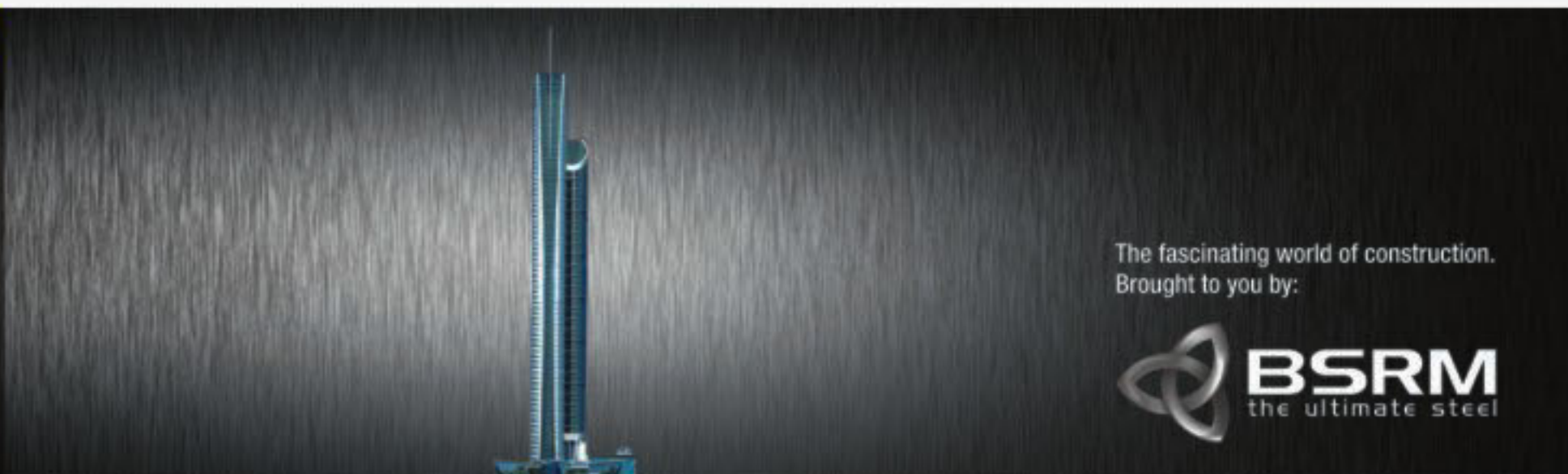


Did you know?

Almas Tower, also known as the Diamond Tower is a super tall skyscraper in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. This building topped out at 360 m (1,180 ft) in 2008, becoming the second-tallest building in Dubai, after Burj Khalifa.



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Untreated waste dumped into Buriganga

The practice makes drive to clean the river futile

HELEMUL ALAM

A huge quantity of untreated waste is being dumped into the Buriganga river hampering the government's drive to clean the riverbed.

In Dhaka, an average of 15,000 metric tons of human waste is generated daily. One-third of it is treated by Pagla Waste Treatment Plant while the rest dumped into rivers, canals and other water bodies, said Prof Mujibur Rahman of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority launched the cleaning drive on January 6. But it will not be successful, if direct dumping of waste into water bodies is not stopped, said environmentalists.

Prof Mujibur, who led a team to conduct a feasibility study on the Hatirjheel-Begunbari khal development project, said the drive will be useless unless the government stops dumping

of untreated waste into the river.

Abu Naser Khan, chairman of Save Environment Movement, said the priority of the government should be the stopping of chemical and sewerage emptying into rivers and water bodies, not cleaning of the riverbed.

He said it is preferable not to clean the riverbed before doing away with dumping as it will create scope for pollution of ground water.

Around 80 percent areas in Dhaka city remain out of WASA sewerage network which leads to dumping of untreated waste to rivers and water bodies in and around the city, said a WASA official.

The lone waste treatment plant for the city is located at Pagla in Narayanganj with a capacity of treating 1.20 lakh cubic metre of sewage. It was installed in 1973-74 and renovated in 1991-92 but can treat sewage at only one-third its

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The measure to clean the Buriganga riverbed faces its major flaw, as the government did not make arrangements to divert two-thirds of the city's waste to any treatment plants.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

SEXUAL HARASSMENT JU proctor resigns

UNB, JU

Assistant Proctor of Jahangirnagar University Dr Abdullahil Kafi, accused of sexual harassment, resigned from his post yesterday in the wake of agitation over the matter.

Dr Kafi, Chairman of International Relations Department of JU, was also granted a month long leave by the administration yesterday.

A female teacher of the same department recently lodged a complaint with JU authorities accusing Dr Kafi of sexually harassing her, which sparked off protest among different quarters in JU.

JMB finds friends in outlawed parties

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh has approached a new strategy to regain its strength and is trying to develop ties with different groups including the outlawed parties.

Officials of Rapid Action Battalion fighting militancy say they have already marked and broke a link between JMB and outlawed Gono Bahini.

"The JMB contacted an outlawed group for firearms but failed as we detected and dismantled the link," Rab Director (intelligence wing) Lt Col Ziaul Ahsan told The Daily Star.

Earlier, JMB mainly used bombs and improvised grenades to carry out attacks. Rab sources say JMB was left in ruins

following the execution of its six top brass leaders in 2007 and constant arrest of other leaders and operatives. But now the outfit might try to establish a relation with other banned outfits like Harkatul Jihad al Islami, Hizb-ut Tahrir and even the war criminals to regain strength.

The sources add they have information that JMB Shura member Sohail Mahfuz, who hails from Charsreekal village in Kumarkhali upazila, Kushtia, sought firearms several times from top Gono Bahini leader Ashrafal Islam alias Mandar about a month ago.

Mandar was eventually spotted and killed in a "shootout" with the Rab members in Kushtia on April 7.

Interestingly, JMB came to limelight for its so-called outlaw cleansing opera-

tion in 2003 under the banner Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB) in different northwestern districts.

Several ministers of the then ruling four-party alliance government and party leaders patronised JMJB in the vigilante operations that left several people dead.

Meanwhile, Rab officials say JMB is still running its invitational activities in limited scale in all district and divisional headquarters despite being almost in a fragile state.

Its invitation wing members are targeting students of schools, colleges and madrasas for recruitment. The JMB members are however a bit more active in the districts of Rajshahi, Rangpur, Mymensingh, Kishoreganj and Comilla, they observe.

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BCL versus BCL Ctg mayor initiates move to isolate agitators, break CU standoff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Bangladesh Chhatra League units and some other student organisations in Chittagong decided to jointly resist the agitating fraction of BCL, Chittagong University (CU) unit that called an indefinite strike on the campus demanding resignation of the vice-chancellor.

The decision was taken according to the direction of Chittagong City Corporation Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury after several meetings in the last few days between him and the leaders of Chhatra Sangram Parishad, a platform of BCL, Bangladesh Chhatra Moitry and Bangladesh Chhatra Samity, said BCL city unit general secretary Md Salahuddin.

BCL city unit leaders called the leaders of BCL, CU unit, in a meeting at its office yesterday evening but the latter did not show up until filing this report at 8:30 pm.

Salahuddin said, "We have called them to talk for resolving the situation but if it fails we'll resist them."

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

CHANDPUR PLANT PM to lay foundation stone today

BSS, Dhaka

After crawling about a decade during the regime of four-party alliance and caretaker governments, the foundation stone of much-awaited Chandpur 150 megawatts Combined Cycle Power Plant will be laid today.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who initiated the Tk 342 crore project in April 2001, will lay its foundation stone today at Gunrajdi, Chandpur, which is scheduled to go into operation by 2014.

"Due to delay in process, the project cost has increased four times. Although the Power Development Board

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An initiative to grab land beside Dhaka flood protection dam in Lalbagh in the name of Bangladesh Bastuhara League's office. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's name is used on the signboard to keep from any trouble and interference of law enforcement agencies. This land was once used for a small blacksmith workshop, which is still evident in the photo.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

COP GAUTAM MURDER One of 3 suspects finally arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police early yesterday arrested one of the three suspects of SI Gautam Roy killing case at Bhajahari Saha Lane in the capital's Sutrapur.

A team of police led by Sergeant Mohammad Mesbah Uddin of Wari Police Outpost picked up Ahmed Ali alias Haider alias Hadi around 1:45am.

Haider made a confessional statement under section 164 when he was produced before a Dhaka court yesterday, said



Ahmed Ali (Haider)

Investigation Officer (IO) of the case SI Jalal Uddin, adding that according to the statement Zakir and Manik are the killers of Gautam.

Unidentified gunmen killed Second Officer of Bangshal Police Station SI Gautam Roy and wounded his friend Shamim at Dholaikhal in Sutrapur on April 20. Gautam was returning home from

work. Gautam sustained three bullet wounds while his friend Shamim one in the hand.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Thai govt rejects Red Shirt's offer

AFP, Bangkok

Thailand's political crisis plunged back into deadlock yesterday after the government rejected a compromise offer from red-shirted demonstrators who said they were now braced for a crackdown.

Hopes for an agreement to end weeks of protests, which have been punctuated by deadly street clashes, evaporated as Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva ruled out the "Red Shirts" offer to disperse if polls were called in 30 days.

"No, I reject it. Because they use violence and intimidation I cannot accept this," Abhisit said of the proposal which would have seen a ballot held in 90 days and was a softening of earlier demands for snap polls.

"The dissolution (of parliament) must be done for the benefit of the entire country, not just for the Red Shirts, and it must be done at the right time," he told reporters.

In an immediate response the Reds said they would now prepare for a military crackdown to clear their heavily fortified rally encampment,

which has paralysed Bangkok's upscale district for three weeks.

"Abhisit has ordered a crackdown on protesters within 48 hours, that is the information I have learned," said Reds leader Nattawut Saikuar.

Nattawut did not say where the information came from but other Reds leaders said earlier Saturday they had learned from sympathisers in the army that troops were being mobilised despite ongoing negotiations.

Nattawut said the Reds would strip off the symbols of their allegiance -- the red T-shirts and other garb they have sported for weeks -- to help them fight back against the government.

He said they would stick to a policy of non-violence, but other Reds figures speaking on a stage at their sprawling camp in the heart of Bangkok promised a "guerrilla war" against the government.

The United Nations and foreign governments have urged both sides on Thailand's political divide to find a peaceful resolution,

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MUTINY IN CTG Charge-framing hearing Oct 10

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

BDR Special Court-4 in Chittagong yesterday fixed October 10 for hearing on charge framing against 35 jawans of 10 Rifle Battalion's Bolipara camp in a mutiny case.

The three-member court led by Maj Gen Mainul Islam, outgoing director general of Bangladesh Rifles, adjourned the trial until 10:00am on that day. Mainul ordered to keep the accused detained in Bandarban jail till then.

Starting at 8:43am, the court set up at Rifles Training Centre and School, Baitul

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OnlinePoll

Do you think Awami League should sever all links with BCL for congenial atmosphere at educational institutions as five eminent educationalists suggest?

Yes (61.2%)
No (37.3%)
No Comments (1.4%)

Total votes: 552

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the Bholo-3 by-poll was held in a credible manner?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

April 25		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-20	4-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-29	6-34
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation