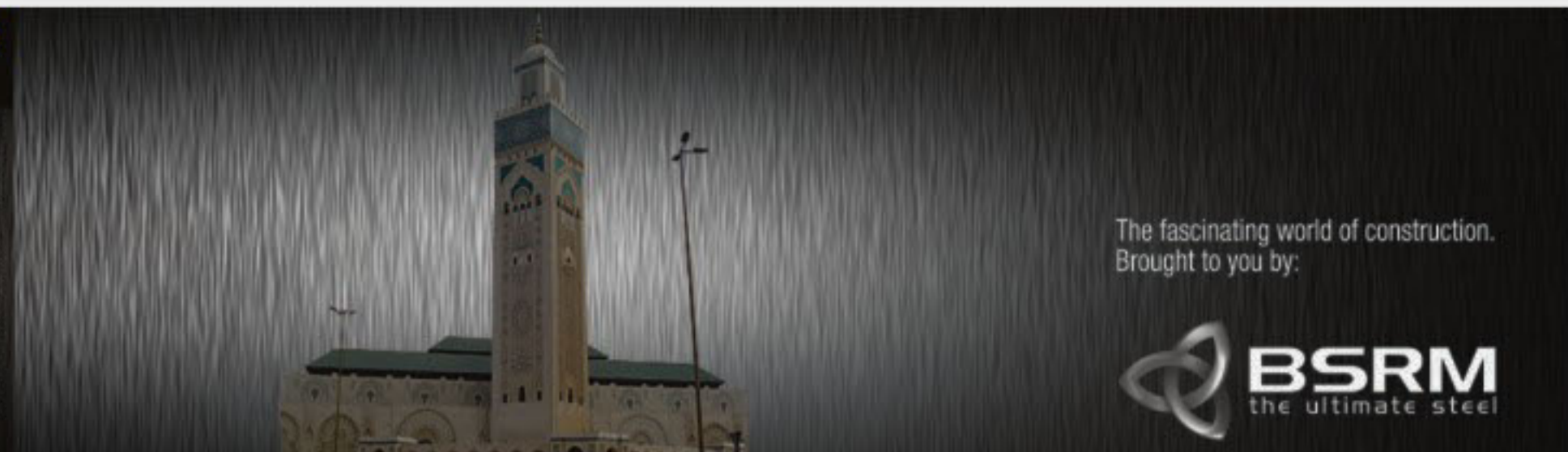


Did you know?

The Hassan II Mosque, located in Casablanca is the largest mosque in Morocco and the third largest mosque in the world. It stands on a promontory looking out to the Atlantic, which can be seen through a gigantic glass floor with room for 25,000 worshippers. A further 80,000 can be accommodated in the mosque's adjoining grounds. Its minaret is the world's tallest at 210 m (689 ft).



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# Rajuk to launch project for flats

Plans to build 52,000 units for people from low income bracket

**HELEMUL ALAM**

Implementation of a Rajuk plan for construction of around 52,000 flats for lower and lower middle-income people under three massive projects begins on Wednesday.

Of the flats, 22,525 will be built under Uttara Residential Model Town Phase-3 project, 20,000 under Purbachal New Town Project and about 10,000 under Jhilmil Residential Project of Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk).

The projects are likely to be completed in five years, said a top official of Rajuk.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to lay the foundation stone for construction of the flats at Uttara Model Town on Wednesday formally kicking off execution of the three projects.

Rajuk Chairman Md Nurul Huda said the flats will be allotted to applicants in eight instalments, and an allotment guideline will be

prepared within three months.

Applications for allotment of the flats will be invited in June or July, he told The Daily Star.

Construction of flats on 215 acres of land at Sector-18 of Uttara Phase-3 will start in November.

The Rajuk chairman mentioned that the project proposal for Uttara flats is now awaiting approval of the Executive Committee of National Economic Council. And that for the flats at Jhilmil awaits approval of the housing and public works ministry.

The project proposal for Purbachal flats will be sent to the housing and public works ministry within a month, he added.

At Uttara, 160 buildings will be constructed - each 15-storey--at an estimated cost of around Tk 8,633 crore. The fund will come from allotment of the flats, said the official.

"The buildings will have solar power apart from normal electricity supply. We also plan to

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Cattle farming on shoals in the river Jamuna has become a growing business, as grasses are aplenty there nowadays for grazing. Professional cow herders are appointed to take care of the animals. The photo was taken at Gabsara in Bhuapur upazila of Tangail yesterday.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

## Schoolteacher 'killed by husband'

Two more bodies found

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man allegedly strangled his wife to death at the city's Hazaribagh on Saturday while police recovered two bodies from Jatrabari area yesterday.

Police arrested her husband Aminul Islam Swapan yesterday and took him on a four-day remand in a case filed for killing his wife Lutfunnesa Sheuli, also a teacher of Luminous Kindergarten at Hazaribagh.

Sheuli's brother Lutfor

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# Militants still obtaining Bangladeshi passports

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Local and foreign militants are still suspected to have been obtaining Bangladeshi passports using false information to leave the country to escape or have training and take part in 'Jihad'.

Law enforcers investigating the matter say their suspicion became firm after learning that a suspected Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) operative left Bangladesh either for Singapore or India using a Bangladeshi passport.

A team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) seized the Pakistani passport of JeM operative Mohammad Jawad from an

apartment near New Market in the capital last month. Another Pakistani national Rezwan Ahmed who admitted to have coordinated JeM activities in Bangladesh was arrested with four locals during the hunt.

"On Jawad's passport his name and address are inscribed as Mohammad Jawad, Karachi, Pakistan. Immigration police at Shahjalal International Airport allowed him to enter Bangladesh on August 22 last year," says a top Rab official.

The Rab official suspects Jawad's Pakistani passport is fake.

Earlier, several local and foreign mili-

itants, especially operatives of banned outfit Harkatul Jihad-al Islami (Huji), Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba and India-based Asif Reza Commando Force (ARCF), managed Bangladeshi passports using false information.

Even the names of the agents of a Pakistani intelligence agency came to light from the statements of some foreign militants arrested in Bangladesh.

"Our investigations into different grenade attacks also reveal similar findings," says an official of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), which has already seized fake passports of Huji

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

## Air chaos spreads across Europe

Volcanic ash spreads further; millions of travellers stranded, 20 countries extend flight bans

BBC ONLINE, AFP, Berlin

Millions of stranded travellers face further air chaos as the volcanic ash from Iceland that has closed most of Europe's airspace continues to spread.

About 20 countries closed their airspace and some have extended flight bans into Monday. Experts say the cloud may not shift until later in the week.

Disruption is now said to be greater than that after 9/11 and the eruption shows no sign of abating.

Some airlines are making test flights to try to identify safe flight paths.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7 (MORE IN STAR BUSINESS)

## Biman delays 3 more flights

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman Bangladesh Airlines further delayed its two London-bound flights yesterday for 48 to 72 hours. The country extends its airspace ban as volcanic ash from Iceland continues to spread causing air travel lockdown across Europe.

The national flag carrier also delayed a 12:00noon Italy-bound flight of the day initially for 24 hours.

"If situation doesn't improve within two or three days, we have no other choice than to cancel those flights despite sufferings of hundreds of Biman passengers," a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



An apartment building on Road 11A in Dhanmondi of the capital is adorned with decorative illumination even during daylight yesterday, while the country reels under frequent load shedding leading to loss of industrial production and untold sufferings of citizens.

## BB bans loan for tobacco farming

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank has directed all banks not to grant any kind of loan facilities for tobacco farming as it poses a serious health hazard.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

# Spare jetties from demolition drive

Says FBCCI

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should spare the river terminals and jetties from ongoing drives to demolish structures on the riverbanks of Dhaka, Narayanganj and Gazipur, urged the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) yesterday.

The smooth supply of commodities and other essential products will be disrupted if the government does not stop pulling out the ports and jetties on the riverbanks, Annisul Huq, president of FBCCI, the apex trade body of the

country, said at a press conference in Dhaka.

The district administration of three districts have been carrying out drives to dismantle structures on the banks of four rivers -- the Buriganga, Balu, Turag and Sitalakha -- in line with directives from the court.

In directives given in June in 2009, the higher court instructed the government to earmark the river boundaries and dismantle structures erected on encroached riverbanks. The court also gave a deadline of November 30, 2010 to dismantle all structures from those riverbanks.

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## DUAL CARRIAGEWAY Upgrading of Dhaka-Ctg highway underway

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The construction work for upgrading the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway into a dual carriageway has gained momentum after three consultants of the Pakistani firm Nespak joined the project two weeks ago.

"Primary work like constructing project offices and arranging accommodation for labourers are now in progress," said Project Director Md Mafizul Islam yesterday.

He said the primary tasks should have been completed within a month of signing of contracts with two local and one Chinese construction firms on January 17 for the Tk 1,655 crore project.

Sources in the communications ministry said the

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## AL men force RHD engineer to pick party contractors

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A number of Awami League leaders of Kurigram yesterday kept Roads and Highways Department's executive engineer confined to his room and forced him to give a road construction work to their contractor cancelling the (first) lottery result.

The incident happened at the office of Executive Engineer Shafiqul Islam at about 11:00 am.

When asked, Shafiqul said Jahurul Hoque Dulal got the work in a fair bidding process. "Nothing happened at his office," he said.

But the "real winner" of the lottery faxed a letter to the chief engineer and sub-divisional engineer of the department

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## Top criminal found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Top listed criminal Nurul Amin Maksud's bullet-ridden body was found yesterday morning in a field near Talatia bypass road in Gazipur.

He was a close aide to former Awami League lawmaker Shamim Osman in Narayanganj, sources said.

Officer-in-Charge of Joydevpur Police Station Abdur Rashid said, on information, police reached the spot and took the body to Gazipur Sadar Hospital

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

**OnlinePoll** ✓

Do you think the government's refusal to have Dhaka City Corporation elections on May 31 is justified?

○ Yes (37.4%)  
○ No (59.0%)  
○ No Comments (3.6%)

**Total votes: 441**

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think judges should be appointed by a selection committee headed by chief justice to keep the appointments out of controversies?

Please cast your vote at [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

**আমরা গভীরভাবে শোকাহত**

ডাচ-বাংলা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড-এর পরিচালনা পর্ষদ এবং ব্যাংকের সকল কর্মকর্তা ও নির্বাহীবৃন্দ দেশের বিশিষ্ট আলেম ও প্রতিভাশালী ব্যবসায়ী এবং এন. আর গ্রুপের চেয়ারম্যান প্রখ্যাত শিল্পপতি জনাব মোঃ মোখলেসুর রহমানের পিতা আলহাজ্ব মাওলানা মোঃ আজীজুর রহমানের মৃত্যুতে (ইন্না লিল্লাহি.....রাজেউন) গভীরভাবে শোকাহত ও ব্যথিত। তিনি গত ১৭ এপ্রিল ২০১০ তারিখে ইন্তেকাল করেন।

আমরা তাঁর শোকসন্তপ্ত পরিবারের সদস্যদের প্রতি গভীর সমবেদনা জানাচ্ছি এবং পরম করুণাময় মহান আল্লাহতায়ালার নিকট তাঁর রুহের মাগফিরাত কামনা করছি।

**ডাচ-বাংলা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড**  
আপনার বিশ্বস্ত সহযোগী