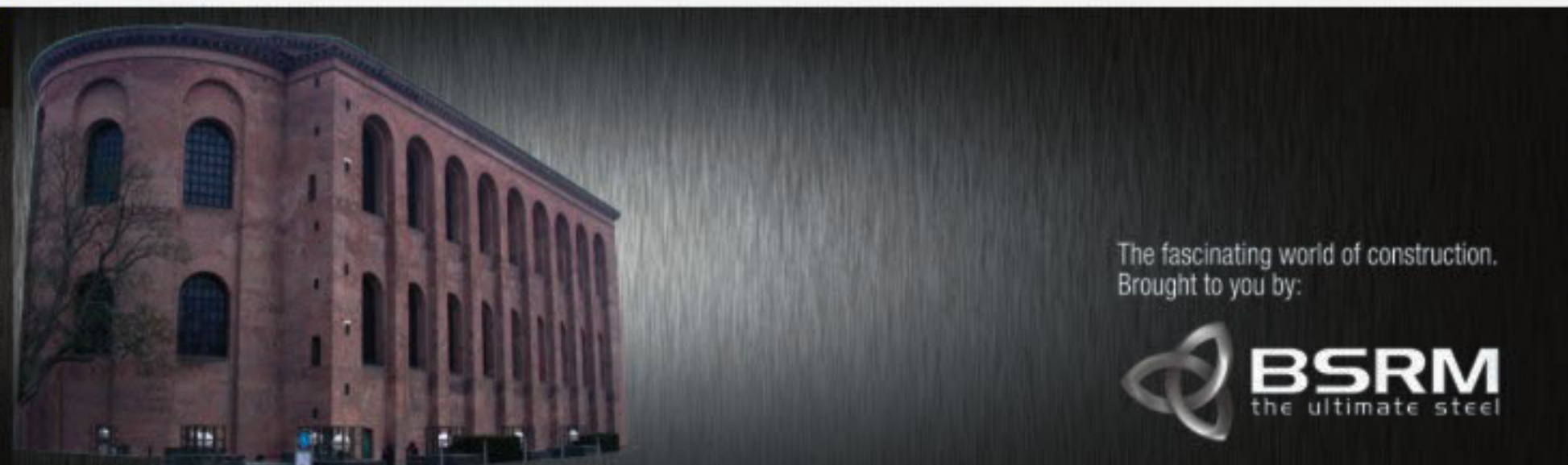


**Did you know?**

The Basilica of Maxentius & Constantine was the largest building in the Roman Forum. Built in 312, the building consisted of a central nave covered by three groin vaults suspended 39 meters above the floor on four large piers, ending in an apse at the western end containing a statue of Constantine.



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**BNP to take legal action against NBR Threatens Delwar over Khaleda's 'tax info leakage'**

UNB, Dhaka

BNP has threatened to take legal steps against the National Board of Revenue for leaking out confidential information relating to party chief Khaleda Zia's income tax in violation of laws.

The threat came at a press briefing at the party's central office yesterday afternoon that was addressed by BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain and the BNP

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**JS budget session on June 2**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad goes into its budget session on June 2.

President Zillur Rahman has summoned the JS to sit, said a Parliament Secretariat press release yesterday.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith had earlier told reporters that the budget for

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**Hill, forest plundered for land port**

**Existence of centuries-old temple threatened**

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Several hundred Keora and Bain trees at a mangrove forest adjacent to the Naf River have been felled to expand Teknaf land port.

Earth for the land expansion is cut out from croplands and several hills in the Teknaf upazila.

Besides, a Buddhist temple of Rakhine community is at risk of falling as the 200-year-old shrine is atop the Buddha Jadi hill, which is being plundered as well.

The leaders of the community have contacted high-ups but could not stop the menace.

Mahmudul Hossain, Teknaf Range officer of Forest Department, said, the then government on November 5, 2003 acquired about 27 square kilometres of coastal mangrove land at Keruntoli for setting up the land port.

A few years later, the land port was put under a private management, which is now expanding the port land by chopping down trees, said Mahmudul.

It has been reported to the higher authorities, he added.

Visiting Hnila union of the upazila, it was found that croplands and hills, including the Jadi hill, have already been destroyed.

Some 20 to 30 workers were loading the earth, cut out from the croplands and hills, into trucks and taking to the land port.

Sahara Khatun, a local housewife, said since start of hill cutting, the tidal surges of the Naf often erode the area.

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Almost flattened Buddha Jadi hill in Teknaf. The hill was cut for soil by a private company that manages Teknaf land port. Inset, earth from the hill is used to expand the port by the Naf River, clear cutting a mangrove forest. An official of the company said they already cut several other hills for the purpose.

**BTCL MD shown the door**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has cancelled the appointment of SM Khabiruzzaman as managing director of Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Ltd (BTCL) on the ground of faulty recruitment process, sources in the telecom ministry said.

The establishment ministry appointed Khabiruzzaman on February 22, 2009 for a two-year term as BTCL MD. After one year, the same ministry cancelled his appointment on Tuesday.

The BTCL board is yet to

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**Water vessel strike loses grip on day 6**

**Govt ultimatum for withdrawal extended till 5pm today**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The movement of water vessels on different routes seemed to have become almost normal yesterday though Bangladesh Nourjan Samik Federation did not withdraw its indefinite strike.

Meanwhile, Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan yesterday at a press briefing in Chittagong extended the government-set 24-hour ultimatum till 5:00pm today to withdraw the strike.

"Those who would join the work by 5:00pm

tomorrow [Friday] showing proper cause for the delay would be spared from the action," the minister said.

"The others failing to resume the work by the given time would face stern legal actions like cancellation of licence and other departmental punishments," said Shahjahan. He reiterated that no negotiation would be held unless the strike is withdrawn.

Meanwhile, the director general of the Department of Shipping Bazlur Rahman yesterday formed a committee asking to submit a

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**Quit to contest Says EC about Ctg mayor's bid for re-election**

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Unlike the last two times, ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury now has to step down as Chittagong City Corporation mayor to contest the June 17 CCC polls.

According to the current city corporation act, Mohiuddin will be disqualified from contesting the CCC election if he does not relinquish the office of profit.

The Election Commission yesterday examined the electoral laws and a recent Supreme Court verdict on the matter. It came to the conclusion that the incumbent CCC mayor must resign to contest the election, said EC officials.

Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda said the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



ABM Mohiuddin

**DMP to keep eye on freed prisoners**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police is collecting addresses of some prisoners to check a possible law and order slide as the government has recently decided to release them to live by fair means.

DMP Commissioner AKM Shahidul Hoque said they would keep watch on the freed prisoners so that they cannot commit crime again.

The DMP commissioner said this at a monthly crime conference held at Rajarbagh Telecommunications auditorium yesterday afternoon.

He said the prisoners with longer terms become physically weak to commit crime again and their networks also get destroyed.

The prisons department as well as the government took the decision to release some prisoners with two different views -- purging the overcrowded jails and providing the criminals with chances to be corrected.

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**ACC questions MK Anwar over Bhairab bridge 'graft'**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former agriculture minister MK Anwar said yesterday nothing was done beyond the laws and rules of business in approving the construction of Bhairab Bridge.

Talking to journalists about his statement to an Anti-Corruption Commission probe team, Anwar said proper procedure was followed, and no public money was misappropriated in the construction of the bridge.

ACC Deputy Director Harunur Rashid, assisted by

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Passengers throng Sadarghat Launch Terminal yesterday, after the ongoing water transport workers' strike lost almost all its steam on the sixth day.

**BNP to join CCC polls**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong city unit BNP yesterday decided to take part in the upcoming Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) elections slated for June 17.

Leaders of the city unit took the decision at a meeting in Dhaka last night though the party earlier said it would not participate in any elections under the present Election Commission (EC).

A three-member panel of mayoral candidate was also prepared at the meeting. They are Giasuddin Quader Chowdhury, Shahadat Hossain and Dostogir Chowdhury.

They will also convey this message to party Chairperson Khaleda Zia as a recommendation.

However, Abdullah Al Noman, one of the most influential leaders of Chittagong

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**Thai general shot on the street during interview**

AFP, Bangkok

A renegade Thai general allied with "Red Shirt" anti-government protesters was shot and seriously wounded yesterday, hours after authorities threatened a lockdown of the vast rally site.

Gunshots and a series of loud explosions were heard close to the Red Shirts' sprawling encampment in the retail heart of the capital occupied by thousands of opposition protesters in the latest bout of violence.

Police said an unknown number of people were taken to hospitals in the area. Blood was splattered on the street near the shooting, though it was not clear where the firing came from.

It came after the prime minister shelved a plan for November elections and hopes faded for a resolution to a crippling two-month crisis that has sparked periodic violence, leaving 29 people dead and 1,000 injured.

The International Herald Tribune reported that Major-General Khattiya Sawasdiapol was shot in the head during an interview with one of its reporters close to the protest hub.

The dissident soldier, a key figure in the protest movement, was shot in the right temple and was undergoing an operation in intensive care, a spokesman for the official Erawan emergency centre told AFP.

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**Mugger beaten to death Criminal injured in Rab gunfight**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mugger was beaten to death by locals in the city's Gabtoli area yesterday morning and an alleged criminal was bullet-hit during a gunfight between his cohorts and Rapid Action Battalion in Lalbagh in the early hours yesterday.

The mugger was identified as Anwar Hossain, 28, while

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**OnlinePoll** ✓

Do you think the government is handling the river transport strike situation properly?

- Yes (14.2%)
- No (81.3%)
- No Comments (4.5%)

**Total votes: 444**

**TODAY'S POLL**

How do you look at Khaleda Zia's allegations against the government?

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

**Prayer Timing**

May 14

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

Source: Islamic Foundation

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