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People's Right to Know www.thedailystar.net

::: Welcome to Ministry of Industries :::

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'Digital Bangladesh' down

Most of 250 official websites mock PM's vision for change

nt of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

RIZANUZZAMAN LASKAR

While the government dreams of a "Digital Bangladesh" by 2021, most of the 250 official websites sampled in recent weeks contained outdated information, dead links and "web page under construction" signs.

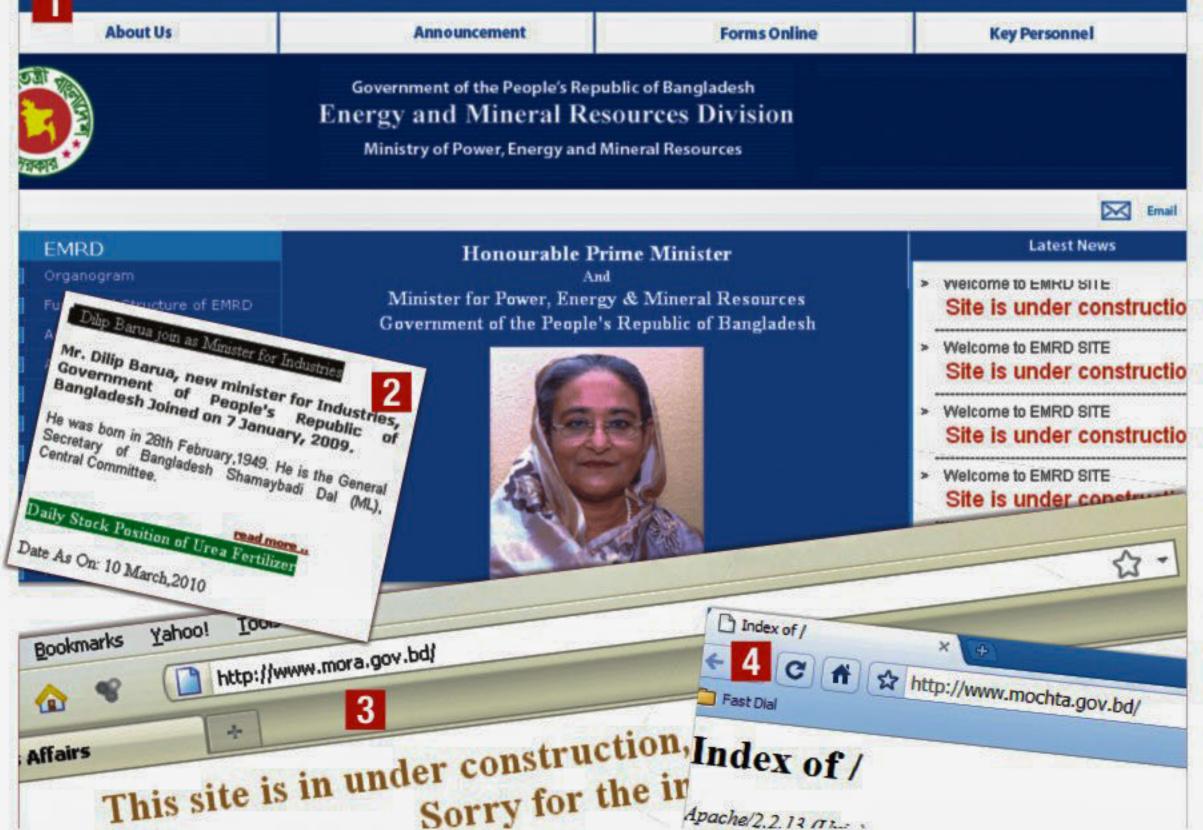
The sports ministry website, for instance, features the "current news" about a triumphant return of the Bangladesh cricket team from a World Cup tour--three years ago.

The websites for the power ministry's Energy and Mineral Resources Division, as well as for the religious affairs ministry, had several cyber potholes and "under construction"

The industries ministry website gives the news of Dilip Barua being sworn in as the new minister last January, 2009, as its current news. The most recent information on the site is the "daily stock position of Urea fertiliser", which is two months old.

A number of anti-virus software also warned of possible malware when accessing some government websites.

Experts say that government websites, launched 10 years ago as part of the e-governance initiative, were intended to make it easier for citizens to interact with public agencies. It meant no longer wait in queues in government offices to make complaints, pay bills or apply **SEE PAGE 15 COL 1**



SAMPLES OF THE GOVERNMENT'S DIGITAL DEBACLE: 1. The website of Energy and Mineral Resources Division shows all linked pages under its latest news section are still under construction. 2. The current news on the industries ministry website still announcing Industries Minister Dilip Barua's joining on January 7 last year. 3. The Ministry of Religious Affairs website is also announcing expected launching "soon". 4. Logging on to the CHT affairs ministry website is not even possible.

Sorry for the ir

Khaleda legalised Tk 1.33cr Says AL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League (AL) said yesterday BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia legalised Tk 1.33 crore undisclosed money on August 6, 2007, by paying Tk 33.87 lakh in penalty and taxes on it.

"We have proofs that she (Khaleda) legalised undisclosed money, and there is no question about it," said AL Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif.

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Govt readies Ramadan sugar 25,000 tonnes sugar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

import approved

The cabinet committee on purchase yesterday approved import of 25,000 tonnes of sugar to keep the market stable during the month of Ramadan.

The state-owned Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation will import the sugar through Asia Commodity Limited, a local importer, at a cost of Tk 89.73 crore.

A cabinet division official said as per the agreement the importer will supply the sugar to the government by the first

week of Ramadan. Finance Minister AMA Muhith presided over the purchase

committee meeting. **SEE PAGE 15 COL 7**

SENTENCED IN ABSENTIA

Helal, wife sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent lawmaker Sheikh Helaluddin, also a cousin of Sheikh Hasina, and his wife Rupa Chowdhury to jail in a graft case in which the two were tried in absentia, found guilty and sentenced.

Helal was also shown arrested yesterday in an extortion case.

Judge (in charge) Mohammad Mozammel Hossain of the Special Judge Court-6 passed the order after Awami League leader Helal and Rupa appeared before the court and sought bail



imprisonment for abetting her

wealth information to the Anti-Corruption Commission while Rupa was sentenced to three years'

On February 24, 2008, Judge

Tanjina Ismail sentenced Helal to 13

years' imprisonment for amassing

wealth illegally and concealing

husband in acquiring the wealth. Sheikh Helaluddin At the MP Hostel of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban Complex, Special Court-6 also directed the government to confiscate their wealth worth over Tk 7.60 crore, which is

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ATN cameraman found dead

Affairs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A cameraman of ATN Bangla, a private TV channel, was found dead yesterday at Rustampur on the outskirts of the capital.

The body of Shafiqul Islam alias Mithu, 40, senior cameraman of ATN Bangla, was recovered from Mirpur-Uttara embankment at Rustampur at about 10:15am. Mithu was a resident of Madhyapara

in capital's Dakkhin Khan area.

His body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Shafiqul Islam

Biman plane survives a scare

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After hovering in the sky for two hours and dumping fuel in the air, a Riyadh-bound Biman aircraft landed safely at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital early yesterday.

"With 301 passengers on board, the DC10-30 aircraft took off from the airport at 3:30am. After some time, pilot found pneumatic problem for

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Shooting was not planned

Apache/2.2.12 172.

Says outgoing BDR boss at his last press briefing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A number of over enthusiasts triggered the mutiny of border guards last year by spreading rumours, said outgoing Director General of Bangladesh Rifles Maj Gen M Mainul Islam.

Mainul addressed his last press briefing as the DG before handing over the charge to his successor Maj Gen Rafiqul Islam at Pilkhana headquarters conference room in the morning yesterday.

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Monday, 10 May 2010

Qulkhani of Late. Farhad Bin Mannan

We express our deepest grief & profound sorrow at the sudden demise of Mr. Farhad Bin Mannan, Director, Phoenix Insurance Company Limited, the only son of Late. Maj. Gen. Abdul Mannan Siddiqui (Retd.), the Founding Chairman of Phoenix Insurance Company Limited. On May 7, 2010, Friday, he left us for eternity (Inalillah Woainna Ilaihi Rajeun) at his residence. He was 42.

A Milad & Doa Mehfil will be held today (Monday, 10 May 2010) at his residence after the Maghrib prayer. All relatives and well wishers are requested to attend and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

The bereaved family members

60 criminal cases against Selim dropped in 4 months

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

The government has withdrawn 60 criminal cases out of 120 against former Awami League lawmaker Haji Mohammad Selim in last four months terming the charges politically motivated and meant for harassment."

Selim is an accused of highest number of criminal cases filed against an individual in Bangladesh.

His counsel Pran Nath told The Daily Star that following Selim's instruction he had earlier filed appeals for withdrawal of the cases as the government had decided to withdraw such "politically motivated cases."

He said the government have also decided to withdraw 35 other cases and asked Additional District standing. Magistrate to take necessary steps in this



regard. Another 25 cases have been disposed of through "mutual understanding" between the complainants and the accused.

Seventeen other cases have also been disposed of through mutual under-

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Train crushes two to death

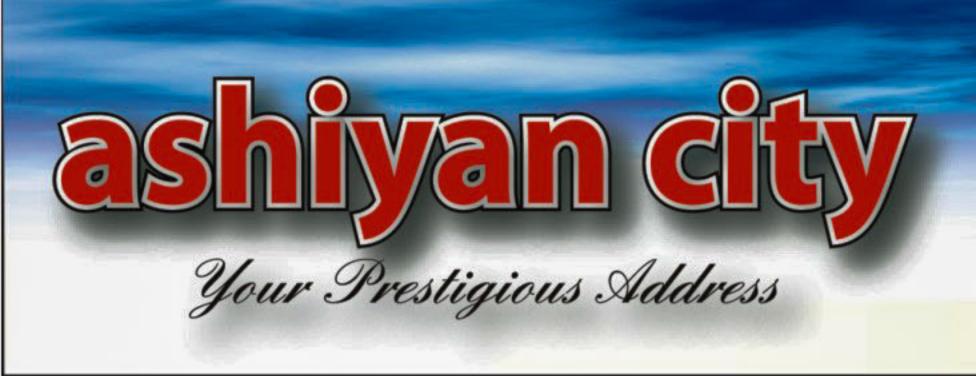
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman and her brother-inlaw were crushed to death by a train at Mohakhali in the

capital. The dead are Shefali Saha, 32, wife of Amit Saha of Mirzapur upazila in Tangail, and Amit's brother Alok Saha, 37. They came to Dhaka from

Tangail for Amit's treatment. Anwar Hossain, assistant sub-inspector of Government Railway Police, said they got down from a bus near

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



Please Contact 8831207-08

Ashiyan Lands Development Ltd.

ব্লক-এ, জি, আই

२२ विघा, १ विघा, ১२ काठा, ১০ काठा, १ काठा, ७ काठा, ७ काठा, ७ काठा ७ ७ काठा



ফাইভ ষ্টার হোটেল, বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, স্কুল, কলেজ, হাসপাতাল, শপিংমল প্রতিষ্ঠার অনন্য সুযোগ।

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