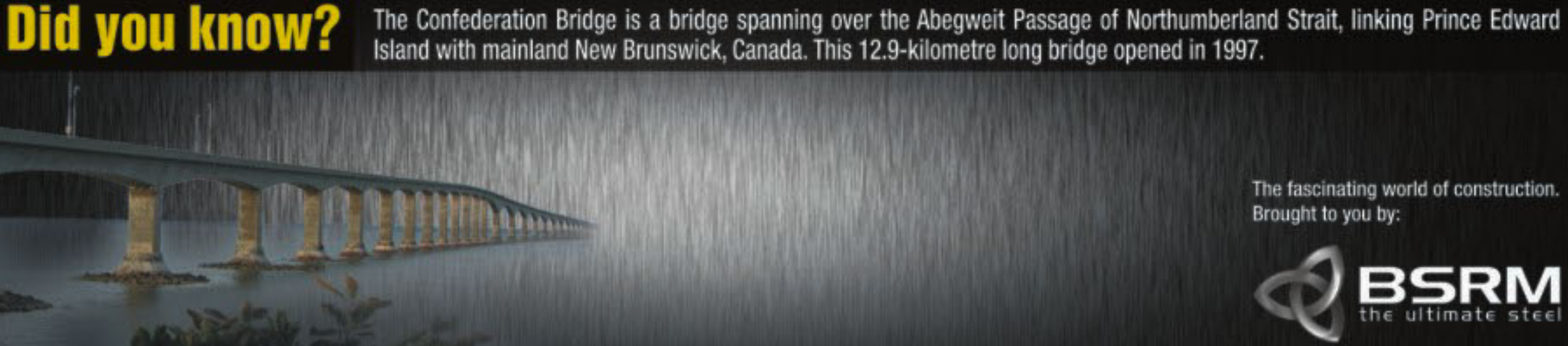


Did you know? The Confederation Bridge is a bridge spanning over the Abegweit Passage of Northumberland Strait, linking Prince Edward Island with mainland New Brunswick, Canada. This 12.9-kilometre long bridge opened in 1997.



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Stipend for primary students to increase
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Motahar Hossain yesterday said the stipend for primary school students will be increased from 40 percent to 85 percent as part of the government's pledge to achieve education for all by 2014.

He was addressing a roundtable at National Press Club in the capital organized by The Daily Star in association with Save the Children and Campaign for Popular Education.

Motahar said those getting stipend are provided with Tk 100 a month, which helps the

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Check dropouts, raise enrolment
Govt urged at roundtable; 56pc kids drop out before fifth grade

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unless a huge number of school dropout is checked and enrolment of poor and working or vulnerable children is ensured, the nation's goal of education for all by 2014 would remain a far cry, educationists said yesterday at a roundtable.

To ensure education for all, the government should utilise the local government bodies by making them accountable for the job.

In addition, the government should introduce target-oriented programmes to prevent dropouts and increase enrollment of vulnerable children, they added.

Discussions at the roundtable titled "A National Priority for Education for All (EFA): Reaching Vulnerable Children" quoted the School Survey Report 2007 and said that one tenth of children eligible for primary education never get enrolled.

At the same time, a staggering 56.2 percent children drop out from school before completing the fifth grade.

At the roundtable jointly organised by The Daily Star, Campaign for Popular Education (Campe) and Save the Children, experts noted that poverty, social exclusion of some communities like Harijan and Dalits, absence of schools in remote areas, parents' illiteracy and lack of awareness are some major factors

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Cut AL's link with BCL
5 educationists urge PM, warn against destructive politics

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five noted educationists of the country have urged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to sever all direct and indirect links between the Awami League and Bangladesh Chhatra League to maintain a congenial atmosphere at all educational institutions.

"The Awami League needs to sever direct and indirect links with Chhatra League to keep students and youths away from destructive politics and maintain a congenial atmosphere in educational institutions," said a statement signed by Prof Kabir

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SEE FULL TEXT ON PAGE 5

Gas crisis forces Kafco to shelve expansion plan
JASIM UDDIN KHAN

Karnaphuli Fertilizer Company (Kafco) has postponed plans for a billion-dollar plant because of gas crisis, the company's top executive said yesterday. It was forced to close down its existing plant less than a month ago.

To meet the country's fertiliser demand, Kafco planned to break ground this year for a second plant, with 1.2 million tonne annual capacity, to be built in Chittagong.

But it had to put the plan on hold because the government wouldn't approve a natural gas connection.

"We in principle decided to establish a new plant in the country with construction commencing this year, but we had to postpone our initiative due to the disconnection of gas," said Salahuddin Ahmed, chief executive officer of Kafco.

He said the company management had planned to seek \$ 700 million from foreign banks and the rest would come from the Kafco treasury.

"According to our primary talks with financiers, funding

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Security firm's driver flees with Tk 45 lakh
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The driver of a private security firm allegedly made off with Tk 45 lakh during the delivery of money from Bangladesh Bank to a HSBC branch in the capital's Motijheel area yesterday.

Farid Ali, the driver of security firm Group-4S, escaped with the money leaving the car in front of the HSBC bank around 12:00 noon.

Officer-in-Charge Tofazzol Hossain of Motijheel Police Station said Farid along with three other G-4S security guards was carrying Tk 5 crore.

On receipt of the cash, the authority found Tk 45 lakh missing.

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Shazneen's 12th death anniversary today
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 12th death anniversary of Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, who was murdered inside her house at Gulshan in the city in 1998 at the age of 15.

She was a student of class nine of Scholastica School.

The five accused -- contractor Syed Sajjad Mainuddin Hasan, domestic help Shahidul Islam Shahid, Hasan's assistant Badal and two maid servants Estema

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Vehicles are caught in a tailback yesterday on the flyover part of the Bijoy Sarani-Tejgaon Link Road, which was expected to ease the city's traffic congestion. PHOTO: STAR

Tejgaon link road increases traffic chaos
Fails to ease tailbacks due to faulty planning, says expert

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The new Bijoy Sarani-Tejgaon link road, which was supposed to ease tailbacks, has actually increased traffic chaos, thanks to faulty transport planning, a leading traffic expert and commuters say.

Since the Bijoy Sarani-Tejgaon link road was inaugurated Tuesday, adding two more signals to Bijoy Sarani intersection, one of the busiest in Dhaka, commuters complain about waiting longer for a green signal. This has stretched the tailbacks up to Sonargang intersection on one side and Mohakhali flyover on the other.

Transport expert M Rahmatullah says unless an overpass or underpass is built to channel traffic to the new road, people will continue to suffer, defeating the purpose of the road.

"An overpass at Bijoy Sarani intersection may facilitate the north-south traffic flows to pass the mess at the junction or an underpass may be thought of to take the Bijoy Sarani traffic easily to Tejgaon," said Rahmatullah.

However, two other experts -- urban researcher Prof Nazrul Islam and Buet Prof Md Shamsul Hoque -- said the tailbacks are temporary and it will be all right after some time.

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CJ didn't break oath
Say SC Bar chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim didn't break his constitutional oath by not swearing in two controversial persons as High Court judges, Supreme Court Bar Association President Khandaker Mahub Hossain said yesterday.

The SCBA president thinks the CJ has done the right thing. "The chief justice has protected the image of the Supreme Court and the rule of law."

He was addressing a press

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Grenade attacks in Bangkok
Three dead, 70 wounded

AFP, Bangkok

A series of grenade blasts ripped through a pro-government rally in Bangkok yesterday, leaving three dead and 70 injured, including foreigners, in the latest bloodshed in the heart of the Thai capital.

The authorities said five grenades were fired from within the anti-government Red Shirt protesters' sprawling encampment, which has been fortified in recent days with sharpened bamboo stakes and piles of car tyres.

"Three people died and more than 70 were injured," said Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban, adding that an M79 grenade launcher was used in the attacks, which came as the supporters of embattled Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva faced

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20,000 Tahrir men active in country
Organisation run by members' money, Mohiuddin tells interrogators

KAILASH SARKAR

Hizb ut-Tahrir Bangladesh has about 20,000 leaders and activists across the country, detained Mohiuddin Ahmed, the chief of the banned Islamist outfit, told interrogators yesterday.

The organisation spends Tk 3 lakh a month, collecting the amount from its members to conduct its activities, he said.

Meanwhile, the organisation's second-in-command, Kazi Morshedul Huq, arrested on Tuesday night in the capital's Mohammadpur, was placed on a three-day remand yesterday.

Three other outfit members, arrested in Uttara on April 17, were placed on a fresh two-day remand.

On the first day of a three-day remand, Mohiuddin, an assistant professor of the Institute of Business Administration of Dhaka University, said he was resolute to establish Khilafat through a revolution in the country despite the ban on his outfit.

Nisarul Arif, deputy commissioner of Uttara division told The Daily Star, "Mohiuddin claimed that he had no contact with other outfit members since it was banned on October 22 last year. But other detained Hizb ut-Tahrir activists said they continued their activities at Mohiuddin's directives."

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OnlinePoll ✓

Do you think the Election Commission will be able to hold Bhol-3 by-elections peacefully?

Yes (48.1%)
No (47.5%)
No Comments (4.4%)

Total votes: 568

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think authorities concerned will give their sincere effort to recover the grabbed canals of Dhaka city?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

April 23

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-25	5-00
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-27	6-31
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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