

Did you know?

The Empire State Building was the first building to have more than 100 floors (it has 102). The tower takes its name from the nickname of New York State, where it is situated in Manhattan. Upon its completion in 1931 at 381 meters, it took the top spot as tallest building, and towered above all other buildings until 1972.



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Proper planning on traffic a must

Suggest experts at Prothom Alo roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Long-term plans and proper implementation are necessary to ease the nagging traffic congestion of the capital, said speakers at a roundtable organised by the Daily Prothom Alo yesterday.

"There has always been a lack of proper planning to develop the city in a planned way," said Prof Dr Sarwar Jahan, president of Bangladesh Institute of Planners, at the roundtable held at the daily's conference room.

He added the government has to take a long-term policy to reduce traffic congestion, bring discipline on traffic movement and free roads and footpaths from encroachment.

Suggesting giving more importance on public transport and walking, Prof Sarwar said the government now gives first priority to private vehicles, then to buses, bicycles and walking which should be reversed.

The government should ban parking on the

city roads and make more effective the circular waterway around the capital, he told the roundtable styled "Capital Dhaka: traffic congestion and people's sufferings".

Director (enforcement) of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority Tapan Kumar Sarkar said every day 150-180 new vehicles legally hit the road. If the trend continues, only god knows what would happen in future, he warned.

He said 80 percent of the new vehicles are small cars. It is very necessary to check increase of such vehicles in order to reduce traffic congestion, he observed.

About 5.24 lakh vehicles got registered in Dhaka till November last year. Of these, about 2.06 lakh were cars, jeeps, minibuses and other small vehicles, about 2.17 lakh motorcycles and other such vehicles, about 14,500 CNG-run three-wheelers, and only 16,500 were buses and minibuses.

Tapan said they are planning to outsource

150-180 new vehicles hit city streets every day, worsening situation

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Devotees are heading towards Ijtema ground on the bank of Turag yesterday. The congregation will conclude today with the final supplication--Akheri Munajat.

1/11 CHANGEOVER Moeen says he did no wrong knowingly

UNB, Dhaka

Former army chief General (ret'd) Moeen U Ahmed claimed that he did no wrong knowingly during the immediate-past caretaker government.

"Whoever said whatever... I did not commit any wrongdoing knowingly," he said yesterday while talking to reporters after attending an old students' reunion function at Tejeaon Polytechnic School in the capital.

Seeing Moeen at the function after a long interval, the newsmen rushed to him and shot a volley of questions, particularly about his role behind the 1/11 political changeover.

Pointing his finger at the

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Dhaka city at risk of massive destruction

A 6-magnitude earthquake can demolish 78,323 buildings: Study

UNB, Dhaka

Some 78,323 buildings will be destroyed completely if a 6-magnitude earthquake shakes Dhaka originating from its beneath, causing havoc throughout the densely populated capital city, says a government study.

In case of a 7.5-magnitude earthquake originating from Madhupur Fault, the study says, some 72,316 buildings in the city will be damaged totally while 53,166 partially.

It says if an 8.5-magnitude of tremor from the plate boundary of Fault-2 hits the region, some 238,164 buildings will be destroyed completely across the country.

Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) under the food and disaster management ministry conducted the study

from February 2008 to August 2009.

There will be an economic loss of about US \$ 1,112 million for only structural damage in case of a 7.5-magnitude earthquake from the Madhupur Fault, it estimates.

"Economic loss due to damage of structures will be US \$ 650 million and US \$ 1,075 million respectively in case of an 8-magnitude earthquake from the plate boundary-2 and in case of a 6-magnitude earthquake from under Dhaka city," the study says.

Some 30 million tonnes of debris, equal to 2,880,000 truckloads (25 tonnes for per truck), will be generated if a 6-magnitude earthquake shakes the city from beneath of it.

A 7.5-magnitude earthquake from the Madhupur Fault will generate a total of

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UZ chairman held for smuggling

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Detective Branch of police has arrested the chairman of Kamalganj upazila under Moulvibazar district on charges of smuggling, gun-running and money-laundering.

The arrestee, Shamim Chowdhury, is also president of Kamalganj BNP.

He along with the driver of his private car was hauled in from his Shantinagar house in the capital on January 18.

DB made the arrests following up information gleaned from Osman who was caught at the Zia International Airport with foreign currencies worth around Tk 2 crore on December 31.

On January 20, Shamim's

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VILLAGE ARBITRATION

Rapist spared, victim lashed

SHEIKH MD SHAHIDUL ISLAM, B'baria

Eight months after being raped, a 16-year-old at Khargor of Kasba upazila in Brahmanbaria had to receive 101 lashes as "punishment".

A village arbitration found her guilty and issued the 101 lashes fatwa (religious edict) but amazingly left alleged rapist Enamul Mia, 20, untouched.

The arbitration also fined the victim's father Tk 1,000 and issued another fatwa that her family would be forced into isolation if he failed to pay up.

Village matbar (local leader) Delwar Hossain alias Ullashi executed the durra (lashes) on January 17.

Family sources said Enamul Mia of Gabbari used to eve-tease the girl on her way to Sathgram Advocate Haroon-or-Rashid High School. He raped her April last year. Fearing the shame, the girl did not disclose the incident.

The girl's family had married her off to a man of neighbouring Ghatara village but after a month into the marriage medical test discovered she was seven months pregnant.

She was divorced and she had to live at her father's place after

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EU opposes death penalty in 'motivated' murder cases

UNB, Dhaka

The European Union has stood opposed to the death penalty in what they called politically motivated cases.

European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton yesterday issued a statement on the EU stand.

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Prayer Timing		
January 24		
	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 BNP has put its image at stake by having a provision in its amended constitution that allows 'convicted' persons to become members of the party?

- Yes (72.99%)
- No (26.65%)
- No Comments (0.36%)

Total votes: 833

TODAY'S POLL

Do you support BCB President's allegation after Bangladesh's defeat in the first Test against India that our players lacked integrity and did not give their hundred percent?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Near-extinct baby gharial dies at zoo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The baby gharial that was captured from Padma river in Rajshahi 46 days ago died yesterday at Rajshahi Central Zoo.

The authority recovered the body of the gharial at around 4:30pm after the zoo workers saw it was floating in the water upside down while they went to feed it, said the zoo's caretaker Abul Kalam Azad.

Though the authorities considered the death of the baby gharial, one of the most

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A man holds the carcass of a baby Gharial that died at Rajshahi Central Zoo yesterday. It is considered a near-extinct species in the country and one of the most endangered species of the world.

BANGABANDHU MURDER SC hearing on review pleas today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court today will hear review petitions filed by five death-row convicts in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman murder case.

The Appellate Division bench comprising Chief Justice Md Tafazzul Islam, Justice BK Das, Justice Md Muzammel Hossain and Justice SK Sinha will hold the hearing this morning.

The condemned killers of Bangabandhu, Syed Farooq Rahman, Sultan Shahrir

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IN FOND MEMORY

Mrs. Anwara Islam, our mother died on 24 January 2005 - exactly the same day and date as our father Mr. Sirajul Islam who died twenty four years earlier.

Please join us in praying to the Almighty Allah to grant them eternal peace.

Akbar, Duree, Anika, Talita, Numair, Amani and Ms Lubna Choudhury
Founder-Principal, B.I.T. & Chairperson, The Red Brick School

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