


Did you know? Jintang Bridge is a highway bridge with a cable-stayed bridge portion, built in Zhejiang, China. It is the longest bridge in Zhoushan Trans-oceanic bridges with a length of 26,540 meters, connecting Jintang Island and Zhenhai.



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THAKURGAON TRIAL
BDR court recording witness account

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A court of Bangladesh Rifles yesterday recorded statements of 20 more prosecution witnesses in a mutiny case filed against 51 BDR men of 20 Rifle Battalion here.

Thirty-one of a total of 84 witnesses gave depositions before the three-member BDR Special Court-2 headed by BDR Director General Maj Gen M Mainul Islam at the battalion headquarters from 8:40 am to 1:00 pm. The court proceedings will resume at 8:30 am today.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Anti-war trial factors get the better of BNP

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

BNP leaders remain confused about the party's stance on trial of war criminals after party Chairperson Khaleda Zia remarked that the government is trying to use the issue against the opposition.

Some BNP leaders, encouraged by grassroots activists and young leaders, felt that the process of trying war criminals should continue, if done fairly.

But they received a jolt following the party chief's observation that stemmed from constant pressure by some controversial leaders of BNP and its key ally Jamaat-e-Islami.

Khaleda's comment came at a meeting of BNP national standing committee on

April 1 at her Gulshan office. The remark was inspired by a few BNP leaders strongly opposing the government move to try war criminals, party insiders said.

Some influential leaders of BNP and Jamaat, many of whose leaders were allegedly involved in 1971 war crimes, are trying to persuade BNP policymakers to take a clear stance against the trial of war criminals.

Besides, a number of BNP leaders including a standing committee member were allegedly involved in war crimes.

Some senior BNP leaders, who are close to Jamaat, have already sat with Jamaat leaders several times to find out a way to face the issue politically.

A few of them also called on Khaleda to

discuss the matter. But no BNP leader agreed to make any comment.

However, some BNP leaders said they are in favour of trying the "real" war criminals but they believe that the government will use the issue to achieve "political gains". Now they want to deal with the matter politically.

When the issue came up for discussion at the standing committee meeting, some leaders including Salauddin Quader Chowdhury proposed taking a firm stance against the government move to try war criminals.

Khaleda commented that the government will suppress the opposition in the name of trying war criminals, sources said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Yet another girl commits suicide

Father lodges case against stalker

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Yet again a 14-year-old girl took her own life on Friday night at Nishchintapur under Sadullapur upazila after a stalker made her life miserable.

Nurani Akhter, a madrasa student of class VIII, hanged herself with a scarf around her neck.

Shaharul Islam, a neighbour of the victim, had been stalking Nurani for a long time, Sadullapur Police Station Officer-in-charge Hasan Inam said quoting the case statement.

The stalker, son of Gaffer Mian, continued to put pressure on Nurani to marry him. As the victim's parents kept on refusing his proposal Shaharul got furious and threatened them with dire consequence, police sources said.

Nurunnabi, father of Nurani, filed a case with Sadullapur Police Station. Police have so far arrested none.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Gaibandha Modern Hospital for autopsy.

"An innocent girl's life was lost. We told Shaharul to stop

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Tarail stalker not held yet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police still could not arrest the alleged stalker and killer Tabarak five days after he had burnt Mariam Akter Pinky, a class X student, to death at her house in Tarail upazila of Kishoreganj.

Sources said some local ruling party leaders are sheltering the killer who is now spreading malicious rumours against Pinky and her mother Latifa Akhter.

Latifa alleged that Tabarak's family had been spreading rumour about her since the filing of the case against him.

She also said that they were spreading rumour about her daughter from yesterday.

A local Awami League

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



The Barapukuria coalmine's deposit is 389 million tonnes. Its current underground mining allows extraction of only 20 percent of the deposit. In many countries, up to 90 percent of coal deposit is extracted by implementing the open-pit mining. PHOTO: FILE

No fresh listing of Rohingyas

Foreign secy says Dhaka won't recognise undocumented entrants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will not give in to western pressure for recognition to the large number of undocumented Myanmar nationals who entered the country illegally as refugees, said Foreign Secretary Mohamed Mijarul Quayes yesterday.

The foreign secretary made the comment at a press conference at the foreign ministry following the proposal of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for fresh

registration of the Myanmar intruders.

Mijarul said the regional coordinator of UNHCR had recently made the proposal to the government.

"We have categorically told them that the proposal is not acceptable," he told reporters.

"We don't want to discuss the issue with UNHCR or others. They are undocumented Myanmar nationals and they must go back to their homeland," the foreign secretary stressed.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Long list of unidentified people sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police have lodged a case against 100 to 150 unidentified people Friday night in connection with Thursday's tender violence between two factions of the ruling Awami League at Dinajpur Public Works Department (PWD).

The clashes between Jubo League and Chhatra League centring dropping of bids for a Tk 14 crore construction project left at least 10 people injured.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Govt's school bus plan falls flat

BRTC gets no response from schools as guardians not interested

SHAHNAZ PARVEEN

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation's attempt to run special bus services for schoolgoers in the capital hits a snag. The initiative received zero response from school authorities, as opposed by the guardians.

In November last year, authorities of schools and colleges in Dhaka at a meeting with the education ministry agreed in principle to introduce bus services for students in a bid to ease traffic jam in the city.

Private cars carrying students is reportedly one of the key factors in gridlocks around a number of educational institutions.

It was also agreed that BRTC would run 100 buses on major city streets for school children. Procurement of the 100 CNG-run buses at Tk

30 crore has already been completed, said BRTC officials.

Major Quazi Shafique, general manager (operations) of the corporation, said, "BRTC has sent letters to most of the renowned educational institutions seeking their cooperation in introducing the services. We also distributed leaflets in classrooms. However, not a single school responded positively."

The official said, "There were plans to modify the buses with special features for children such as lowering the height, setting up railings to the entrance and thick seat padding on the front and back of every seat. The fare would be subsidised too."

Another effort made in 2007 by Dhaka Transport Coordination Board to promote

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

BNP factions clash

Magistrate, police, activists injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

At least 16 people—Magistrate Uttam Kumar Roy, four police constables and 11 BNP activists—were injured in a factional clash of BNP over holding two separate meetings in the town yesterday afternoon.

Cadres of two BNP groups exploded over 30 bombs and exchanged gunfire in Magura town.

Police fired rubber bullets and lobbed tear shells to bring the situation under control.

Magura Superintendent of Police Mohammad Shahrer told this correspondent that police picked up five BNP leaders including its Magura

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Heartiest Felicitations



We convey our warmest congratulations & best wishes to **Mr. M. Shahabuddin Alam**, Managing Director of country's well reputed industrial hub - "S.A. Group of Industries" on his election as Chairman of Executive Committee of Mercantile Bank Ltd.

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Management Authority
Officers & Staffs of
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OnlinePoll ✓

Do you think the government steps for urgent power will improve the situation?

- Yes (54.3%)
- No (44.8%)
- No Comments (0.9%)

Total votes: 819

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think it is necessary to have National Reserve Force with 10 lakh trained civilians as the parliamentary standing committee suggested?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

April 11

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-35	5-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-24	6-28
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

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