

**Did you know?** The Seven Oaks Dam is located on the Santa Ana River in California. The height of the dam is 550 ft (168 m) and over 2,200 ft (670 m) wide at its base. The dam forms Seven Oaks Reservoir, which has a capacity of 147,970 acre-feet (182,521,000 m<sup>3</sup>).

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# 80pc billboards unauthorised

## Offenders cash in on HC order that stays dismantling of rooftop hoardings

HELEMUL ALAM and RIZANUZZAMAN LASKAR

Four out of every five hoardings in the capital are unauthorised, posing threat to public safety in inclement weather, says the Dhaka City Corporation.

DCC Estate Officer Khalil Ahmed told The Daily Star Tuesday that almost 80 percent of the hoardings in the city are unauthorised, and most are mounted without considering the risk they pose to people or the buildings that nestle those.

"A building has a weight capacity it can sustain. Many owners rent out hoarding space for some extra cash without considering that he or she is putting the building at grave risk," he said.

Advertisers, however, continue to set up unauthorised hoardings on rooftops at unsafe

places and in unsafe manner taking advantage of a High Court order in 2007 that asked the DCC, Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha and the police not to tear them down until a case in this regard is disposed of.

Two people died and eight were injured during a thunderstorm in the capital Monday evening when an 800sqft hoarding on top of a shopping arcade could not withstand the wind and collapsed on a Gulshan street. A fast-food shop employee and a car driver were crushed to death.

According to statistics from the DCC, they had given permission to set up 1,370 hoardings in the capital until 2008-2009 fiscal year. Of them, 189 were on land owned by the DCC, one on the roof of a DCC office, 501 on private land and 679

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While the season's strongest nor'wester is yet to come, these ubiquitous hoardings in the capital stand as living horror to the citizens. Such a hoarding at Gulshan-1 claimed two lives and injured eight others during a storm Monday. This photo was taken yesterday on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. The advertisements have been blurred.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# No arrest yet over crash of billboard

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police failed to arrest anyone in connection with the hoarding collapse Monday that left two people dead and eight others injured in Gulshan-1 in the capital.

The incident occurred when a poorly-mounted hoarding collapsed on them from six-storey height in front of Gulshan Shopping Centre during a storm that swept through the capital. The hoarding also wrecked four cars and a motorbike.

Fast-food shop owner Abdus Salam of Gulshan Shopping Centre filed a murder case with Gulshan Police Station last night accusing the shopping arcade owners of killing his employee, another person and injuring several

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# 10 hurt as BCL men clash at Dhaka College

DU CORRESPONDENT

At least 10 students were injured in an hour-long clash between two rival groups of Bangladesh Chhatra League at Dhaka College last night.

The clash broke out at about 11:00pm as around 25 BCL activists led by Sagir Ahmed, president of Dhaka College unit of the student body, and another group of activists led by general secretary of the unit Tutul attempted to occupy several rooms of a college hostel -- Dakkhinayan.

The two groups attacked each other with rod, sticks and machete. Around 25 shots were also fired and 15 homemade bombs were hurled during the clash.

The injured were sent to

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

# ELEVATED EXPRESSWAY 9 foreign firms show interest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nine foreign investors have shown interest in the government's plan to construct an elevated expressway in the capital, Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain said yesterday.

Replying to queries in parliament, he also said the government will build railways to connect Mongla and Chittagong seaports.

"We are taking measures to lay 53 kilometres of railway tracks between Khulna and Mongla port in around 48 months," the minister said.

Of the proposed elevated expressway, he said, "I hope a significant portion of the construction work will be done during our tenure."

There have never been such huge responses to any government proposals, he added.

The government is also examining the possibility of constructing an elevated expressway over the median of the Dhaka-Chittagong highway.

To another query, the communications minister said two four-lane bridges with access control systems will be constructed on Meghna and Gomti rivers.

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# 3 local firms may get licence to explore peat coal

STAR REPORT

The energy ministry has asked the Bureau of Minerals Development to issue licences to three newly-formed local companies for exploration of peat coal in Madaripur.

Swadhin Bangla Mines and Electricity Ltd will be awarded a licence to explore peat coal in 3,400 hectares, Padma Mining and Energy Corporation Ltd 4,000 hectares and Reliance Minerals and Power Ltd 3,100 hectares in Rajoir upazila of Madaripur.

Sources said a single business group owns these three new companies.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

# Ecneec okays peaking power plant project

10 plants to produce 830MW; 6 other projects also approved

UNB, Dhaka

The Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecneec) yesterday approved seven development projects involving Tk 13,822 crore that includes a major project to install 10 peaking power plants with total capacity of 830 MW.

Of the total amount, Tk 12,908 crore will come from the government exchequer while Tk 914 crore will come as project assistance.

The approval was given at the Ecneec meet-

ing held at the NEC with its chairperson, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in the chair.

The installation of 830 MW peaking power plants under the Power Division will be completed by December 2011 at a cost of Tk 7203 crore to be entirely borne by the government, said Planning Minister AK Khandaker while briefing reporters after the meeting.

He said the new peaking power plants, based on furnace oil, will meet the peak hour demands.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

# CHITTAGONG TEST Siddiqui, Rahim delay inevitable

BISHWAJIT ROY from Ctg

As expected England won the first Test with a huge margin of 181 runs, but the victory didn't come easy thanks to Junaed Siddiqui and Mushfiqur Rahim who gave the visitors a tough time on the final day at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium here yesterday.

The two overnight batsmen played out the first session of the fifth day safely with left-hander Junaed making his maiden Test century to frustrate the English bowlers. But it didn't take the visitors too long after the break to wrap up the Bangladesh innings for 331 once Junaed was dismissed little after lunch.

It was because of Junaed

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

# Interim deal on Teesta likely

JRC meet starts today in Delhi

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Bangladesh is looking forward to increase its share of Teesta river waters through an interim agreement at a Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) meeting beginning in New Delhi from today.

"We will try to reach an understanding at least for an interim deal ensuring equal shares of Teesta waters," Water Resources Secretary Sheikh Md Wahid-Uz Zaman said yesterday.

Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen will leave for the Indian capital this morning. He will lead a 16-member delegation comprising officials of the ministry, JRC and the foreign ministry. His counterpart Pawan Kumar Bansal will lead the Indian side.

"We expect that the difference of sharing waters will narrow down since both the countries are having an excellent relationship," observed a foreign ministry official.

He said discussions would take place on sharing waters of all 54 common rivers but sharing of Feni river waters would take priority.

The water resources secretary believes that they would be able to resolve water sharing of all the common rivers one by

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



Inland water transport workers called an indefinite strike from yesterday demanding a new pay scale. Tranquillity at the Sadarghat Launch Terminal screams of the sufferings of passengers.

PHOTO: STAR

**OnlinePoll** ✓  
Do you think the border tension is affecting the improving bilateral relations between Bangladesh and India?

○ Yes (81.2%)  
○ No (15.9%)  
○ No Comments (2.9%)

**Total votes: 923**

**TODAY'S POLL**

Who do you think are responsible for the risky billboards in the capital?

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

**Prayer Timing**

March 17		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-00	5-35
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-14	6-18
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

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