

Did you know?

According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the Palace of the Parliament in Bucharest, Romania, is the world's largest civilian administrative building, most expensive administrative building, and heaviest building. It measures 270m by 240m, 86m in height, plus another 92m under ground.



The fascinating world of construction. Brought to you by:



Buy specific models of Whirlpool Microwave Oven. Get sure gifts.*

Amazing New Year Offer for an exciting Trade Fair

Oven proof bowl/ Cooking Apron

TRANSKOM DIGITAL

Your Trusted Electronics Retailer

For More Information: 8855368-8, 01712 865483

350MW power deals await purchase body nod today

SHARIER KHAN

The power ministry today seeks the cabinet purchase committee's approval for awarding contracts for five public sector dual fuel power projects having a total production capacity of 350 megawatt to different contractors, sources said.

These include Hathazari 100 MW, Dohazari 100 MW, Baghabari 50 MW, Daudkandi 50 MW and Faridpur 50 MW projects.

The five projects are among the 10 with a total production capacity of 820 MW for which the Power Development Board floated tender in September last year. It had earlier recommended to the power ministry awarding contracts for nine projects to different bidders and fresh tender for one project.

In five of these bids, local company Energypac was found to be the lowest bidder. As per its tender rules, the PDB has decided to award deals for two projects to Energypac,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

'POLITICAL MOTIVE' 659 more cases to be dropped

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday recommended withdrawal of 659 more "politically motivated" legal cases, including five in connection with corruption, filed during consecutive regimes of the BNP-Jamaat-led alliance and immediate past caretaker governments.

The decision was taken at the 13th meeting of the inter-ministerial committee reviewing such cases. State Minister for Law Quamrul Islam chaired the meeting held in the conference room of the home ministry.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

2 dyeing units fined for waste dumping

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two dyeing and printing companies in Keraniganj were each fined Tk 50,000 yesterday for discharging toxic liquid waste and dumping rubbish into the Buriganga River.

Belashe Textile Industries Pvt Ltd and Sara Dyeing and Printing Industries were found guilty of breaching the Environment Conservation Act 1997 by not having an effluent treatment plant.

A mobile court led by Abul Bashir Mohammad Fakruzzaman, executive magistrate of Dhaka Deputy Commissioner's office, conducted the drive in Aganagar union yesterday under the supervision of the Department of Environment.

The manager of Belashe Textile Industries, Parvez Ahmed Tutul was sentenced to two days imprisonment.

Parvez admitted that his company has been operating without an effluent treatment plant since 1992.

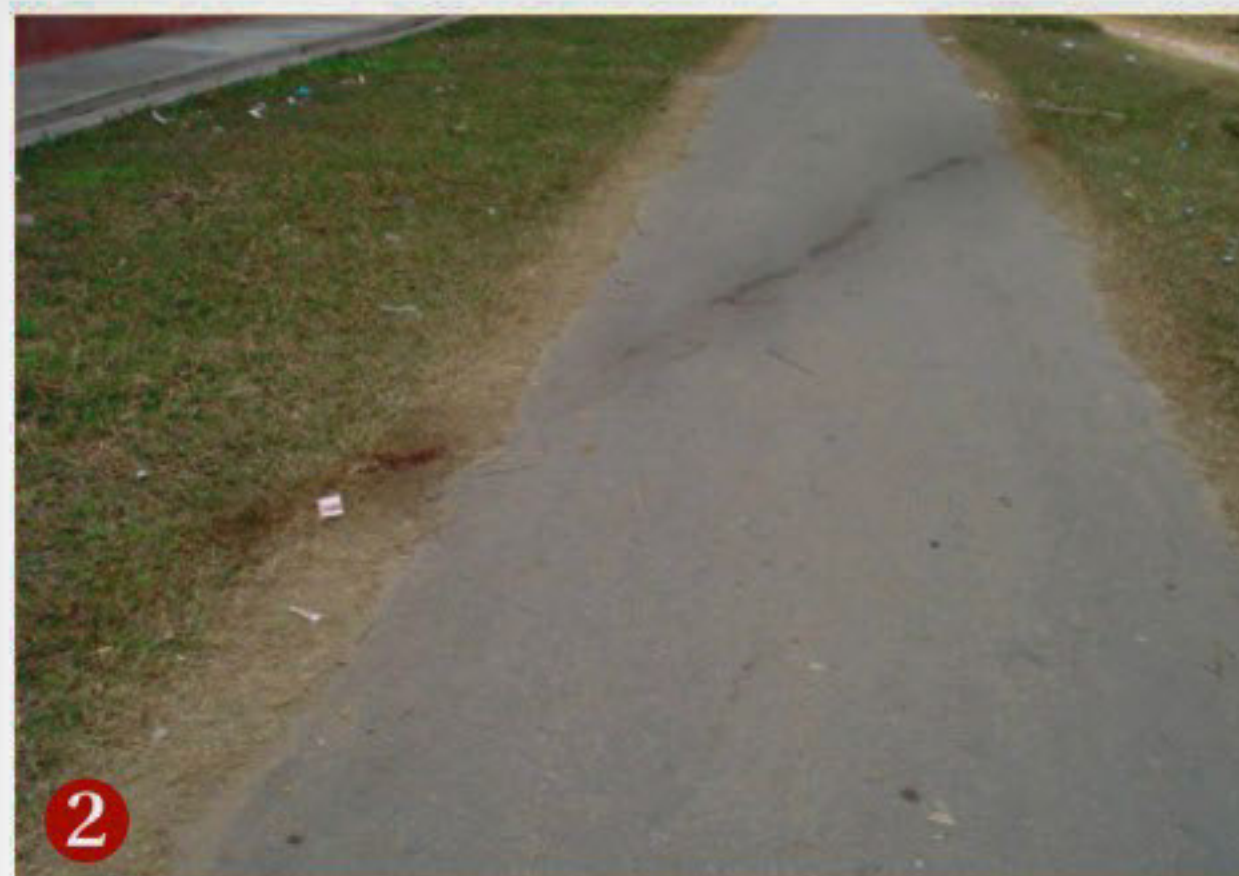
The mobile court also directed the Department of Environment to file regular cases against the two compa

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Prayer Timing		
February 10		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-25	6-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	5-57	6-01
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

In Cold Blood



1. Bloodstains indicate that a body was dragged on the hallway of Shah Mokhdum Hall of Rajshahi University. Shibir cadres killed Faruk Hossain, a student of Mathematics department, during an attack yesterday and pulled away his body.
2. More blood on the street near the dormitory.
3. Faruk's body dumped in a manhole (photo blurred).
4. A wounded Chhatra League activist in a hospital bed following the Shibir attack.
5. Shibir men vandalised a room at Ziaur Rahman Hall.



PHOTO: STARIFOCUS BANGLA

Rajuk restarts parking space retrieval drive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After an interval of about three months, Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha yesterday resumed its demolition drive.

Rajuk yesterday demolished around fifteen shops built on the ground floors of eight buildings in the city's Mugdapara and Khilgaon areas to retrieve designated car parking space.

Rajuk Executive Magistrate Rokon-Ud-Dowla led the eviction drive on Mugdapara and Autish Dipankar Road and in Khilgaon rail gate areas as per a list of buildings, prepared by Dhaka Metropolitan Police, which had been using car parking space for commercial purposes.

The buildings that came under Rajuk hammer include Bengal Knitex, Momtaj Memorial Diagnostic Centre, Update Dental College and Hotel Jamini on the Autish Dipankar Road, Mabs Diagnostic Centre at north Mugdapara,

Nabar Tower and Niloy Plaza at Khilgaon rail gate.

The demolition team spared two ATM booths of Brac Bank and one of Dutch Bangla Bank set up on the car parking space asking them to shift those within a day, said Rokon-Ud-Dowla.

Several hundred such shops illegally built on the car parking space at business centres in Kalabaagn, Dhanmondi and Mirpur were pulled down in October last year but within less than a week they returned to their earlier position.

"The eviction drives will be pointless if the deviant building owners are not penalised and imprisoned," said Rokon-Ud-Dowla.

The Building Construction Act of 1952 (amended 2006), under which Rajuk carries out eviction drives, has a provision of awarding offenders with seven years of imprisonment or a fine of Tk 50,000 or both.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Robbers loot house, kill elderly woman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Robbers looted a residence at East Goran in the city's Khilgaon and killed an elderly woman of the family yesterday.

Locals caught a youth and handed him over to police after a good beating in connection with the robbery and the killing of Rezia Begum, 75.

A gang of eight robbers broke into the second floor of a three-storey building around 3:00am and looted 29 tolas of gold ornaments, Tk 25,000 and two mobile phones, police said.

Sabina, a member of the family, said all of them were held at gunpoint and their hands were tied behind their

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

FARIDPUR MEDICAL Autopsy done at last

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

The autopsy of the body lying at Faridpur Medical College morgue for three days was completed yesterday following a directive from the higher authorities.

Police on Sunday brought the body of Karim Hossain, 45, to the morgue after he had committed suicide by taking poison following a family feud.

Dr SM Khabirul Islam, a lecturer of Medical Assistant Training School in Faridpur, performed the autopsy at the request of Faridpur Medical College Principal Dr Rafiqul Akhtar.

Hospital sources said the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

TK 15CR TENDER 'AL' men resist other bidders

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Cadres, allegedly of Awami League, prevented contractors from submitting bids for development work valued at Tk 15 crore in Patuakhali University of Science and Technology in Dumki upazila yesterday.

They took away bid documents and bank demand draft worth Tk 30 lakh from intending bidders. The cadres did not allow anybody except "their men" to drop tender bids in the box kept at the vice-chancellor's office in the academic building.

They snatched tender documents from intending bidders and tore those allegedly in front of Rapid Action Battalion and police personnel.

The university authorities had invited bidders in three categories for various development jobs in the university. Yesterday was the last day for submission of bids.

As the work hours started yesterday, a gang of cadres, allegedly from Patuakhali town, went to the academic building. They searched the bodies of all who entered the building and started

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

CLIMATE CONFERENCE UNDERWAY Focus on scientific assessment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Climate change is not just a matter of the future as people in different parts of the country are already facing its consequences.

And any climate change strategy or policy must be based on proper scientific research.

This was the unanimous view of speakers at a conference on 'Climate Change Science-Policy Dialogue' in the capital yesterday, organised by Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS).

The three-day conference aims at finding ways to integrate climate change science into development planning.

Lawmaker Saber Hossain Chowdhury, who was among the speakers, stressed application of scientific knowledge in dealing with climate change.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

River stone ban remains

Petition against HC verdict on extraction not entertained

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court verdict for stopping stone extraction by using excavators from the bed of three rivers in Sylhet remained upheld, as the Supreme Court yesterday passed "no order" on a petition against the verdict.

The rivers--Piain, Dwaki and Dhala are flowing through Goainghat and Companiganj upazilas of the district.

Earlier, the HC in a verdict directed the government to immediately stop the use of excavators and boma machines (machine used for collecting stones) in stone quarries from the three rivers and remove those to protect their ecosystem and lives, property and livelihood of people in the river areas.

The HC delivered the verdict on January 14 this year upon a public interest litigation filed by the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers'

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Book thieves in action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Owners of ten stalls at Amar Ekushey Boi Mela yesterday complained to the fair authorities that books and products of their stalls were stolen on Monday night.

The stalls complaining to the authorities included Sangskritik Oikkyo Jote, Bishho Bangla Kabita Utsab, Muktijoddha Spandan, Prajanma, Salma Book Depo, Padatik Natya Angan and Joy Bangla.

The day before the starting of the occasion, fair authorities said they took all security measures to avoid any kind of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Massive plan on housing up to union level

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has taken a massive plan to build planned housing projects at all divisional, district, upazila and union levels under public private partnership by 2015, State Minister for Housing Abdul Mannan Khan said yesterday.

"The task for proceeding with the special plan has already begun. We will urge real estate developers and housing companies to join the government to implement the plan," he said while briefing

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



Spectacular fireworks accompanied by laser show light up the night sky over Bangabandhu National Stadium during the three-hour gala closing ceremony of the 11th South Asian Games yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

OnlinePoll

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?

Yes (91.0%)
 No (7.2%)
 No Comments (1.8%)

Total votes: 1347

TODAY'S POLL

Considering frequent unrests and road blockades by the garment workers, do you think the government should help in relocation of garment factories outside Dhaka to help ease the traffic congestion?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Best Wishes for S.S.C Examinees 2010

EIS wishes all the best to the candidates for S.S.C exam 2010. We believe all your years of hard work, prayers of your parents and guidance of your teachers will give you a solid success for your life.

WISH YOU ALL THE SUCCESS

From **ARTEL** - The Daily Star

Newspaper Distribution among EIS Schools during the S.S.C exam 2010:

Distribution of The Daily Star (containing EIS page) to the schools will be on hold during the S.S.C exam from February 11 - March 15, 2010. From March 16th, 2010 onward, all the schools under EIS Programme will be receiving The Daily Star (containing EIS page) as per regular EIS dates. Moreover, no EIS page will be published during this exam holidays.

Tips for learning English during the S.S.C exam holidays:

(Not applicable for the S.S.C examinees)

- Learn at least 5(five) English words everyday from the previous EIS pages and also from The Daily Star to build your vocabulary
- Practice at least 2(two) activities from EIS page everyday
- Discuss with your friends, classmates, teachers and parents on what you have learned

Because 'Preparing for tomorrow means learning English today'