

Did you know?

The Millennium Dome is a dome which is the largest of its type in the world. Externally, it appears as a large white marquee with twelve 100 m-high yellow support towers, one for each month of the year, or each hour of the clock face, representing the role played by Greenwich Mean Time. In plan view it is circular, 365 m in diameter — one meter for each day of the year — with scalloped edges.



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DCC removes illegal billboards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Corporation launched a drive to remove illegal billboards from roadside shops and markets in Dhanmondi area last night.

The drive began at around 9:30pm and was supposed to continue till 4:30am.

Over 20 hoardings were removed as of filing this report at 1:45am. One person was arrested as he failed to pay a Tk 2,000 fine for non-cooperation in the drive, police said.

The arrestee, Osman, however claimed he was only watching the operation.

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Larger ADP on the cards

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government is drawing up an even more ambitious ADP for the coming fiscal year to meet the lawmakers' demands for development work in their constituencies.

Primary projections put the next Annual Development Programme at Tk 39,000 crore, 37 percent higher than the revised one for the current fiscal year, planning ministry sources said.

The MPs have already submitted hundreds of project proposals to the ministries.

They said they need development programmes in their constituencies to make good on the pledges they had made before the last general election.

That little work had been done during seven years till 2008 only adds to the

necessity, they added.

A meeting with Finance Minister AMA Muhith in the chair today is likely to discuss the size of the next fiscal year's budget including the ADP.

The first ADP of the Awami League government, which came to office in January last year, was 32 percent larger than the revised one in the previous year.

Originally fixed at Tk 30,500 crore, the ADP later came down to Tk 28,500 crore.

Economists say a big ADP is necessary in the present context of development, but what matters more is its implementation, where the governments' performance has always been poor.

In the first eight months of this fiscal year, only 42 percent of the revised ADP could be implemented.

It means the rest 58 percent will have to be implemented in the next four

months, which is very unlikely, said a planning ministry official preferring anonymity.

In FY 2008-09, original ADP was Tk 25,600 crore and revised Tk 23,000 crore. At the end, the government could spend Tk 19,701 crore.

Sources in the finance and planning ministries said different ministries and departments have sent huge proposals for inclusion in the ADP. Their proposed projects entail over Tk 60,000 crore.

The number of projects in the ongoing year's original ADP was 886, but it rose to 1,058 after revision. Even after that, 693 new projects--463 to be financed by the government and 230 by donors--have been proposed to be incorporated into the ADP.

Planning ministry officials said some

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Barapukuria miners go back to work

Get pay hike deal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Local miners of Barapukuria Coal Mine Company Ltd (BCMCL) called off their strike early Saturday and returned to work at 12:00 noon as the authorities acceded to their demands.

Around 1,100 miners started the strike on Monday midnight demanding implementation of the 2008 tripartite agreement signed by BCMCL, Chinese contractor company CMC-XMC and miners.

The coal miners broke the strike after over a five-hour-long tripartite meeting between BCMCL officials, Chinese contractor company CMC-XMC Consortium and a 15-member team of miners.

The meeting was held at Paribartan Rest House at BCMCL complex.

Bangladeshi miners said, as per the agreement, they are supposed to have an increase in the salaries in February every

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Sylhet Teacher Murder No work to press for killers' punishment

BCS Education cadre declares plan for tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The members of BCS (Education) will observe a daylong countrywide abstention from work on March 29 demanding immediate arrest of and punishment to the killers of Harun Ur Rashid, a Sylhet Government Women's College teacher.

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Govt urged to work with all parties

US House of Representatives passes resolution

UNB, Washington

In a resolution passed on Thursday, the US House of Representatives urged the Bangladesh government to work together with all political leaders to continue and deepen reconciliation.

Congressman Joseph Crowley, the founder and co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Bangladesh, spearheaded passage of the resolution expressing the US House

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An Indian excavator on a barge removes silt of the Ichhamati at Pipili, West Bengal, India, while Bangladesh is yet to start dredging of the river. PHOTO: STAR

INDO-BANGLA RIVER INITIATIVE Delhi begins to dredge Ichhamati

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Irrigation and Waterways Minister of West Bengal Subhash Naskar yesterday inaugurated dredging of the common river Ichhamati.

The dredging of 20-kilometre stretch of the river at a cost of Rs 35.68 crore would be conducted from Pipili area of West Bengal to Goga, a bordering area in Benapole. Indian North 24 Parganas District Board President Bharat Das presided the inauguration ceremony of the dredging project.

A joint delegation of the two countries on March 9 visited 20 km stretch of the Ichhamati. Considering the mid-stream the border, it was decided that 7.5 metres of each side of the river would be widened.

Indian Ganges Flood Control Commission's Prashanto Kumar and Executive Engineer Sushanto Chatterjee of West Bengal Irrigation Department and Bangladesh Water Develop

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OnlinePoll ✓

Do you agree with the EC that there is no need to deploy army during the upcoming by-polls in Bhola-3 parliamentary constituency?

- Yes (59.5%)
- No (39.2%)
- No Comments (1.3%)

Total votes: 1038

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think BNP will come forward with information about war criminals to help the government try war crime?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

March 28

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-55	5-30
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-16	6-20
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

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Kid's Cushion tk 440	Photo Frame tk 445	Table Runner tk 420	Candle Set tk 880	Wooden Vase tk 460
Head Pillow Cover tk 255	Pebbles tk 50	Dinnerware tk 90	Candle Holder tk 175	

*Values mentioned are the starting prices

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