



**Did you know?** At 137 km long and 4.11 meters wide, the Delaware Aqueduct is the world's longest continuous underground tunnel. It is the newest of the New York City aqueducts, forming the bulk of New York City's drinking water supply.



The fascinating world of construction. Brought to you by:



**BSRM**  
the ultimate steel

Amazingly Attractive Offer During February

Buy Whirlpool Microwave Oven. Get sure gift.\*

Oven proof bowl/ Cooking Apron

**TRANSCOM**  
DIGITAL

Your Trusted Electronics Retailer

For More Information: 8855366-8, 01712 665463

# CONVICTION IN ABSENTIA

## 50 skipped court thru' HC bail, stay

**EMRAN HOSSAIN and ASHUTOSH SARKAR**

February 28.

At least 50 high profile fugitive corruption convicts in some 50 criminal cases, including Awami League leader HBM Iqbal, have obtained bail or stay order, or both, on their conviction without surrendering to the court.

The Appellate Division in a recent verdict cautioned a few High Court judges for granting bail to HBM Iqbal and staying the order of his conviction in a corruption case in which he all through remained a fugitive.

In the January 18 verdict on a writ petition filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission, the apex court also cancelled the HC bail order and asked Iqbal to appear before the trial court by

February 28.

Meanwhile on February 15, the HC cancelled the conviction of Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir's fugitive sons Jalal and Joy in two cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission for not submitting their wealth statements.

The HC gave the orders although the Appellate Division cautioned some HC judges against giving orders in cases in which convicts always remained fugitive.

MK Alamgir challenged the convictions of his sons, who are in the US at present, after the HC in August 2009 issued a rule for explanation as to why their conviction should not be declared illegal.

Jalal Alamgir and Joy Alamgir were tried in absentia and convicted for three years' imprisonment each.

A lawyer of the Supreme Court told The Daily Star on condition of anonymity that the HC cannot pass such judgment ignoring the Appellate Division observations. The HC cannot even accept writ petitions like the one filed by MK Alamgir, he said.

Although it has been nearly a month since the Appellate Division gave its verdict, neither the government nor the ACC has taken any initiative yet to settle the fate of another 50 criminal cases including those filed by the National Board of Revenue.

As the NBR does not have its own lawyers, the attorney general's office should initiate the process of filing leave-to-appeal petitions against such HC

**SEE PAGE 15 COL 4**



CHT affairs State Minister Dipankar Talukdar face a blockade imposed on Gangaram Mukh-Bongaltali (Battala) by agitated indigenous people yesterday. Dipankar headed for Bongaltali to know the follow-ups of Saturday's violence.

## Covered van vanishes with RMG items for export

A CORRESPONDENT

A covered van driver has allegedly fled away with around 16,000 readymade garments items on the way to Chittagong port from Gazipur.

Police arrested one of the van driver's assistants Mohammad Ashraful Hasan in connection with a case filed with Joydevpur Thana regarding the missing of RMG items.

Police said that authorities of Peak Apparels Limited in Gazipur Sadar rented a covered van (Chattagong Metro-Ta - 11-1751) to send some 30,034 baby RMG items to

**SEE PAGE 15 COL 3**

## Rajuk to offer plot, flat in Jhilmil project

HELEMUL ALAM

The project will be located beside the Dhaka-Mawa Highway in Suvadda, Chunkatia and Teghria Mouja's low-land areas of Keraniganj.

The project is five kilometres away from zero point in the capital.

Anwar said that 65 per cent of the land development work for phase one is already complete and the rest will be completed by the end of the year.

He said the first phase is estimated to cost Tk 335 crore and the second phase will cost Tk 3,082 crore.

Seventy-seven plots are 2.5 katha, 1,234 plots are three katha, 144 plots are five katha, 108 plots are 7.5 katha and nine plots are larger than 7.5 katha.

The project director said there will also be 9,224 flats constructed for the project and a

**SEE PAGE 15 COL 5**

## SC bar polls on Mar 24-25

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The annual election of the Supreme Court Bar Association for its 14 executive posts including president and secretary will be held on March 24 and 25.

Over 1,900 lawyers of the Supreme Court have been registered as voters in the country's prime bar association polls.

The SCBA executive committee tomorrow will officially

**SEE PAGE 15 COL 3**

## 4 prayer houses set ablaze

Finger pointed at Bangalee settlers

JASIM MAJUMDER, back from Bagaihat, Rangamati

At least four prayer houses were burnt down allegedly by Bangalee settlers in Gangaram Mukh area and nearby villages under Baghaichhari upazila in Rangamati during Saturday's arson attack.

A mosque and a church at Gangaram Mukh, a Buddhist temple at Maitreepur and another in gucca gram (cluster of villages) under Baghaichhari upazila in the district were set ablaze.

Buddha Bhikkhu (Buddhist monastic) Sumonankar Mohathero said some 40-50 Bangalee youths equipped with hand-made weapons launched an attack in the area Saturday

**SEE PAGE 15 COL 2**

## Boy strangled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified criminals strangled a boy, aged around 11, and left his body at a field of Basila in the city's Mohammadpur yesterday.

The identity of the boy has not been confirmed yet.

Mohammadpur police said they reached the spot around 2:00pm on information and found the body.

Sub-Inspector Abdul Latif of Mohammadpur Police Station said the boy had shorts and a T-shirt on.

**SEE PAGE 15 COL 7**

The forest department with the help of CARINAM, a research centre, recently rescued seven Olive Ridley marine turtles from poachers in Rupsha, Khulna, and released them in the sea. Fishermen caught the turtles for human consumption.

PHOTO COURTESY CARINAM

**OnlinePoll**

Do you support the environment ministry's move to relax the rules to allow ship breakers to import toxic ships?

Yes (11.65%)  
No (85.02%)  
No Comments (3.33%)

Total votes: 961

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you support Bangladesh Rifles' initiative to shut down the BDR shops?

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

## Netanyahu okayed Hamas hit mission

Reveals report; Israel rejects Palestinian state plan

AFP, Aljazeera Online, London/ Jerusalem

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met members of a hit squad at Mossad headquarters shortly before they went to Dubai to kill a Hamas commander, Britain's Sunday Times newspaper reported.

Meanwhile, Israel rejected the idea of foreign countries recognising a Palestinian state without a negotiated peace agreement, after France's foreign minister hinted at such a scenario.

Few days earlier, the European Union rejected the plan to push for recognition of a Palestinian state at the UN Security Council, saying the move was "premature".

Carl Bildt, Sweden's foreign minister, whose country holds the rotating EU presidency, said the bloc was discussing other steps to demonstrate its support for Palestinian aspirations.

"Imposing this kind of semblance of a partial solution from outside goes against the very idea of peace," a senior Israeli official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

"Granting recognition when the issues of the conflict have not been settled would add fuel to the fire. This would only push the Palestinians to be even more intransigent and thus make any compromise impossible," he added.

**SEE PAGE 15 COL 7**



## Noor-e-Alam passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noor-e-Alam Ziku, one of the founders of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), passed away yesterday at the age of 72 at Shamarita Hospital in the city.

Ziku, a freedom fighter, had been suffering from paralysis for five years. He left behind two sons, one daughter and a host of relatives, admirers.

His first namaz-e-janaza was held on Ahsan Manjil

**SEE PAGE 15 COL 6**

**Prayer Timing**

February 22

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-20	5-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-03	6-07
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT**

**The Daily Star 19th Anniversary THREE-PART SUPPLEMENT**

Coming out in a series

On February 23, 24 and 25, 2010 The Daily Star will publish a 3-part 19th Anniversary Supplement. The central theme will be "A Testing Year". This Special Supplement will come out in three parts on the following dates.

**Part 1: Politics and Governance - 23 February, 80 pages**  
**Part 2: Economy and Climate Change - 24 February, 80 pages**  
**Part 3: Policies and Institutions - 25 February, 80 pages**

**The eminent writers of Part 2 are :**

Mohammed Farashuddin, Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Rizwanul Islam, M M Akash, Khondkar Ibrahim Khaled, Fahmida Khatun, A.F.M. Mainul Ahsan, Dr. Quazi Shahabuddin, Syeed Ahamed, Abu Ahmed, Dr. M. Rahmatullah, Mamun Rashid, Zahid Hossain, M. Tamim, Khaled Rab, Dr. Saleemul Huq, Dr. Atiq Rahman, Dr A. M. Choudhury, Dr Abdullah Al Faruque, Mahbuba Nasreen, Dr. Manoranjan Mondal, Dilara Choudhury, Prof Zahurul Karim PhD, Philip Gain, Md. Asadullah Khan, Mohammed Solaiman Haider, Absar Kamal

**The advertisers in Part 2 are :**

Grameen Phone, Banglalink, AKTEL, Transcom Electronics Ltd, Bank Asia, Islami Bank Bd. Ltd., Mutual Trust Bank Ltd., Summit Group, SK+F, Biman Bangladesh Airlines, Brac Bank, DBBL, Eastern Bank Ltd., The Dhaka Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd., Apollo Hospitals Dhaka, Rancon Motors Ltd., Qatar Airways, IIDFC, MCCI, Berger Paints Bd. Ltd, Kazi & Kazi Tea, Arlinks Group, Heidelbergcement Bd. Ltd., Navana Group, SGS, British American Tobacco Bangladesh, Dhaka Regency, Pepsi, Akij Cement, Lafarge Surma Cement Ltd., Popular Group, Sunmar Group, Pubali Bank Ltd., Southeast Bank Ltd., Exim Bank Ltd., Kaspersky, ICB islami Bank Ltd., Horlics, AB Bank, Panasonic, Multimode Group, Asian Paints, Transcraft Ltd., Bangobandhu Int. Conference Centre, Walton, Concord Entertainment Co. Ltd., Amin Mohammad Group, M a g n u m Marketing Ltd., ACI, First Security Islami Bank Ltd., IFIC Bank Ltd, S. Alam Group, UCB, Electra International Ltd., Dano, Bank Alfalah Ltd., NCC Bank Ltd. East West University, Electro Mart Ltd.,

**Please Note : Writers' and Advertisers' Names of Part 3 will be published on Wednesday.**

**Make sure you get your copy FREE with the newspaper.**