

Did you know? The King Fahd Causeway is a causeway connecting Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. The four-lane road is 28 km (17 mi) long and approximately 23 m (75 ft) wide, and was built using 350,000 m² (3,800,000 sq ft) of concrete along with 47,000 metric tons of reinforced steel.

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Biman to get back its original logo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd will get back its original logo and livery.

The cabinet in a meeting yesterday decided to reinstate the "Balaka" (Crane) logo and livery on its aircrafts. The state-run airline is now awaiting nod from its executive board.

"We have received a letter from the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism in this regard. We will place the matter in the next board meeting," said Muhammad Zakiul Islam, managing director and chief executive of Biman.

About two months ago, the 38-year-old airlines formally

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Poor performers' ADP allocation to be cut

Govt to take decision after review of ministries' performances; Ecneec okays 7 projects

BSS, Dhaka

The government is likely to curtail annual development programme allocation for under-performing ministries and the amount will be diverted to those ministries who showed better performance in implementing ADP.

"The decision will be taken after reviewing the progress of ADP till April next," Planning Secretary Habibullah Mazumdar told a press briefing after a meeting of the Executive Committee on

National Economic Council (Ecneec) yesterday.

The rate of ADP implementation by the different ministries till February was 39 percent, he added.

Meanwhile, the Ecneec yesterday approved seven development projects involving Tk 1,013 crore, including a Tk 307-crore project aid.

Prime Minister and Ecneec Chairperson Sheikh Hasina presided over the meeting held in the NEC conference room at Sher-e-Banglanagar here.

The projects okayed by the ECNEC are the Project to Protect Shahbazpur Gas Field (2nd Phase) from the erosion of Meghna River in Borhanuddin upazila in Bhola district under the Water Resources Ministry, the Expansion, Renovation and Modernisation Project of Bangabandhu Poverty Reduction Training Complex, Kotalipara, Gopalganj under Rural Development and Cooperatives Division, the Establishment of Krishibid Institution, Bangladesh Complex (KIB)

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Muhith suggests raising power, CNG prices

UNB, Dhaka

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday directed the authorities concerned to move for increasing the prices of CNG and electricity.

"Petrobranga should immediately send proposal to increase the CNG price. The power tariff should also be reviewed further for a further hike," he told the officials of the Power and Energy Ministry while holding a meeting at his ministry.

The Power and Energy Ministry officials apprised him of setting up a liquefied natural gas terminal project and also about the prevailing power and gas supply situation.

The CNG price should be "close to the price of petrol," said Muhith.

Now, the price of per cubic-metre [1 litre equivalent] CNG is Tk 16.75 while the price of 1 litre petrol and octane is Tk 77.

The CNG price was last increased to Tk 16 per cubic metre

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Ashraf held for stabbing classmate, her parents

Pistol used in Gulshan murders recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective police yesterday arrested Ashraf Ali, who stabbed his classmate Fauzia Faria Barsha and her parents, from his relative's house in Gazipur district.

On Saturday, Ashraf stabbed Barsha and her parents Aminur Rahman and Rokhsana Momtaj at their Kalabagan house in the capital for ransom.

Acting on a tip-off, a team

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Ashraf warns against chaos in the name of agitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League has warned the BNP-led opposition that any chaos in the name of anti-government agitation will be contained with a heavy hand.

"There is no question about any lawful agitation. But the government will contain any chaos with an iron hand, however powerful may be the person formenting it," AL General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam said at a press

SEE PAGE 7 COL 5

Turkey pledges help in river dredging

UNB, Dhaka

The Turkish government is going to support Bangladesh in dredging its rivers and in implementing the much-expected Dhaka Medical College and Hospital Phase-II project inside the existing hospital premises.

Outgoing Turkish Ambassador to Bangladesh Sakir Ozkan Torunlar said this when he paid a farewell call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday.

The ambassador further said that his country wants to provide modern training to nurses of Bangladesh to further enhance their professional

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Prayer Timing		
March 31		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-20
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-20	6-25
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation



The courtroom for trying war criminals in the old High Court building is being renovated before the trial starts.

PHOTO: ANSAR RAHMAN

WAR CRIME TRIAL

Century-old courtroom gets facelift

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 105-year-old High Court building, which witnessed many historic events, is suddenly going through phases of quick maintenance, as the landmark trial of alleged war criminals would put a huge load on the place.

The state minister for housing and public works directed the PWD to examine all necessary things of the building for security and other matters.

The main tribunal room, which is only 18.36 metres in length and 16.7 metres in width, with a floor of polished teak planks, is sure to attract a huge crowd including judges, prosecutors, investigators, officials concerned, law enforcers, local and international journalists and obviously the alleged war criminals.

State Minister Abdul Mannan Khan himself visited the courtroom and other adjacent places on Sunday and ordered officials to ensure proper maintenance before the trial starts.

"We are taking extra precautionary measures. I have directed the PWD officials to take measures so that the wooden floor may carry extra load," said the state minister.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

SAFETY NET FOR POOR
11 AL men have to return money

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Ishwardi upazila administration in Pabna ordered to cancel the names of 11 rich and ruling Awami League men who were included in the employment generation programme (EGP), a special safety net for the ultra poor.

The upazila administration has taken the decision at a meeting on Monday following an allegation that rich people and AL men are working in the special safety programme of the extreme poor in different unions of the upazila, depriving the poor.

Sources said the local authorities also asked the 11 people to return the money, which they drew under the EGP. The 11 persons are from Salimpur Union of the upazila.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Tigers squad for T20 WC announced

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammad Ashraf and Mashrafe Bin Mortaza returned to the national fold for the World Twenty20 Championship to be held in West Indies from April 30.

The 15-member squad was announced yesterday and it included batsman Jahurul Islam and left-arm spinner Sohrawardi Shuvo among the newcomers.

Ashraf missed the entire series against England at home this month while

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Aila affected dam collapses again

25,000 people marooned, 15 villages inundated

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

At least 15 villages in Padmapukur, an Aila affected union under Shyamnagar upazila, were inundated again as water entered breaching a ring embankment at eight points on the river Kholpetua on Monday.

Over 25,000 people of the Padmapukur union were marooned and gripped by panic they were taking shelter on available high lands.

The embankment covering 150 to 200 feet from Khutikata to Padmapukur gave way into the river under heavy pressure of water from the tidal surge on Monday.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

Curfew slapped after clashes in Hyderabad

AFP, Hyderabad

Indian police yesterday imposed a curfew across a third of the southern city of Hyderabad, home to global IT giants Google and Microsoft, after days of inter-religious clashes.

At least one man had died in street battles between Hindu and Muslim mobs during violence triggered by arguments over putting up decorations for a religious festival, Hyderabad Police Superintendent AK Khan told AFP.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

OnlinePoll ✓

Do you agree with BNP that Awami League's defeat in Supreme Court Bar Association election implies people's no-confidence in the government?

No (49.4%)

Yes (43.4%)

No Comments (7.2%)

Total votes: 1777

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government's decision to keep ACs switched off from 6:00pm to 11:00pm in all households, public and private offices and shopping malls in Dhaka until further notice is practical?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

শহর, নগর, কিংবা গ্রাম - কথা হোক অবিরাম

৬৫ পয়সা/মিনিট (সিটিসিএল থেকে যেকোন মোবাইল বা টেলিফোন অপারেটর)

৩০ পয়সা/মিনিট (সিটিসিএল থেকে সিটিসিএল এর যেকোন ফোন-এ দিনরাত)

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