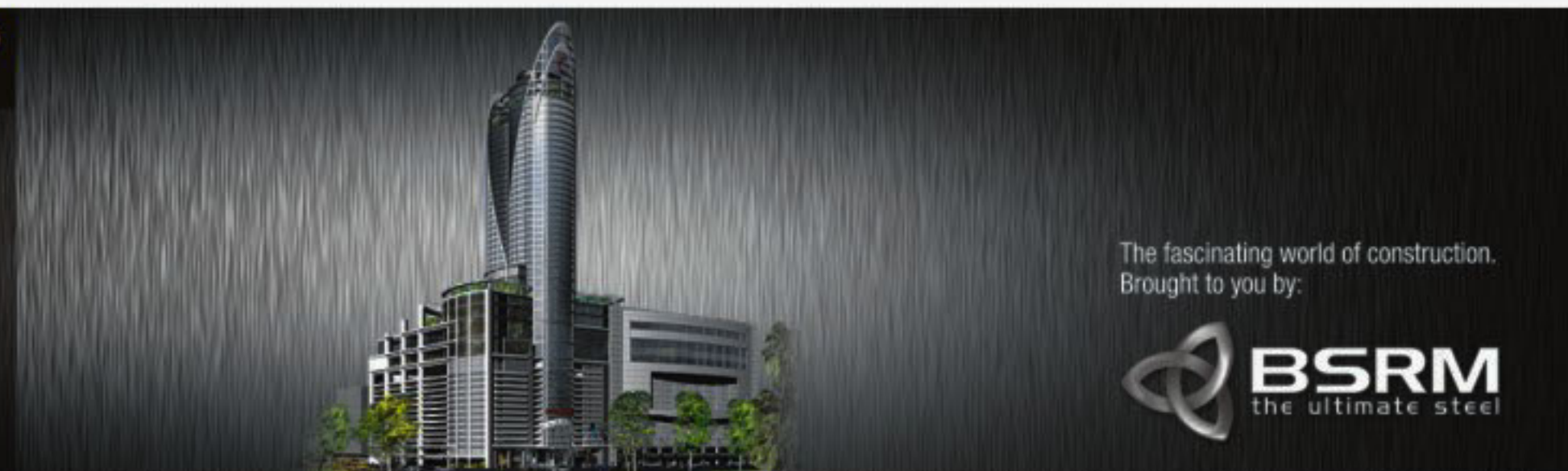


Did you know?

Central World is a shopping plaza and complex in Bangkok, Thailand. It is the 2nd largest shopping complex in Southeast Asia. After three years of design and renovation, Central World was expanded to 550,000 square meters of shopping mall and 1,024,000 square meters of complex.



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Shady contracts led to poor road work

DCC awarded job to favoured firms by advertising in little-known papers, CAG report says

JASIM UDDIN KHAN
Dhaka City Corporation officials steered Tk 70 crore of road contracts to favoured firms by advertising for bids in obscure newspapers, according to a Comptroller and Auditor General report. The scheme resulted in such shoddy road work that many of the project roads had to be reconstructed within three years, the summary reports says.

"The project has been deprived of competitive price resulting in loss of government money," the report said. A DCC official said the audit was wrong. He said auditors made up the allegations after the department refused to pay them bribes. "Auditors, during audit of the particular project, demanded money from us," said DCC Public Relations Officer Abdur Rahman. "We did not give it to them, for which they raised those objections." The department did publish the advertisement to national newspapers, he said.

The project was aimed at reconstructing several dozen city roads that had been damaged in the 2004 floods. The money for the work came from Japanese debt relief assistance in the fiscal 2005-06. According to public procurement guideline, the DCC had to advertise the tender in two widely circulated newspapers and one English-language daily. The process ensures participation of all contractors in the bidding process so that the DCC can pay the lowest price.

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Trott ton thwarts Tigers

SPORTS REPORTER

Jonathan Trott was batting on 143 as England reached 296 for the loss of four wickets after 77 overs on the opening day of the first Test against Bangladesh at Lord's yesterday. Paceman Shahadat Hossain gave the Tigers a promising start when he trapped Alastair Cook leg-before in the fifth over, but they failed to take advantage of their decision to field first on a greenish top as England captain Andrew Strauss and Trott added 181 for the second wicket. Bangladesh had some success with the old ball when Shakib Al Hasan removed the

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Forget all disputes: Hasina asks Ctg AL leaders, forms CCC campaign body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked her party leaders of Chittagong unit to forget all disputes and work unitedly to ensure Mohiuddin's victory in the upcoming Chittagong City Corporation elections. "It's a challenge for us and we have to overcome it by forgetting all disputes and keeping the interest of Chittagong people above all." Hasina said this while addressing a meeting with the influential leaders and lawmakers of the port city at her official residence Gono Bhaban in the capital. The AL chief also formed a committee to conduct the mayoral election campaign with AL leaders Ishaque Miah as its chairman and Kazi Enamul Haque Danu its general secretary. In the meeting, a few anti-Mohiuddin faction leaders told the AL president that Mohiuddin himself was responsible for creating factions. "He [Mohiuddin] is responsible for all this," Mahtab Uddin Chowdhury, a Chittagong AL leader said. On his part, Mohiuddin offered apology to the leaders, who

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Manjur denies joining BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Mohammad Manjur Alam Manju, BNP-backed and Chattagram Unnayan Andolon mayoral candidate for Chittagong City Corporation polls, yesterday denied his formal joining BNP. Talking to The Daily Star Manju, however, admitted his attachment with BNP and intention of joining the party, if required, after the election. BNP city unit president Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury claimed that Manju has been a member of the party for over one and a half years. Manju said, "I don't know anything about filling in any party form. So far as I know, to

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PHOTO: COURTESY

Devotees praise the Lord Buddha at International Buddhist Monastery in the capital's Badda yesterday on the occasion of Buddha Purnima, the biggest religious festival of the Buddhist community.

Buddha Purnima observed

BSS, Dhaka

Buddha Purnima, the biggest religious festival of the Buddhist community, was celebrated in the country yesterday. The Buddhist community chalked out various programmes to observe the day in a befitting manner. The day was a public holiday. President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina greeted the countrymen, including members of the Buddhist community, in separate messages. Leader of the Opposition in the Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia also greeted the Buddhist community in a

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Stop wastage of food to feed hungry people

Hasina urges people

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for preventing wastage of foods as crore of people around the world go hungry for want of it. Hasina made the call during a meeting with the Assistant Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) for Asia and the Pacific Hiroyuki Konuma at her official residence Ganabhaban. The premier said "all of us would have to try" to stop the wastages of food items--from the production level to 'ready food'--and find ways to do it. "The extra foods that will be available can be distributed among the people who are starving," she said. Hasina narrated the steps the government

has taken during her present and the previous tenure for making the country food surplus from a food deficit one. Press Secretary to the PM Abul Kalam Azad briefed the reporters after the meeting. Hasina said her government has taken massive steps for the development of agriculture as only this sector could make the country self-reliant in food grains. She mentioned her government has reduced the price of fertilisers three times after assuming the office and ensured supply of power and fuel in the rural areas for irrigation. During the irrigation time, power supply was diverted to the rural areas from the urban areas, she added. Hasina said her government has also taken

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N Korea scraps military pact with South

BBC ONLINE

North Korea has announced it will scrap an agreement aimed at preventing accidental naval clashes with South Korea, amid rising tensions over the sinking of a South Korean warship. The move is in retaliation for Seoul blaming Pyongyang for a torpedo attack that sank the Cheonan in March. The announcement comes as the South Korean navy conducts a major anti-submarine drill. An international probe found the Cheonan was sunk by a Northern torpedo. North Korea has denied the allegation. In a statement on the North Korean official news agency on Thursday, the North Korean military said the country would "completely nullify the bilateral agreement that was concluded to prevent a contingent clash in the West Sea of Korea [Yellow Sea]. "In connection with this, [we] will completely stop using international maritime ultra-short wave walkie-talkies and will immediately cut off the communication line that was opened to handle an emergency situation." It also warned of an immediate attack if the South's navy

Pyongyang threatens to attack South Korean ships

AFP, Seoul

North Korea vowed yesterday to attack any South Korean ships which violate their disputed border and Seoul's navy staged its own show of strength amid continuing high tension over the sinking of a warship.

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Correction

In a report headlined "56 fake headmasters received govt training!" published on this page yesterday it was inadvertently mentioned that 'SIDA' was one of the fund providers to the training programme. Actually, CIDA is providing funds for the project.

Fake passports, visas seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team of Rapid Action Battalion personnel seized 175 Bangladeshi passports, 20 fake visas and various visa making materials from a house in city's Mohammadpur yesterday. Rab-3 officials said they seized the passports, visas and other materials from the fourth floor of a building on Tajmahal Road of Mohammadpur and arrested one Kamrul Shah, 32, in this connection. Meanwhile, another team of Rab-4 detained 21 alleged

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RAB OPERATION IN SATKHIRA

Informant held, then 'freed mysteriously'

SHARIFUL ISLAM, from Satkhira

The Rapid Action Battalion's controversial arms recovery drive in a Satkhira businessman's house still remains a mystery as the law enforcers are apparently reluctant to arrest the informant of the Rab operation. However, locals allege detectives on May 25 arrested informant Amir Hossain, whose information led to the drive at shrimp businessman Shafiqul Islam's house. But to their utter disbelief, the Detective Branch (DB) of police released Amirul minutes

after his arrest in Parulia Bazar, the locals add. They believe if Amir were quizzed, the real story behind the planted firearms and who were behind it would have been solved. Though DB or local police did not admit the arrest of Amirul, locals of Parulia told The Daily Star they saw a DB team apprehending Amirul and taking him away in handcuffs on a motorbike around 3:00pm. Rab sources also say police told them that they had arrested Amirul in Parulia in connection with an extortion case but released him

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

We congratulate MUSA IBRAHIM for conquering the top

We stood by Musa and now Musa stands by the nation - scaling the high, reaching the peak of the Everest.

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