

Did you know?

The Runggrado May First Stadium, a multi-purpose stadium in Pyongyang, North Korea, can seat 150,000 spectators. Its total floor space is over 207,000 m² across eight stories, and the lobes of its roof peak at more than 60 meters from the ground.



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Submit probe report by March 11

Court asks CID on Bashundhara bribery case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked Criminal Investigation Department to submit a probe report by March 11 in a bribery case against former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar and three others.

The case was filed against them for taking and giving bribes to cover up the murder case of Humayun Kabir Sabbir, a director of Bashundhara Group.

The other accused are Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan alias Shah Alam, Director of East West Property Development Pvt Ltd Abu Sufian, and a Director of Prime Bank and former BNP lawmaker Qazi Saleemul Huq Kamal.

Metropolitan Magistrate Moazzem Hossain passed the order as the investigation

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BANGABANDHU VERDICT

Media shouldn't publish photo of Manila rope

HC asks AG to ensure it

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court has asked the attorney general to take steps so that the media desist from publishing any photo of a Manila rope, which is used for execution by hanging.

The four-member Appellate Division bench headed by Chief Justice Md Tafazzul Islam passed the order yesterday.

The order came following a submission placed by a convict's lawyer during the second day's hearing on the review petitions filed by five detained condemned convicts of Bangabandhu murder case

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The photo taken yesterday at Aganagar in Keraniganj shows a BIWTA digger removing filth that was earlier extracted during the Buriganga cleaning drive.

PHOTO: SHAFIQU ALAM

BB nod a must for banks in land purchase

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh Bank has directed all banks that they must take prior permission from it for purchasing land, floor space or any other permanent structure.

Permission from the central bank is a must also in case of such purchases now under process, said a circular issued by it yesterday.

BB sources said 15 private banks out of the 30 purchased land worth about Tk 800 crore in last two years for profit-making in violation of the Bank Company Act.

The circular mentioned that some banks have been selling and purchasing land or permanent structures without any logical ground or necessity which is a violation of the Act.

Earlier the central bank had sent letters to all banks asking them to inform it how much land or permanent structures, where and at what price they purchased or they are in the process of purchase.

It issued the directive after reviewing the information received.

A BB official said of the 15 banks which went for land purchase, some bought land worth about Tk 100 crore and most others between Tk 50 crore and Tk 60 crore.

Most of these lands are in city areas like Badda or on its outskirts including Keraniganj and Gazipur.

The official pointed out that a bank could purchase land for setting up its head office or branch offices. But the locations they mentioned are not suitable for these. So, it is assumed that the lands have been bought to make profit through sale of those.

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Universities fail to ensure quality education

Says UGC report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Public and private universities have largely failed to implement the aims and objectives of higher education, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has observed.

The reasons for the failure include influence of partisan politics on student bodies, session jam, lack of transparency and accountability in the activities of teachers and students, uncontrolled consultancy and part time jobs of teachers, it said.

In its annual report for 2008 placed in parliament yesterday, the UGC cited the other reasons as faulty process of recruitment and appointment of vice-chancellors, teachers and officials of the universities, inadequate annual budgets and poor allocation of funds for research, adverse ratio of teachers and students, and lack of policy on income and expenditure of most of the private universities.

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Amended law on pvt universities okayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday approved the amended Private University Act 2009 to maintain standards of higher education and bolster discipline in private universities.

The cabinet approved the amendments at its meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. On October 19 last year, the cabinet in principle approved the Act.

Briefing reporters, Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Abul Kalam Azad said approval of 48 private universities expired in 2009 while another five have "no

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

BNP starts 2nd round reorganisation today

Councils in 23 dists; organisational tours; programme for Tarique's image building

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

The BNP starts the second phase of reorganisation today holding councils at district units that could not arrange councils ahead of the party's national council on December 8, 2009.

On the first day, Brahmanbaria and Dinajpur district units will hold councils with BNP top-level leaders present.

Apart from holding councils at 23 districts, joint secretaries general of BNP are planning to make a countrywide tour to boost party activities and resolve internal dispute at grassroots level.

The party will also launch a special campaign on February 6 from Sylhet to improve Tarique Rahman's image through audio-visual presentations. Programmes would be held in at least 10 districts, which pro-BNP intellectuals

will attend, sources said.

BNP standing committee member Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman, who will be at the Dinajpur council, yesterday told The Daily Star that they will complete the process of forming new committees at all district units within a short time.

BNP Joint Secretary General Md Shahjahan, who will be at the Brahmanbaria council with standing committee member Brig Gen (retd) Hannan Shah, said they are working to bring a qualitative change and organisational discipline at all levels of the party.

Party Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain will have a meeting with all joint secretaries general Thursday to discuss organisational affairs including district-level councils.

Forty-nine out of 75 BNP

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FENI BDR TRIAL 5 more jawans plead guilty, beg for mercy

STAR REPORT

Five more of the 62 accused BDR mutineers of 19 Rifle Battalion in Feni pleaded guilty and begged for mercy yesterday at the BDR special court-3.

On January 24, 53 accused mutineers pleaded guilty and begged for mercy during hearing for charge framing. The court, however, framed charges and proceeded with trial, reports a correspondent from Feni.

Eleven more prosecution witnesses gave statements before the three-member special court during the second day's trial proceedings. Three witnesses gave depositions on January 24.

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PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

A leak in a Wasa pipeline floods Phulbari-Golap Shah Mazar Road in the city. The authorities concerned failed to repair the leak since Sunday afternoon. The photo was taken yesterday around 11:00am.

PINKY'S SUICIDE Murad's mother denies having memory card of conversations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The mother of Murad denies having any memory card, which her son claims contains photos and telephonic conversations with Nashifa Akand Pinky.

A week after Pinky's suicide apparently because of Murad's teasing, police have yet to unearth the real cause behind the incident.

Investigation officer of the case SM Sayeed of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar police said Murad's mother came to them to say she had no cellphone or memory card.

The police took Murad on three-day remand on Sunday through a Dhaka court after he was arrested on Saturday in Khulna.

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Car bombs kill 36 in Baghdad hotels

AFP, Baghdad

At least 36 people were killed and 71 wounded in three massive apparently co-ordinated minibus-borne bombings that targeted hotels in Baghdad yesterday less than six weeks from a general election.

Iraqi politicians and US forces have warned of rising violence ahead of the March 7 vote, the second parliamentary ballot since the 2003 US-led invasion ousted Saddam Hussein but ushered in a deadly and long-lasting insurgency.

The first bomb struck near the Palestine and Sheraton hotels in Abu Nawaz, close to where a giant statue of Saddam was symbolically toppled almost seven years ago, at around 3:30 pm (1230 GMT), an interior ministry official said.

The second and third blasts just minutes later targeted the Babylon Hotel in the central district of Karrada and the Hamra hotel in Jadriyah, in the south of the capital, he added.

Iraqi military spokesman in Baghdad Major General Qassim Atta said all three bombings were suicide attacks.

An interior ministry official told AFP that 36 people had been killed and 71 were wounded. The streets leading to the hotels were immediately sealed off, preventing journalists from approaching.

A security source said armed clashes broke out near the Hamra in what appeared to be a diversionary attack before the

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'Chemical Ali' hanged

AFP, Baghdad

Saddam Hussein's notorious cousin and henchman "Chemical Ali" was executed yesterday, Iraq's government said, eight days after he was sentenced to death for the 1998 gassing of thousands of Kurds.

Ali Hassan al-Majid was better known by his macabre nickname and as the King of

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4 cops, 7 robbers hurt in gunfight

Pirates kill fisherman, abduct 10

STAR REPORT

A fisherman was killed and 11 people including four policemen were injured in two separate incidents of gunfight in Barguna and Cox's Bazar districts on Sunday and yesterday.

Four policemen including a sub-inspector and seven robbers received bullet injury during a one-and-a-half hour-long gunbattle between the law enforcers and a gang of dacoits.

The incident took place around 9:30am at Kachuridhala area under Haldia Palong union of Ukhia upazila in Cox's Bazar yesterday morn-

ing.

Following a robbery incident on buses at Ramu Paaner Chhara Pahari Dhala on Cox's Bazar-Teknaf highway early morning Saturday, police conducted a raid in the area on Sunday, reports a correspondent from Cox's Bazar.

Rafiqul Islam, Ukhia Thana officer-in-charge, said during the raid police arrested an alleged robber Ziaul Haque, 26, alias Ziaul from Link Road area.

Following Ziaul's confession, a team of police raided a den of the robbers at

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Beli fighting for life

Ex-husband sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifteen-year-old Beli, who was stabbed by her ex-husband Sunday, is barely alive at Dhaka Medical College

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Prayer Timing		
January 26		
	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 lawmakers should have the privilege to import duty-free vehicles?

Yes (6.9%)
No (92.5%)
No Comments (0.6%)

Total votes: 1272

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government should immediately identify the persons involved in the violent protest over road accident in Gazipur and take stern action?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

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