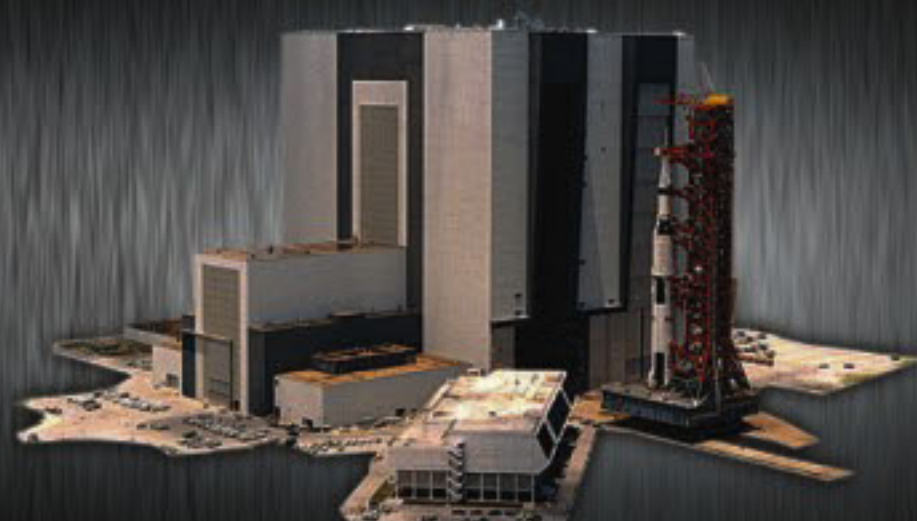


Did you know?

The Vehicle Assembly Building, located at NASA's Kennedy Space Center, is 525ft tall, 716ft long and 518ft wide. It covers 8 acres, and encloses 129,428,000 cubic feet of space, making it the largest one-story building in the world.



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Amazing New Year Offer for an exciting Trade Fair

# Roads blocked, dues demanded

## Workers of a RMG unit in Tongi agitate for 4 hours; 'ruling party' cadres vandalise Savar factory over garment waste business

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several hundred demonstrating garment workers yesterday suspended vehicular movement for four hours on Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway in Tongi, Gazipur.

Meanwhile, in another incident in Ashulia cadres allegedly of the ruling party attacked garment factory Crystal Composite Ltd and vandalised its machinery, windowpanes and injured at least 30 people, including the factory owners. The factory was allegedly attacked over a feud regarding the business of garment waste. Three people were arrested.

In Tongi, hundreds of vehicles plying 35 routes to and from Dhaka remained stranded due to the agitation of the garment workers causing untold sufferings to thousands of people.

Workers of Six H at Sena Kalyan Commercial Complex in Tongi started the agitation around

9:00am demanding their arrear salaries and overtime allowances. The factory closed on January 14 following a dispute over the ownership of the factory.

A few hundred vehicles switched to the alternative Ashulia Bypass Road but many others remained stuck between Tongi and Khilkhet in Dhaka and Tongi and Boardbazar in Gazipur.

Police and Rab personnel were there but they restrained themselves from taking action fearing that it would trigger widespread agitation involving workers of neighbouring factories.

The demonstrators refused ending it without the assurances of getting due payments and resumption of the factory operations.

They brought out indiscriminate processions that paraded the area inviting workers of neighbouring factories to join in.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

## No autopsy for 2 days as doctor not available

REZAUL KARIM, Faridpur

The autopsy of a body could not be performed even after two days at Faridpur Medical College Hospital as no doctor was available for the job.

The relatives of the deceased hailing from College Para of Bhanga upazila of the district passed last two days with the body at the morgue.

Feroz Hossain, brother of deceased, is still waiting at the morgue. Hossain told this correspondent yesterday that his brother Karim Hossain, 45, committed suicide, on Sunday noon, taking poison following a family feud.

Police brought the body to the morgue on the same day but no doctors came to morgue for autopsy, he added.

Contacted, Dr Dipti Pramanik, the hospital's superintendent-in-charge, said the morgue activities

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



Feroz Hossain of College Para in Faridpur has been waiting with the body of his brother at the Faridpur Medical College morgue door for last two days. No doctor is available to perform the autopsy.

PHOTO: STAR



## Little mags attract many

DU CORRESPONDENT

The little magazine publications are witnessing brisk sells at the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela attracting readers of all ages.

For the first time authorities this year allotted spaces to 28 little magazine publications declaring it the "little magazines corner".

"Especially, writers, young people and fans of little magazines through the corner," said a seller of Sahityo Bazar magazine.

Another seller of quarterly magazine Porbo said the stall

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

# Performance, not politics, to get MPO

## Insists education minister about the facility

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The monthly pay order (MPO) facility would be provided to the non-government educational institutions on the basis of performance index not on political consideration, said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday.

"A bad practice of giving political consideration has been developed under this process...but we will maintain transparency in bringing the institutions under the MPO," he told the journalists at a press conference of the ministry.

The minister said it would not be possible to bring all educational institutions, which are

waiting to be placed under government's payroll, under the MPO using a limited allocation of Tk 112 crore as the number of such institutions has increased significantly in last six years.

He however could not specify the number of educational institutions to be brought under the MPO this year.

Underprivileged in education and geographically disadvantaged areas, hilly, haor, baor and char areas, educational institutions for ensuring female education, socially disadvantaged groups, persons with disability and specialised institutions will get special consid

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

## 8 arrested at illegal manpower agency

### 500 passports seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion yesterday arrested eight persons at a recruiting agency in the city's Malibagh area on charges of running the business illegally.

They seized around 500 passports from the agency.

Rab-2 personnel conducted a raid at the office of Golam Rabbi International at Malibagh and arrested Akhter Hossain, owner of the agency, and his seven staffers

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

# AL grassroots demand new committees

## Point out lack of coordination

HASAN JAHD TUSHER with A CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Pointing to a staggering lack of coordination within the party, leaders of Barisal district, city and upazila units Awami League and its associated bodies yesterday demanded formation of new committees at the grassroots tiers.

They alleged that the party activities have come to a standstill since AL-led government came to power in January last year.

While addressing the party's extended meeting here at the Circuit House conference room, the leaders also demanded punishment of the BNP-Jamaat men who tortured the AL

activists during the four party-led government's rule between 2001 and 2006.

Awami League's move to strengthen the party's activities, resolve conflicts and ensure coordination at grassroots levels started from Barisal district yesterday with renewal of party membership and new recruitments.

Barisal district unit AL General Secretary Abul Hasanat Abdullah's primary party membership was the first to be renewed under the process.

AL presidium member Yusuf Hossain Humayun was present as chief guest at the meeting with Mokhlesur Rahman, acting president of Barisal district AL, in the chair.

AL Organising Secretary AFM Bahauddin

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina calls on Kuwaiti Emir Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Seif Palace in Kuwait City yesterday.

## 8 arrested at illegal manpower agency

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SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

# UZ chairmen ask govt to meet 10-pt demand

## Announce action programmes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Upazila Chairmen and Vice-chairmen Oikya Parishad yesterday urged the government to meet its 10-point demand and threatened to launch an agitation programme if the demands are not met immediately.

The parishad also announced a course of action to realise the demands, including establishment of upazila parishad as an autonomous body by amending the upazila parishad act.

Convener of the parishad advocate Abdul Mazid, also the chairman of Saturia upazila parishad in Manikganj, read out a written statement before the journalists in the afternoon after a daylong view exchange meeting of the chairmen and vice-chairmen at a city hotel.

The parishad will form human chains and hold rallies at every upazila across the country on March 3 and in every district on March 15 simultaneously.

They will form a human chain and hold a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club, Dhaka on March 31 and will submit a memo

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## Robber killed in gunfight with cops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A suspected robber was killed in a gunfight with highway patrol police in Ghoraghat upazila of Dinajpur early hours on Monday, police said.

The deceased, however, could not be identified till filing of the report yesterday.

Ghoraghat police, quoting witnesses, said that a band of some 25 robbers put up a barricade at Nitaishahmore of Ghoraghat upazila and committed robberies in several passenger buses.

When a Dhaka-bound Hanif Enterprise bus reached the spot at 1:45am, the robbers swooped on the bus. They entered the bus breaking the door and looted possessions and cashes of the commuters.

Hearing the news, a police

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

**OnlinePoll** ✓

Would you support if the government introduces hefty peak-hour charge on private cars to discourage the use of those to ease the traffic congestion in the capital?

Yes (73.4%)  
 No (26.0%)  
 No Comments (0.6%)

**Total votes: 893**

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think ruling Awami League has backtracked on its election pledges by reinstating Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, a corruption convict, as general secretary of its Dhaka City unit?

Please cast your vote at [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

# Govt signs its first public sector power deals

## 300 MW power by end of 2011

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Power Development Board (PDB) yesterday signed contracts with two Chinese companies for two 150 megawatt public sector power projects, both of which would be implemented by the end of 2011.

Contracts were signed for Chandpur 150 mw gas-fired combined cycle power project with China Chenga Engineering Co (CCEC) and Sylhet 150 mw gas-fired simple cycle power project with Shanghai Electric Group.

Both are the first public sector power contracts signed under the present government, tenders for which were repeatedly floated from the tenure of the previous BNP-led alliance government.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

## Shibir activists beat up 2 BCL men at RU

### 10 Shibir men held, 3 more injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police in a raid arrested 10 Islami Chhatra Shibir activists at Rajshahi University last night after Shibir men beat up two Chhatra League activists at Bangabandhu Hall.

Three students were injured in sporadic attacks by rival students bodies. Nine Shibir men arrested at Bangabandhu Hall and the other at Habibur Rahman Hall.

The incident sparked around 8:00pm when

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

Formerly conjoined twins Moni and Mukta lying on the bed of Dhaka Shishu Hospital after being separated yesterday.

## Conjoined twins separated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Doctors at Dhaka Shishu Hospital yesterday separated conjoined twins Moni and Mukta in the third such operation performed successfully in Bangladesh.

Before the surgery, the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

Prayer Timing		
February 9		
	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