


Did you know? The Royal Gorge Bridge is a tourist attraction near Cañon City, Colorado, with a deck which hangs 1,053 feet (321 m) above the Arkansas River. The bridge is billed as the highest suspension bridge in the world. It is 384 meters long and 5 meters wide, with a wooden walkway with 1292 planks, and is suspended from towers that are 150 feet (46 m) high.



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New envoy in Germany appointed after 2yrs

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

After two long years of delay, the government yesterday appointed an ambassador to Germany.

The Bangladesh embassy in Berlin has not had an ambassador since January 15, 2008.

The foreign ministry announced that Mosud Mannan, ndc, presently Bangladesh's ambassador to Morocco, will serve as the new ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany.

The appointment comes following two unsuccessful attempts to fill the post.

In June 2008 the caretaker government appointed former additional secretary (UNCLOS, Research & ICT) MAK Mahmud as the ambassador to Germany.

However Mahmud allegedly did not take up the post

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Chhatra League cadres, ignoring the presence of law enforcers, assault women activists of Chhatra Dal on Dhaka University campus for protesting the prime minister's inauguration of Ekushey Book Fair yesterday.

JS body sends back CrPC bill to ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliamentary standing committee on law ministry has sent the Criminal Procedure Code (amendment) Bill 2010 back to the ministry for further clarification with a view to preventing harassment of journalists.

The JS body at a meeting on Sunday also asked the ministry to cancel warrant orders in defamation cases against journalists and publishers.

However, Suranjit Sengupta, chairman of the

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JCD women assaulted

BCL activists swoop on them for protesting PM's book fair opening

DU CORRESPONDENT

Leaders and activists of Chhatra League yesterday assaulted a group of female Chhatra Dal activists on Dhaka University campus for protesting the prime minister's inauguration of Amar Ekushey Boi Mela-2010.

A group of Chhatra League activists, led by Zahurul Haq Hall unit Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) President Reazuddin Chowdhury Suman, attacked the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists in presence of police when they were protesting the arrival of the prime minister on campus at the Teacher-Student Centre intersection. They had a banner with them.

The Chhatra League activists, who thronged the Dhaka University campus to welcome the premier, swooped on the protesters, snatched their banner and slapped them, eyewitnesses said.

Shahbagh police to the surprise of many picked up seven Chhatra Dal activists at the spot and released them later when a number of BNP leaders rushed to the police station.

Shahinur Nargis, a central leader of Chhatra Dal, alleged that Chhatra League's Suman and his followers attacked them in presence of police who played the role of bystanders.

Syed Nurul Islam, additional deputy commissioner of Ramna, refuted the allegation and said police picked up the Chhatra Dal activists for their own safety.

Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abidin Farroque, BNP leader Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Annee, opposition lawmakers Syed Asifa Ashrafi Papia, Shammi Akhter and Rasheda Khanam Hira had rushed to the police station to get the Chhatra Dal leaders released.

Farroque blamed police. Talking to reporters, he said police did an undemocratic job by obstructing protesters who have the right to protest.

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain in a press statement

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Target 4 lakh new taxpayers

University students to conduct 3-month survey in city from Feb 8

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Board of Revenue is going to launch a three-month survey to find new taxpayers in Dhaka and adjoining areas from February 8.

The NBR has appointed 120 university students to conduct the survey through outsourcing as the organisation is going through manpower crisis.

NBR Chairman Nasiruddin Ahmed told The Daily Star that a target to increase the number of new taxpayers by four lakh has been fixed in the budget of the current fiscal year.

After having a two-day training, the team of the university students will conduct the survey in different areas under the supervision of an NBR official.

He also said they will move door-to-door with a simple questionnaire for the survey. "To avoid an adverse situation, they will be advised to remain cautious."

The surveyors would be paid a monthly salary of Tk 10,000 that is funded by the Department for International Development of United Kingdom.

Later, the university students will be involved in a massive countrywide survey down to upazila, the NBR official said.

At present the number of taxpayers in Bangladesh is very small -- only 8 lakh -- though the number of Tax Identification Number holders is about 22 lakh.

Nepali students protest UK visa suspension

AFP, Kathmandu

Students in Nepal yesterday reacted angrily to a British decision to suspend their visa applications, accusing the authorities in London of "playing with people's lives".

Many said they had already paid thousands of pounds for courses in Britain, which they now feared they would not be able to attend.

"I have spent a whole year applying for higher education in Britain and now I don't know what I am going to do," said Rabin Bhattarai, 22, who was hoping to study in London.

"My classes start on February 10 and I have already paid 3,600 pounds (5,700 dollars) to the college."

Britain said Sunday it had temporarily suspended student visa applications from northern India, Nepal and Bangladesh to investigate a sharp rise in the number of applicants.

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Jamaat challenges EC

Decides to ask where party charter goes against constitution

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN

Jamaat-e-Islami has rejected the Election Commission's recent letter asking the party to further amend its charter to conform to the republic's constitution.

At a meeting on Sunday, it also decided to ask the EC to explain how its amended charter is at odds with the national constitution, party insiders said.

The EC on January 24 asked Jamaat to amend its constitution again as it falls short of meeting the registration criteria laid down in the representation of the people order (RPO).

In a letter to its secretary general, the commission pointed out that the party's aims and objectives and some other provisions do not concur with the country's constitution.

According to the RPO, a political party shall not be qualified for registration if its objectives are not in line with the constitution of Bangladesh.

The EC observed that Jamaat's call in its charter for establishing the rule of Islam through organised efforts warrants drastic changes to the basic structure of the country's constitution.

The constitution does not allow any amendments to its basic structure, noted the EC.

Senior Jamaat leaders at Sunday's meeting

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Hosts' day of shame, smile

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh struck their first gold of the 11th South Asian Games yesterday. But the fourth day of the regional showpiece event would be remembered more for wrong reasons than right.

Weightlifter Hamdul Islam claimed the 77kg gold to make sure that the national anthem of Bangladesh is played for the first time at the National Sports Council Gymnasium. However, the absence of any competitors from heavyweights India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka made his achievement as predictable as the lines on one's palm.

The 35-year-old won the battle of three competitors including a lightweight from Afghanistan. Still, it got soured a little when his rival and compatriot Monoronjon Roy, who won the silver, claimed after the event that he was denied of showing what he was capable of.

In Khulna, a Bangladeshi woman cyclist embarrassed the whole nation. Marma Fatema Chingby was disqualified despite finishing first in the 50-km road race mass start for her act of cheating. She was thrown out after it was confirmed that a Bangladesh official pushed her cycle from behind during competition. Besides, she also skipped a U-turn sparking widespread resentment among other participants.

The organisers Bangladesh Olympic Association also put

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A view of Amar Ekushey Boi Mela venue on Bangla Academy premises yesterday, first day of the book fair.

PM pledges cultural zone in Dhaka

Opens Amar Ekushey Boi Mela

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will develop a cultural zone in the capital to help future generations understand the real culture and history of the country.

The zone would comprise Bangla Academy, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and Suhrawardy Udyan, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said while inaugurating the month-long Amar Ekushey Book Fair, 2010 at Bangla Academy yesterday.

She stressed the historic and cultural importance of the zone that next generations should know.

Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman called for the country's independence in his historic March 7 speech at Suhrawardy Udyan and eventually Pakistani occupation forces surrendered here in 1971, the premier said.

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OnlinePoll

Do you think prepaid meters for gas consumers will be effective in stopping wastage and increase efficient use or natural gas?

Yes (89.9%)
No (9.3%)
No Comments (0.8%)

Total votes: 1050

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think dividing Dhaka into seven zones for staggered holidays for shops, malls and business establishments will have a positive impact on the traffic congestion?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Suicide blast kills 54 in Baghdad

AP, Baghdad

A female suicide bomber mingling among Shia pilgrims in Baghdad detonated an explosives belt yesterday, killing at least 54 people, officials said.

The bombing was the first major strike this year against pilgrims making their way to the southern city of Karbala to mark a Shia holy day. It came as a security official warned of a possible increase in attacks by insurgents using new tactics to bypass bomb-detection methods.

The bombing raises fears of an escalation of attacks as hundreds of thousands of Shias head to Karbala to mark on Friday the end of 40 days of mourning following the anniversary of the death Imam Hussein, a revered Shia figure.

The bomber hid the explosives underneath an abaya - a black cloak worn from head to toe by women as she joined a group of pilgrims on the outskirts of Baghdad's Shia-dominated neighborhood of Shaab, said Maj. Gen. Qassim al-Moussawi, Baghdad's top military spokesman.

The bomber set off the blast as she lined up with other women to be searched by female security guards at a security checkpoint just inside a rest tent, al-Moussawi said.

A police official said 54 people, including 18 women and 12 children, were killed and 117 were wounded. A hospital official confirmed the casualties. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not

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Gunmen kill 13 at Mexico school party

AFP, Ciudad Juarez

At least 23 people were killed in separate incidents in northern Mexico yesterday as the country continued to reel from drug-related violence.

In Ciudad Juarez, gunmen drove up to a house where a high school party was in full swing and opened fire killing 13 people and wounding 17 others, the city public safety agency said.

Most of the victims were "youngsters," said the Chihuahua state attorney general's office.

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SECURITY FEAR Top Lankan army officers sacked

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's president yesterday sacked a dozen senior military officers whom the defence ministry said were a "direct threat to national security" after last week's presidential elections.

President Mahinda Rajapakse had accused the defeated opposition of planning to assassinate him after he beat former army general Sarath Fonseka in the bitterly fought January 26 poll.

Security forces kept Fonseka under siege while election results were announced on Wednesday, and 15 retired officers working at Fonseka's offices were later arrested by police.

A military source who declined to be named told AFP that 12 top officers were sacked to thwart any attempted coup by Fonseka's supporters inside the military.

The defence ministry in a statement said an undisclosed number were "sent on compulsory retirement" because they

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DCC POLLS EC to appoint 35,000 staff

BSS, Dhaka

The Election Commission has decided to appoint nearly 35,000 officials for the forthcoming Dhaka City Corporation elections. The EC officials will also perform their duties as returning

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Prayer Timing		
February 2		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-52	5-56
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation