

Did you know? Aswan Dam refers to two dams in Egypt. Today the name refers to the High Dam, which is the newer of the two. The former cataract and the Old Aswan Dam is about 1,000 kilometres (620 m) (686 kilometres (426 mi)) up-river and south-southeast of Cairo. The new Aswan High Dam is further 4 kilometres (2.5 m) upriver from the older dam.



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No polls, no role for women at grassroots

1,600 reserved seats in upazila parishads left vacant for a year already

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Women grassroots leaders have not been able to play their due roles in upazila parishads for over a year as polls to around 1,600 reserve seats for women have not been held.

The Election Commission did not hold the elections as the specified tenure of the electorates for the polls had expired, EC officials said. Women representatives elected to reserved seats in union parishads and municipalities are electorates and are entitled to contest the polls to the reserved seats in upazila parishad.

The tenures of union parishads and

municipalities expired in early 2008 and mid-2009.

Like other representatives elected to these bodies, women representatives are still holding on to their offices only to keep the continuity until the next elections to the two local government bodies are held.

The upazila parishad elections were held on January 22 last year and a chairman and two vice-chairmen, including a woman, were elected in each upazila. Union parishad chairmen and municipality mayors under upazilas become ex-officio members of the upazila parishads. As per the existing law, the number of

reserved seats for women in upazila parishad is one third of the total number of union parishads and municipalities in the upazila.

If the EC had held the polls to reserved women seats in upazila parishads, it would have elected women representatives to the upazila parishad for five years, a senior EC official said.

Thus the EC decided to hold polls to the reserved seats on completion of union parishads and municipality polls, the official added.

The military-backed caretaker government, in its effort to ensure participation

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3 'robbers' beaten to death in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Angry villagers beat three suspected robbers to death at Kaibartapara in Boalkhali upazila early yesterday.

Police said villagers caught three unidentified robbers, chasing a gang of six, around 2:30am when they attempted to enter the village allegedly to commit a robbery.

Sources said the gang arrived close to the densely populated village, parking their CNG-run three-wheeler and proceeded to enter the village on foot.

A few village guards on duty spotted the lurking figures and called out to them loudly, causing the gang to turn around and run.

The hue and cry brought

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Benazir murder was avoidable: UN report

'Pak authorities deliberately failed to probe it properly'

AFP, United Nations

Pakistani authorities could have prevented the 2007 murder of ex-premier Benazir Bhutto and deliberately failed to properly investigate her death, a UN-appointed independent panel said.

"Ms Bhutto's assassination could have been prevented if adequate security measures had been taken," said a report out Thursday by a three-member panel headed by Chile's UN ambassador Heraldo Munoz.

The panel, tasked with establishing the circumstances of the killing, said it believed the Pakistani police's failure to effectively probe the slaying "was deliberate."



The report also said the investigation was severely hampered by intelligence agencies and other officials who impeded "an unfettered search for the truth."

The charismatic, Oxford-educated Bhutto, the first woman to become prime minister of a Muslim country, was killed on December 27, 2007 in a gun and suicide attack after addressing an election rally in Rawalpindi, a garrison city near the capital Islamabad.

Her death threw the world's only nuclear-armed Islamic nation into chaos, sparking violence and months of political turmoil that ended in September 2008 when her widower, Asif Ali Zardari, claimed the presidency.

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Woman dies taking poison

Husband's torture for dowry alleged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman killed herself by taking poison at her Badda residence in the capital yesterday as she was allegedly unable to withstand frequent torture by her husband for dowry.

Sumi Burman, 23, daughter of Satya Gopal Burman of Panchagarh, took poison Thursday evening. She died at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital in the early hours of yesterday.

Sumi was a lab technician at the city's Marie Stopes Clinic.

Her aunt Mukti Ghosh said Ananda Sarkar, the husband, had been beating Sumi for last six months demanding Tk 3 lakh as dowry.

"Sumi and Ananda got married six months ago at Dhakeswari Temple following an affair. But soon, Ananda

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A dance sequence plays out at a gala function of the Bangladesh Business Awards 2009, organised by The Daily Star and DHL Express at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka yesterday.

A night with a difference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was an atypical night of celebration of the country's business sector.

And even before the programme started, the night of Bangladesh Business Awards 2009 naturally became a huge gathering of innovative, enthused and aggressive corporate leaders regardless of age and type of their businesses.

Many of them termed the award, jointly conferred by The Daily Star and DHL Express Ltd, the country's highest for businesses as this alone recognises the local entrepreneurs each year.

It was the 10th edition of the awards.

The event started with a fusion musical performance styled "The Colour of Life", which filled the entire ballroom of Sonargaon Hotel with joyful mood.

"This is the most credible and encouraging award for the businessmen of our country. I think this is helping entrepreneurs become more competitive," said Zulfikar Ahmed, managing director and CEO of Unirent, a leading advertising agency.

TV news presenter Mahmudur Rahman hosted the programme for the eighth time.

On top of the joyful celebrations, business leaders were discussing potentials of the country's economy and problems that might lie ahead.

Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman talked about the steps the central bank has taken to materialise the dream of "digital Bangladesh".

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Criminal killed in 'shootout'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A criminal was killed in a "shootout" between his cohorts and Rapid Action Battalion here in the port city in the early hours yesterday.

The dead, identified as Jashim Uddin alias 5-star Jashim, was a cadre of Islami Chhatra Shibir and one of the most wanted criminals in Chittagong.

Acting on a tip-off, a Rab team went to Wajibia near Ananya residential area around 4.00am when a gang of criminals gathered there to commit a crime, sources said.

After the gang opened fire, the Rab personnel retaliated and the gunfight continued for 30 minutes.

Assistant Superintendent of Police Saidul Islam of Rab-7 told The Daily Star that Jashim came in the line of fire during the gunfight and died on the spot.

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OnlinePoll ✓

Do you think the government should form a powerful body to take necessary steps to handle unrest in RMG sector whenever it occurs?

Yes (79.1%)
 No (17.1%)
 No Comments (3.8%)

Total votes: 468

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government should formulate special laws to award deals for setting up power plants without tender to meet the severe power crisis?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

2001 POST-POLL VIOLENCE

1,000 families in Bhola tortured

BSS, Dhaka

About 1,000 families of six villages under Lalmohan upazila of Bhola district await for justice as there were tortures after 2001 general elections.

The then ruling party activists and leaders tortured and killed inhabitants including women and children of these villages for they voted for Awami League during the eighth national parliament elections. Terrorists also looted assets, funds and other resources.

The members of the affected families described their miseries to the BSS correspondent and demanded the government for trial of the culprits.

About 1,000 families reside -- both Hindus and Muslims -- at Mangal Sikder, Patwari Bazar, Kalambulla, GM Bazar, Lord Hurdings and Annada Prosad villages under Lalmohan thana.

After 2001 October 1 election, a black night appeared before the inhabitants of these villages on October 2. Local people

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Testimony of torture

Chhobirani gave statements to commission

A CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

The investigation commission, formed to probe 2001 post-election violence of Bagerhat during the tenure of BNP-Jamaat alliance government, yesterday recorded statement of the victims.

A number of victims gave their statement on 72 incidents, including 12 rapes and eight killings from morning to 4:00 pm yesterday, Monwar Hossain, member secretary of the commission, said.

Chhobirani Mondol, a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



Navana Group has decided to use GREEN energy. In a modest ceremony on 5th April'10 the top management of the Group signed an agreement to reduce use of conventional power by using renewable energy. The group targets to replace at least 30% of the total power used by Navana Officials and facilities to green power by the end of 2012.

Honorable Director Mr. Sajedul Islam (Seated Center), Operative Director Mr. S M A Rasid (Standing Center), Operative Director Mr. J. A. Naser (Seated Right), Senior General Manager Mr. Asadul Islam (Standing Right), General Manager Mr. M. A. Wahab (Standing Left), General Manager Engr. Kazi Mominul Hoque, PEng. (Seated Left) were present in the ceremony.

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রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ
 রাজউক ভবন, ঢাকা

জামানত ফেরত সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

রাজউকের উত্তরা (৩য় পর্ব) ও পূর্বাল নতুন শহর প্রকল্পের প্রটের জন্য আবেদন করে যে সকল সম্মানিত আবেদনকারী অকৃতকার্য হয়ে জামানতের টাকা/ডলার ফেরতের জন্য নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদন করেছেন, তাদের মধ্যে যে সব আবেদনকারীর জামানতের পে-অর্ডার/ড্রাফট প্রদানের সম্ভাব্য তারিখ ১৫ মার্চ ২০১০ দেয়া হয়েছিল, তাদের পে-অর্ডার/ড্রাফট সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যাংকে যথারিত প্রস্তুত রয়েছে। আবেদনকারীকে নিজে অথবা তার মনোনীত প্রতিনিধির মাধ্যমে অতিসত্তর পে-অর্ডার/ড্রাফট সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যাংক হতে সংগ্রহ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

যথাসময়ে জামানতের পে-অর্ডার/ড্রাফট সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যাংক থেকে পাওয়া না গেলে সে বিষয়ে জরুরি ভিত্তিতে উপ-পরিচালক (এস্টেট-২ ও ৩), রাজউকে যোগাযোগ করে প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য সংগ্রহ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

এছাড়া যে সকল আবেদনকারী অকৃতকার্য হয়েছেন তাদের জামানতের টাকা/ডলার ফেরতের জন্য এখনও আবেদন করেননি সেই সকল আবেদনকারীগণকে জরুরি ভিত্তিতে সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যাংক/ওয়েব সাইট হতে ফরম সংগ্রহ করে জামানতের অর্থ ফেরত নেওয়ার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। অন্যথায় জামানতের টাকা/ডলার ফেরত পেতে দেরী হলে রাজউক কর্তৃপক্ষ দায়ী থাকবে না।

সচিব
 রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ, ঢাকা

জিডি-১৭৬১

Beaten up for protesting tree felling

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

At least 11 Rakhain people were injured in an attack by miscreants at Rakhain Palli village under Ramu upazila in Cox's Bazar on Thursday.

Local sources said around 60 miscreants led by Abul Kalam attacked them with sticks at about 1:30pm

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Prayer Timing		
April 17		
	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