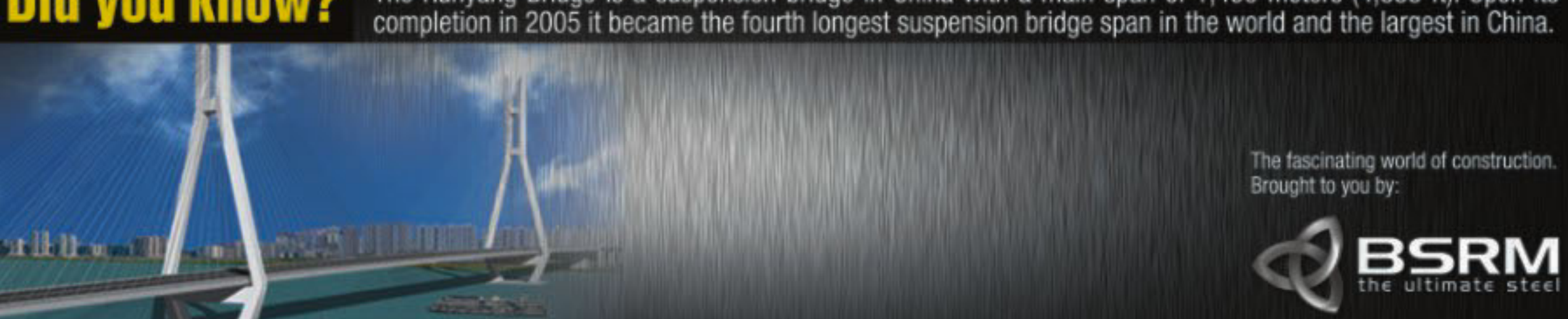


Did you know? The Runyang Bridge is a suspension bridge in China with a main span of 1,490 meters (4,888 ft). Upon its completion in 2005 it became the fourth longest suspension bridge span in the world and the largest in China.



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Trans-border effort for Sundarbans

Dhaka wants Delhi to join the cause; meeting at Kolkata today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will place a proposal to India for a trans-boundary taskforce aiming to save the Sundarbans. Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh, Zoological Society of London, Jahangirnagar University, and Dhaka University jointly have completed an assessment of the main threats to the Sundarbans' biodiversity using internationally accepted methods. They have identified 24 threats and, of them, six are high on the list of priorities to be addressed immediately for the protection of the Sundarbans' ecosystem. The home of Bengal Tigers and half of the world's mangrove varieties is on the verge of going below water due to sea-level rise induced by climate change.

Indian Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh and State

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Students of Dhaka University having a cricket match organised by SM Hall unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League under flood-lights late Thursday night. Following media attention about this waste of power on campus at a time when the country is suffering extreme electricity crisis, the matches have been called off.



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

7 JMB men arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Rapid Action Battalion team arrested seven operatives of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh, including a top leader, at Fulbaria of Mymensingh district Friday night.

The arrestees are Abdul Malek alias Musa, Shajib alias Robin, 27, a Majlish-e-Shura (highest policy-making body) member, two Eshar (full time) members--Ahsan Zahir Khan alias Roman, 35, and Rafiqul Islam alias Abdullah, 20, and four Gayeri Eshar (part-time) members--Faruq Hossain alias Butcher Faruq, 38, Mohammad Shahidullah Aminul Islam, 26, and Abdul Halim, 35.

The Rab team also recovered some books on militancy, eight cell phone sets, Tk 11,773 in cash and a briefcase full of wedding clothes and cosmetics, Rab sources said at a press briefing at its headquarters in Uttara.

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JOYDEVPUR-MYMENSINGH DUAL CARRIAGEWAY

Upgrade work to start in July, end by 2014

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Upgrading work of the narrow but busy Joydevpur-Mymensingh Highway into a dual carriageway is likely to begin in July and be completed by June, 2014.

The Tk 986-crore project has been sent to the planning commission after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina recently gave the nod and asked the communications ministry to finalise it and start construction works, communications ministry officials said.

"Upgrading the 87.67 kilometres Joydevpur-Mymensingh Highway into

four-lane is now our top priority project after the Dhaka-Chittagong one," Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain told The Daily Star Thursday. He said construction work to upgrade Dhaka-Chittagong Highway into a dual carriageway is underway.

Earlier, the government decided to implement the Joydevpur-Mymensingh project with public fund, as private-public partnership (PPP) will take more time to materialise. It would be the second important national highway to be upgraded into a dual carriageway. The highway often experiences intolerable traffic jams taking valuable hours of commuters due to its narrowness. Accidents on the road have become a regular phenomenon. Once the road is upgraded, it will ensure better safety as well as reduce travel time.

"The single carriageway is unable to deal with heavy traffic causing abnormal delays and accidents," says the project proposal, adding that traffic movement on the highway has increased due to massive industrialisation in the region.

As per a survey conducted by the Roads and Highways Department in

1992 at a cost of Tk 8 crore.

Sources said communication between Ruma upazila and Bandarban district headquarters would be easier and the socio-economic condition of the people of both the places would improve significantly after completion of the bridge.

After repeated appeals from the locals the Bandarban unit of Roads and Highways Department had undertaken to construct the 217m long bridge in 1992 at a cost of Tk 8 crore.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

SANGU BRIDGE Work resumes after 18 years

BSS, Rangamati

The 19th Engineering Construction Battalion of Bangladesh Army has resumed construction of the Sangu Bridge on Bandarban-Ruma Road after 18 years.

Sources said communication between Ruma upazila and Bandarban district headquarters would be easier and the socio-economic condition of the people of both the places would improve significantly after completion of the bridge.

After repeated appeals from the locals the Bandarban unit of Roads and Highways Department had undertaken to construct the 217m long bridge in 1992 at a cost of Tk 8 crore.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

SIRAJGANJ POWER PLANT Cabinet to weigh Summit bid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The power ministry is going to place a proposal to the cabinet purchase committee for approval of a previously cancelled bid of local Summit Power to set up the 450-megawatt Sirajganj power plant.

In 2004, the power project was approved during the BNP-led alliance government but later the then prime minister cancelled it due to some political reasons.

This time Summit has brought some modifications keeping the earlier proposed tariff of US 2.78 cents per unit. The price is considered to be one of the lowest in the world, and it is the same as offered by the AES Meghnaghat 450-megawatt project signed during the previous Awami League-led government.

The tender for Sirajganj power project, the first public-private partnership power scheme, was floated in October 2002 when PDB had 40 percent stake in this project.

As a single bidder, Summit won the bid when the tender

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Hunger strike against tree-felling

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists and eminent personalities yesterday observed a token hunger strike in the capital in protest against chopping down over 3,500 trees at two betel leaf enclosures at Nahar Punji near Nahar Tea Garden in Srimangal.

Indigenous Environment Protection Movement of Bangladesh Parishad Andolon, Bangladesh Indigenous Forum, Green Voice, Khasia Welfare Society, Khasia Students Union and Chittagong Hill Tracts Hilly Student Association jointly observed the 5 hour long strike

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



HELLO MAYOR ... IS THIS OUR ROAD?

Sludge of roadside drains is extracted and dumped on Pragati Sarani at Shahjadpur in the capital taking more than half the road width. The air in the area is heavy with stench and traffic movement is slow.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY War crimes fact finders make probe easy

Hand over documented evidence to investigation agency today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

War Crimes Fact Finding Committee (WCFFC), a research organisation, will hand over documented evidence today to the investigation agency to assist it in proving allegations of war crimes in 1971.

WCFFC convener Dr MA Hasan said the documents include 18 books, names and

addresses of 1,775 alleged war criminals and detailed accounts of crimes including murders.

A sketch map of mass killing grounds in Dhaka, forensic exhibits including bones, earrings and parts of dresses of victims will also be handed over, he added.

In addition, WCFFC gathered information on about 500 war criminals with detailed

documents include 18 books, names and

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Ward BNP leader killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A BNP ward president was hacked to death yesterday night at Pukuria village under Kaliganj upazila in Jhenidah.

The victim, identified as Kabir Biswas, 35, son of Mobashwar Ali of Pukuria village, was the ward president of BNP unit of no 5 Simla Rokonpur union.

Central leaders stay beyond grassroots

Rajshahi BNP meeting repeats hail Tarique practice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Grassroots BNP leaders in Rajshahi were not allowed to speak in a meeting with central BNP leaders yesterday after a Rajshahi leader observed on the trial of war criminals that BNP should not take responsibility of others' crimes.

The central leaders were busy praising Tarique Rahman instead of letting them speak. They were not allowed to speak after Wasim Hossain, president of Rajshahi unit of the Doctors Association of Bangladesh, in the meeting said BNP must clarify its stance on the trial of war criminals. "There are no permanent friends and foes in politics. We don't want to take responsibility of crimes committed by others. We want trial of war criminals," he said.

After that, party leaders were repeatedly instructing grassroots leaders not to chant any slogans except those praising Tarique Rahman, son of BNP chief Khaleda Zia.

Several field-level BNP leaders told The Daily Star that they were invited to the meeting held at Rajshahi Zila Parishad auditorium to exchange views with central leaders on different party issues. But none of them were allowed to speak.

"We did not get any directives, except for words in praise of Tarique Rahman," said one of them.

BNP's standing committee member MK Anwar attended the meeting as the chief guest. Rajshahi Bar Association President Abul

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Prayer Timing

April 4		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-40	5-15
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-21	6-24
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

OnlinePoll ✓

Do you agree with BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain that the government has designed the war crime trial to oppress the opposition parties?

- No (57.0%)
- Yes (42.6%)
- No Comments (0.4%)

Total votes: 5421

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think DMP's decision to remove makeshift shops and construction materials from roadsides will help ease the traffic congestion in Dhaka?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

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