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Sullivan's Wainwright Building in St. Louis, 1891, was the first steel-framed building with soaring vertical bands to emphasize the height of the building, and is, therefore, considered by some to be the first true skyscraper.



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Jhenidah tops list of MDG achievers

Bandarban at the bottom of index covering education, health, safe water, sanitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jhenidah has ranked top on an index of performance of the country's districts in achieving Millennium Development Goals.

Bandarban emerges as the worst performer, says a study titled Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2009 conducted by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics in collaboration with Unicef.

The survey report was released yesterday at a programme at Sonargaon Hotel where Planning Minister Air Vice-Marshal (ret'd) AK Khandker and Unicef Representative in Bangladesh Carel de Rooy were present among others.

On the MDG composite index, Jhenidah has scored 6.6 while Bandarban scores -18.6 ranking 64th in nine indica-

Top 5			Bottom 5		
District	Rank	Value of index	District	Rank	Value of index
Jhenidah	1	6.6	Cox's Bazar	60	-5.1
Meherpur	2	6.4	Rangamati	61	-8.4
Munshiganj	3	5.9	Sunamganj	62	-8.9
Panchagarh	4	5.7	Khagrachhari	63	-9.8
Narayanganj	5	5.6	Bandarban	64	-18.6

tors relating to education, child health, maternal health, HIV/AIDS, and access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation.

The MDG composite index is the sum of indexes of each of the nine indicators.

Other top performing districts are Meherpur, Munshiganj, Panchagarh and Narayanganj.

Khagrachhari, Sunamganj, Rangamati

and Cox's Bazar are among the least performing districts.

Surveyors say such differences in performance in achieving MDGs indicate huge disparities among the districts.

Experts suggest geographical targeting to narrow down the inequality to help the whole country achieve the MDGs with equity.

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DUTY-FREE CAR FOR MPs
Muhith defends decision, Mirza Aziz opposes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The decision to allow lawmakers to import duty-free vehicles was aimed at preventing corruption and wastage of money, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said yesterday defending the decision.

Meanwhile, Mirza Azizul Islam, former finance adviser to the last caretaker government, criticised the government decision saying it is a discrimination to give such a facility to a privileged group.

The government would have to form a "transport pool" for providing lawmakers with vehicles but it would create scope for corruption, Muhith told journalists at his secretariat office.

He said the speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad also gave

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FENI BDR TRIAL

53 jawans plead guilty of mutiny

STAR REPORT

Fifty-three of the 62 accused BDR mutineers of 19 Rifle Battalion in Feni yesterday pleaded guilty and begged for mercy at a BDR special court.

The court framed charges against the 62 accused after hearing both prosecution and defence, reports a correspondent from Feni.

It also took the mercy pleas into cognisance. This is the second instance that accused BDR mutineers begged for mercy. Earlier, sixteen BDR jawans of 7 Rifle Battalion in Satkhira begged for mercy before the BDR Special Court-1.

Prosecutor Lt Col Gazi Md Salahuddin, commander of 19 Rifle Battalion, read out the charges against them before the BDR Special Court-3 at the 19 Rifle headquarters at Joylaskar of Dagonbhuiyan upazila.

When the court asked the accused BDR jawans whether they are guilty or not, 53 of them pleaded guilty and begged for mercy.

Nine others, however, pleaded not guilty and claimed they were not involved in the mutiny.

All accused preferred to have a departmental officer as their defence lawyer instead of hiring counsels from outside.

The three-member court, headed by BDR Director General Maj Gen M Mainul Islam, took deposition of four witnesses and adjourned the proceedings till 9:00am today.

Two other members of the court are BDR officials Lt Col Md Akhteruzzaman and Maj Md Maqsoodul Alam.

On December 21 last year, the court fixed yesterday for framing charges in the case and adjourned the trial proceedings till the day.

Some members of the Rifle Battalion under the Comilla sector took part in the mutiny by firing blanks and putting up barricades on the road on February 26 following the revolt at the Pikhana BDR headquarters.

Police later filed a case against the BDR jawans in this connection.

Youth dies, 20 shanties gutted in fire

5 buses burnt in cylinder blast

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire broke out early yesterday at Parabosti in the city's Dayaganj that burnt alive a sleeping youth and gutted at least 20 shanties of the slum.

In another incident, at least five buses were burnt to a

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DU question papers leaked from press

Says probe body

DU CORRESPONDENT

The question papers for the first-year honours admission test of Dhaka University's Institute of Education and Research were leaked from the printing press, said a committee investigating the leakage.

Quoting the probe committee report, DU

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Angry students of Chittagong Polytechnic Institute burn down a bus and rampage through Bayzid Road in the port city following a fellow student's death in a road accident yesterday.

PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

Students go on rampage after road crashes

4 killed in Ctg, Dinajpur; 40 vehicles vandalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Students of Chittagong Polytechnic Institute went on a rampage and vandalised around 40 vehicles after two people including a fellow student were killed and three others injured in a road accident on Chittagong-Hathazari road yesterday.

At least 15 people including eight policemen were also injured while the students fought with police during the violent protest.

Meanwhile, students blocked Dinajpur-Bogra Highway for about four hours and went berserk as their two fellows were killed and at least 30 people injured in another road accident in Dinajpur sadar upazila yesterday.

Police said the accident at Jharuar Dighirpar in Kulgaon area in Chittagong city occurred around 9:00am when a bus turned turtle on the road as its driver lost control over the steering while trying to save a rickshaw.

Atiqul Islam Pappu, 22, a 3rd semester student of Computer Technology department of the institute, and Afsar Mia, 25, son of Abu Jahir of Baluchhara, succumbed to their injuries at Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Hearing the news, students of the institute barricaded the road around 11:00am and damaged about 40 vehicles and set

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Accused claims it's love, not teasing

Pinky's family says insults led to suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The uncle of Nashifa Akand Pinky, who committed suicide on Tuesday allegedly for eve-teasing, and the main accused in the case gave contradictory statements at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar police station yesterday.

Pinky's uncle Ali Ashraf Akand said main accused Murad had pulled her scarf and hand and slapped on her face when she went to buy a bandage for her hand injury from a nearby dispensary.

As she could not bear with such insults, she returned home immediately and committed suicide, he said, adding, Murad

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HC order on Proshika keys stayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed for seven days a High Court order that directed the police to hand over keys of Proshika Bhaban at Mirpur to its Chief Executive Officer Mahubul Karim.

The chamber judge of the Appellate Division Justice Md Muzammel Hossain passed the order upon a petition filed by ousted chairman of the non-government organisation Qazi Faruque Ahmed.

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Manmohan rejects UN emission deadline

India, China, Brazil, S Africa support Copenhagen Accord but stress a legally-binding global agreement

PTI, INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, New Delhi

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has rejected the UN deadline of January 31 for submission of emission targets and climate actions under the Copenhagen Accord.

The prime minister is particularly unhappy over the repeated persistence from Danish Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen and United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to accede to the January 31 deadline for target submission, sources in the PMO said.

Singh has also apparently questioned the legal status of the various provisions included in the Accord, which is silent on the Kyoto Protocol based on equity burden sharing among the member nations.

"Before going ahead with targets submission, the Prime Minister wants to be clarified on certain issues which are silent in the Ban's letter," the sources added.

Earlier India, China, Brazil and South Africa on Sunday announced their support to the

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Jebu Ara, one of the victims of Thursday night's highway bus robbery, flies into a rage at the sight of the detained robbers at Shahbagh Police Station yesterday morning.



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Brave cop foils bus robbery

5 arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An officer of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) arrested five robbers and saved six victims chasing down a bus for four kilometres in the early hours yesterday.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Syed Nurul

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Prayer Timing		
January 25		
	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

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রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষের পূর্বাচল নতুন শহর প্রকল্প এবং সম্প্রসারিত উত্তরা ৩য় পর্ব প্রকল্পে যারা প্লট প্রাপ্তির জন্য সাময়িকভাবে নির্বাচিত হয়েছেন, তাদের বরাবরে সাময়িক বরাদ্দপত্র আগামী মার্চ ২০১০ মাসে জারি করা হবে। উল্লেখ্য যে প্লট বরাদ্দ লাভে অকৃতকার্য হয়েছেন তাদের জামানতের টাকা ফেরত প্রদানের বিষয়টি অগ্রাধিকার ভিত্তিতে নিষ্পত্তির জন্য এ বিলম্ব হচ্ছে। এ জন্য রাজউক কর্তৃপক্ষ আন্তরিকভাবে দুঃখিত।

সাময়িক নির্বাচিতদের জ্ঞাতার্থে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, তাদের কি কি কাগজ পত্রাদি পুনরায় দাখিল করতে হবে এবং প্লটের মূল্য কি হবে তা সাময়িক বরাদ্দপত্রে উল্লেখ করে জানিয়ে দেয়া হবে।

প্রশান্ত কুমার দাস
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জিডি-৩৩৯