


Did you know? Angkor Wat (or Angkor Vat) is a temple complex at Angkor, Cambodia, built for the king Suryavarman II in the early 12th century as his state temple and capital city. It is the only one to have remained a significant religious centre since its foundation—first Hindu, dedicated to the god Vishnu, then Buddhist.



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Hectic lobbying for MPO listing

Ruling party MPs, influential leaders exert pressure on education ministry

WASIM BIN HABIB

Ruling party lawmakers and influential leaders are mounting pressure on the education ministry to incorporate non-government educational institutions of their choice into a new list for receiving the government's monthly pay order (MPO) facilities.

The list of non-government schools, colleges and madrasas is likely to be published today six years after the government suspended updating the annual listing on charges of massive corruption.

After assuming office, the Awami League government formed a committee in June last year to devise a policy for the MPO and set criteria for educational institutions for getting MPO facilities.

But many of the institutions the ruling party men have been lobbying for do not qualify for the MPO.

The lobbyists have been hanging around the education ministry for the last 20 days. Their rush intensified so much yesterday that regular activities at the ministry were severely hampered, said sources at the ministry.

Each lawmaker was seen pressing for over 10-15 institutions of their choice.

"We are under extreme pressure. We have been receiving requests from many quarters including our honourable members of parliament," Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid told The Daily Star yesterday.

"Selecting institutions under the monthly pay order facility is a complicated task as the number of teachers and their salary structures vary from institution to institution. We are trying to complete it as quickly as possible," he said.

"At least 12 lawmakers came to meet the minister today [yesterday]," said a ministry official, preferring not to be named.

Non-government schools, colleges

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People frantically trying to pick as many mangoes as they can at Dhaka City Corporation's Jatrabari garbage dump as a tractor takes a pause from crushing them yesterday. A mobile court dumped the chemical soaked mangoes there for destruction after seizing those raiding a wholesale fruit market in South Jatrabari earlier in the day. PHOTO: STAR

ACC questions Huda over bridge project

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday interrogated former communications minister Nazmul Huda in connection with an inquiry regarding government loss of around Tk 100 crore in Bhairab Bridge project.

The BNP leader reached the ACC office around 11:00am. ACC Assistant Director Harunur Rashid questioned Huda for about an hour.

After the interrogation Huda told reporters, "There cannot be any question of irregularities or corruption." He claimed that everything including the issuance of work

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Teachers for perks

Duta places 28-point demand; research, development ignored

RAKIB AHAMMED

Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) has placed a 28-point demand before the university administration and the government but issues like development in academic and research facilities did not get place in the package.

All the demands speak for the financial interests of the academics. The Duta leaders also sought the prime minister's direct involvement in fulfilling a few of the demands that top the list.

The top demands that require the prime minister's attention are: plot for every teacher from Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha, salary scales as per in India and Pakistan, scholarships abroad for new teachers, and new buildings to resolve their accommodation crisis.

The issues that were not included in the demands are: increasing books in libraries, modernising laboratories, computerising academic and administrative offices, ensuring IT facilities for students, more classrooms and exam halls, facilities for research work, resolving acute accommodation crisis of students and repairing old dormitories.

Duta placed the demands before DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique on March 1. The leaders of the association yesterday met the top DU administrators at the vice chancellor's office to discuss development regarding their demands.

The 28-point demands also include VIP and other protocol facilities at the airports for the professors, re-fixing of TA/DA, full salary

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Gulshan Club asked not to use floodlights for games

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court bench yesterday directed Gulshan Club authorities to impose restriction on using floodlights from 7:00pm to 11:00pm for the next three months.

Upon a writ petition, the bench of justices Mohammad Anwarul Haque and Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain also issued a rule on the government to explain as to why its inaction in preventing misuse of electricity at this club should not be declared illegal.

The bench asked the energy and power secretary,

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Cheating in the name of jinn

MUKHLESUR RAHMAN

In the dead of night, around 2:15 am on January 6, a male voice called the cellphone of polytechnic student Rubi Akhter Rifa. The man identified himself as a jinn -- a supernatural spirit Muslims believe in -- and ordered her to establish an orphanage and a mosque in her parents' names.

Rifa, fourth year student of Institute of Information Technology of Bogra (IITB) in Bogra town, objected. She was only a student. But the mysterious voice assured her that Allah had reserved for her a treasure of Tk 50,000 crore. The catch: She had to make offerings, starting with three goats, 101 kg of aromatic rice and spices. Or she could just give him Tk 11,151, the value of the gifts.

So began what the student described as a four-month ordeal that included black-mail, repeated late-night cellphone calls and mental distress that ended when Rapid Action Battalion officers finally arrested two men for fraud.

Police say these kind of jinn-related scams are becoming more common across the country, including Dhaka. And yesterday about one hundred purported victims

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Border killing to be stopped

Indian HC assures home minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

India yesterday reassured Bangladesh that it would fully stop the killings of Bangladeshis by the Indian Border guards on the frontier.

The assurance came after Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Rajeev Mitter had called on Home Minister Sahara Khatun at her Secretariat office last morning.

"He (Mitter) reassured us that the killings would come to an end," Sahara told reporters.

She added that more meetings between the two countries are necessary for this purpose.

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Dumpsters haphazardly line the lakeside section of Road no 8A in Dhanmondi of the capital, narrowing down the street and creating traffic jams every day. The bins also constantly spread foul odour in the neighbourhood. PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

BARISAL POLYTECHNIC CLASH

BCL activities suspended

14 held; 2 expelled; OC closed

A CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Bangladesh Chhatra League central committee yesterday imposed a moratorium on the activities of its Barisal Polytechnic Institute unit for an indefinite period following Tuesday's factional clash.

It also suspended the activities of BCL's Barisal city committee.

Police on Tuesday night arrested 14 people including the president, and general secretary of Barisal Polytechnic Institute unit of BCL for their involvement in the fight.

Two BCL activists including BM College unit's Joint Convener Moeen Tusher were expelled from the organisation last night for their involvement in the clash.

Meanwhile, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Model Police Station was closed due to his failure to bring the situation under control at the institute. Three other cops were also suspended.

BCL President Mahmud Hasan Ripon acknowledged the activity suspensions of the ruling Awami League backed student organisation's units.

Barisal metropolitan police commissioner formed a three-member enquiry committee headed by Deputy Police Commissioner (South) Moniruzzaman to probe into the clash.

After Tuesday's clash Polytechnic Institute Principal Meer Mosharraf Hossain filed a case with Kotwali Model Police Station against 30 to 35 unidentified people.

In the case statement he said so-called students and

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STRANDED SEAMEN 10 brought to mainland Benin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ten of the 27 seamen who were stranded in ships off-shore Benin were brought to the mainland of the West African country on Tuesday.

"They are now staying in a hotel. We are arranging e-tickets for them to return home in a day or two," said a foreign ministry official yesterday.

The rest 17 were scheduled to get on shore yesterday, he said.

The development took place after Bangladesh's charge d' affaires Lutfar

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UK votes today

AFP, London

Party leaders criss-crossed Britain in a frantic final day of campaigning yesterday as they battled to win over undecided voters, before today's election expected to be the closest contest in decades.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown, David Cameron of the main opposition Conservatives and Nick Clegg of the Liberal Democrats all acknowledged that the election was still up for grabs.

The urgency of the last-minute campaigning was underlined by a poll showing that nearly four in 10 voters were yet to make up their mind who to back today.

In the face of polls showing the Conservatives ahead in the race, Brown said he was "determined" and "resolute" to keep Labour in government for a fourth term.

Brown told a crowd in Bradford, northern England, that a Conservative government would plunge the economy back into recession with their promises of deep cuts.

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AUG 21 CASE

CID questions Anwarul Babar's bail petition rejected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminal Investigation Department on Tuesday questioned former adviser to the caretaker government Anwarul Iqbal about the August 21 grenade attack, as he was the then director general of Rab.

"I questioned him in the August 21 grenade attack cases on Tuesday," Investigation Officer (IO) of the grenade attack case CID's Special Superintendent Abdul Kahar Akand told The Daily Star yesterday.

He however refused to give details of the questioning about the attack on an Awami League rally on Bangabandhu Avenue in 2004 that left its 23 leaders and workers killed and scores wounded.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday rejected bail petitions of detained former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar in the grenade attack cases.

Third Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Ali Hossain passed the order after Babar's lawyers submitted two petitions seeking his bail. Babar was shown arrested in the cases on October 26 last year and later remanded several times.

CID issued a letter to Iqbal asking him to be present at its office at Malibagh on Tuesday. On

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20 kg of heroin seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs intelligence arrested an Indian with around 20 kilograms of heroin from Shahjalal International Airport early yesterday.

The arrestee was identified as Elamurugu Maruthamuthu, 28, from Tamilnadu, India. He was leaving Dhaka for Indonesia via Singapore by a flight of Singapore Airlines.

"Maruthamuthu was carrying an Indian passport and we found heroin from his

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Prayer Timing

May 6

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-34	6-38
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

OnlinePoll ✓

Do you think the Supreme Court's order that cleared the way to remove all illegal structures from rivers around Dhaka has put the government to test to show its sincerity about saving rivers?

Yes (83.2%)
 No (11.4%)
 No Comments (5.4%)

Total votes: 351

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government is deliberately taking time to stop the BCL's ongoing violence?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net