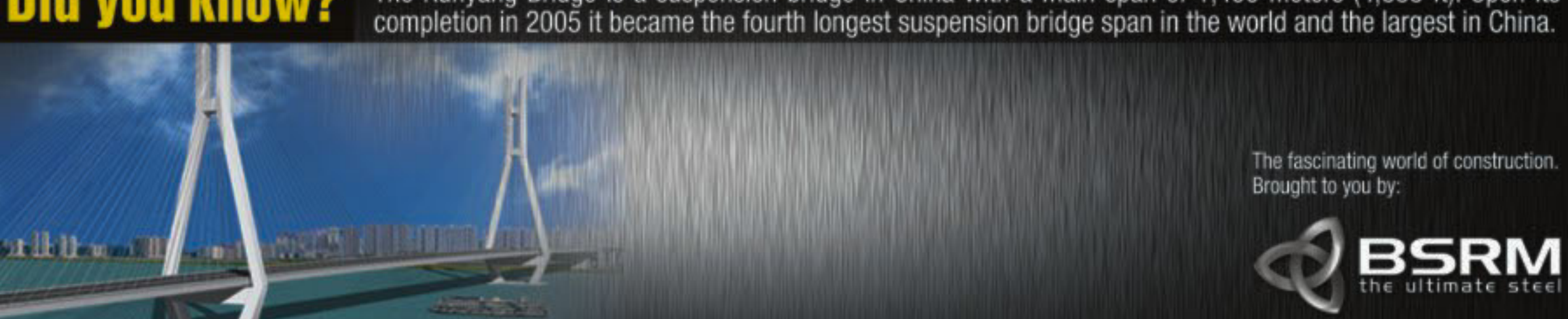


Did you know? The Runyang Bridge is a suspension bridge in China with a main span of 1,490 meters (4,888 ft). Upon its completion in 2005 it became the fourth longest suspension bridge span in the world and the largest in China.



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CHOGM heads of govt meet in Australia next year

UNB, Dhaka

Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Commonwealth Secretary General Kamallesh Sharma announced yesterday that the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) will be held in Perth, Western Australia on October 28-30, 2011.

CHOGM is held every two years and is the highest consultative and policy-making mechanism of the Commonwealth.

A message from the Commonwealth Secretariat in London said the PM Rudd stated that as a committed and active member of the

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Local admin asked to monitor NGOs

Probe on to find alleged militancy link, anti-state activities of some foreign-funds NGOs

ALPHA ARZU

Upazila nirbahi officers and deputy commissioners will monitor local level activities of foreign funded NGOs from now on, according to a recent government decision.

The move came following allegations from field levels against about 50 foreign funded NGOs that they have links with militancy, terrorism, and other anti-state activities, bureau sources said.

The NGO Affairs Bureau (NGOAB) already sent letters to more than 2,300

non-government organisations asking those to submit copies of their local level project approvals, obtained from the bureau, to respective deputy commissioners' (DC) offices.

NGOAB Deputy Director Muhammad Ibrahim said intelligence agencies have been investigating the allegations.

Some of the NGOs working in Khagrachhari, Chittagong, and Cox's Bazar areas have such allegations against them, said a bureau source on condition of anonymity.

Kamal Uddin Ahmed, joint secretary (political) to the home ministry, told The Daily Star last week that there are allegations against some local and foreign NGOs that they are trying to create a volatile situation in the country.

Some of those already published features and reports, detrimental to the country's image, on their websites which are viewed globally, he said.

"So, we are trying to find the intention of those NGOs, if they are not harmful to

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FORMING DIST, UPAZILA COMMITTEES BNP grassroots skip elections

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

As the national executive and standing committees, BNP's grassroots units are forming their committees through elections to only a few top-level posts in contravention of the party constitution.

BNP constitution says the executive committee of the party's district, upazila and municipality unit will be elected from among the councillors.

But in most cases, the councils of the party's grassroots level units are electing only the president and general secretary.

After that, full-fledged committees are formed in consultation with the district leaders concerned, party insiders said.

Asked about the provision in the party charter, a few presidents and general secretaries said they were elected in the council and the council empowered them to pick other office bearers and members of the committees.

Once the remaining office bearers are incorporated in the committees, they are considered to be elected members, they claimed.

The party has held councils in 59 out of 75 organisational districts so far. Of them, only a few have full-fledged committees.

The process has begun to form executive committees at BNP's upazila and municipality level units just the same way, they said.

On December 8 last year, the BNP's national council only elected Khaleda Zia and her elder son Tarique Rahman as chairperson and senior vice-chairman respectively.

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BNP calls hartal in Munshiganj on Sunday

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Leaders and activists of BNP district unit yesterday called for a dawn-to-dusk hartal in Munshiganj Sunday protesting the killing of a local BNP activist.

The BNP leaders alleged that ruling party cadres attacked them while they were going to Dhaka to attend the grand rally on Wednesday and killed BNP activist Akbar Hossain.

However, organising secretary of the district Awami League Jamal Uddin claimed that Akbar was not a BNP activist. BNP is trying to create

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The condition of this road near Jurain Level Crossing in the capital has been in this sorry state for quite a long time, causing accidents frequently, locals said.

Scientists make 'artificial life'

AP, Washington

Scientists announced a bold step Thursday in the enduring quest to create artificial life. They've produced a living cell powered by manmade DNA.

While such work can evoke images of Frankenstein-like scientific tinkering, it also is exciting hopes that it could eventually lead to new fuels, better ways to clean polluted water, faster vaccine production and more.

Is it really an artificial life form?

The inventors call it the world's first synthetic cell, although this initial step is more a re-creation of existing life changing one simple type of bacterium into another than a built-from-scratch kind.

But Maryland genome-mapping pioneer J Craig Venter said his team's project paves the way for the ultimate, much harder goal: designing organisms that work differently from the way nature intended for a wide range of uses. Already he's working with ExxonMobil in hopes of turning algae into fuel.

"This is the first self-replicating species we've had on the planet whose parent is a computer," Venter told reporters.

And the report, being published Friday in the journal Science, is triggering excitement in this growing field of synthetic biology.

"It's been a long time coming, and it was worth the wait," said Dr George Church, a Harvard Medical School genetics professor. "It's a milestone that has potential

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OnlinePoll

Do you agree with BNP that the government is controlling news and talk shows?

- Yes (51.3%)
- No (47.3%)
- No Comments (1.3%)

Total votes: 1280

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with ruling Awami League that BNP has called countrywide hartal to foil the trial of war criminals?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

May 22

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-40	6-45
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

ATTACK ON PROF HUMAYUN AZAD CID fails to find out mastermind in 6yrs

KAILASH SARKAR

Criminal Investigation Department is yet to find out those who masterminded the attack on eminent writer Prof Humayun Azad in 2004.

On October 6 last year, family members of the litterateur rejected the first probe into the attack saying the names of the masterminds were missing in the charge sheet. Then on October 20 last year, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka ordered CID investigators to carry out further investigation.

Earlier, CID framed a charge sheet against



five JMB men including JMB leader Abdur Rahman and his brother Ataur Rahman Sunny on November 15, 2007 after its first probe. The three others were Nur Mohammad alias Shamim, Nur Alam alias Anwar Hossain alias Bhaigna Shahid and Mizanur Rahman Minhaz.

Latifa Khanam, wife of Prof Azad, on Tuesday expressing her frustration over the progress of the investigation in the last six years asked as to how long she has to wait to see the real culprits brought to justice.

Meanwhile, as part of a fresh investigation,

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Man hacked to death in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Criminals hacked a man to death in Mirpur upazila of the district Thursday night.

The dead was identified as Kabir Ali, 45, son of late Abu Bakkar of Dharmadah village in the upazila.

Police said Kabir went to Kazipur bazar in Gangni upazila of Meherpur district Thursday evening. He started for home at around 9:00pm.

A gang of seven to eight persons waylaid him as he reached Dharmadah bridge at about 9:30pm, witnesses said.

The criminals hacked him

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Bid to grab school playground: 2 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people were arrested while trying to grab the playground of Motijheel Government Boys High School yesterday.

The arrestees were SM Ekramullah Liton and his cousin Md Dalim, residents of Bangshal in the capital. They claimed that their ancestors owned the piece of land and they went there to take control of the 36 decimals of land.

Witnesses said the two came to the playground of the school around 5:30am in a car, which had a sticker that read "Supreme Court of Bangladesh", and declared the land their family property.

Bringing in some construction workers, they even tried to erect walls around it.

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HUSBAND'S CRUELTY Woman dies after 23-day fight for life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housewife died last night at Dhaka Medical College Hospital after fighting for life for 23 days with serious burn injuries.

Seema Khatun, 18, of Badarganj upazila of Rangpur district, was set on fire by her husband on April 28 at their Badarganj house, as she failed

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অনুর্ধ্ব ১৮ বৎসরের মফন শিশুর বিনা ফি-তে জন্ম নিবন্ধন করুন

৩০ জুন ২০১০ মধ্যে

বয়স্কদের জন্ম নিবন্ধন ফি মাত্র ৫০.০০ টাকা

সকল ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ, পৌরসভা, সিটি কর্পোরেশন ও ক্যান্টনমেন্ট বোর্ড জন্ম ও মৃত্যু নিবন্ধন করে থাকে।

অচারে: জন্ম ও মৃত্যু নিবন্ধন প্রকল্প, স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগ

Peace restored in Thailand PM pledges free probe into all incidents

AP, Bangkok

Thailand's leader promised an independent probe into "all events" surrounding the Red Shirt anti-government protests and called yesterday for reconciliation to heal deep political divisions that led to widespread violence and 83 deaths in two months.

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, addressing the nation in a televised speech, made no mention of new elections, a key demand of the Red Shirts.

"Fellow citizens, we all live in the same house. Now, our house has been damaged. We have to help each other," Abhisit said.

"We can certainly repair damaged infrastructure and buildings, but the important thing is to heal the emotional wounds and restore unity among the Thai people," the Oxford-educated Abhisit said in an emotional speech that contrasted with his typical academic style.

He said order had been restored in Bangkok, where soldiers

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The Daily Star Coming out tomorrow - Star Campus

Linking Young Minds Together

The Daily Star offers campus based weekly magazine 'Star Campus' - the ultimate magazine for the young generation - a common platform for the college and university students and academicians - to share their ideas, thoughts, dreams, opinions and views. Star Campus is an endeavour to bring into the center stage the visionary aspects of our college and university students, alongside their lifestyle, cultural trends and their multidimensional talents. Star Campus is a magazine broadly based on campus life! It contains articles, academic news, achievements, travelogues, interviews, book reviews, quiz, milestones, academic tips, profiles of educational institutes, cultural and extra-curricular activities in campus, jokes, cartoons, photographs and much more. This is a magazine Of the Students, By the Students and For the Students. Star Campus helps link young minds together.

