundering the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Hats off to the Pride of the Nation

Congratulations to Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, for being not only the first son of Chittagong and Bangladesh, but also the first from South Asia to become the Director General of Asian Development Bank's (ADB) South Asia Department.

May the Almighty's light always shine his path in life.

BSRM the ultimate steel