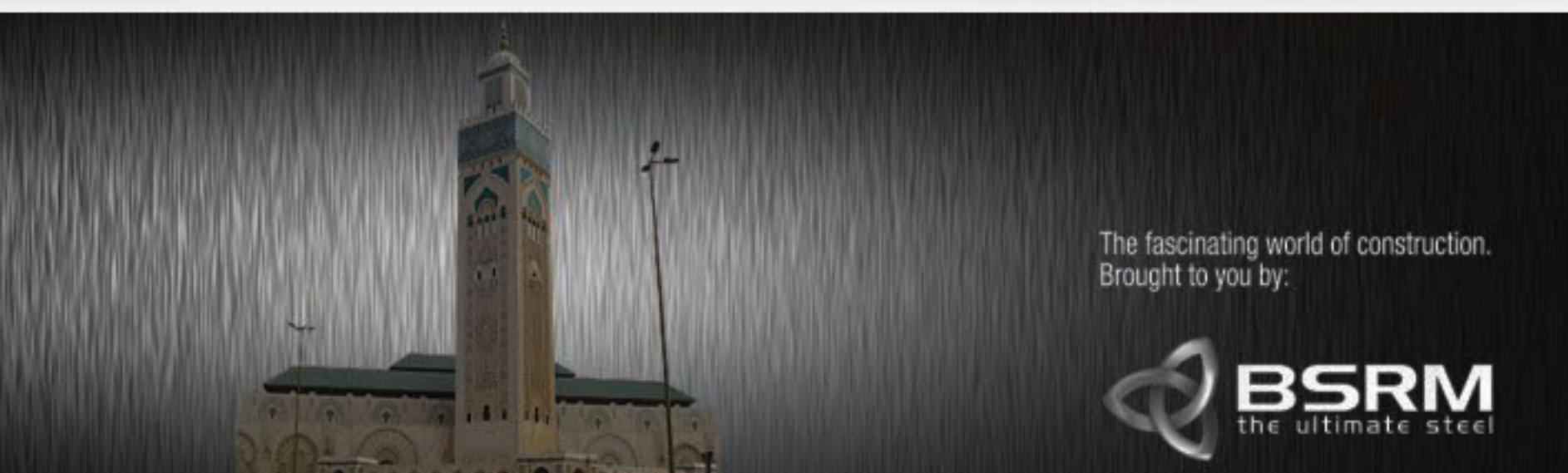


Did you know?

The Hassan II Mosque, located in Casablanca is the largest mosque in Morocco and the third largest mosque in the world. It stands on a promontory looking out to the Atlantic, which can be seen through a gigantic glass floor with room for 25,000 worshippers. A further 80,000 can be accommodated in the mosque's adjoining grounds. Its minaret is the world's tallest at 210 m (689 ft).



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BNP plotting to protect war criminals
PM tells delegates from int'l conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has accused the BNP-led opposition of plotting to protect the 1971 war criminals.

"BNP has been trying its best to scuttle the trial of war criminals to save them. But our government is committed to holding the trial at any cost," the premier was quoted as saying by her Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad.

They are campaigning at home and abroad to save the war criminals, she said.

The premier was speaking to a delegation of human rights activists, journalists and academicians from home and abroad at her office yesterday. The delegates on Sunday participated in the International Conference on Peace, Justice and Secular Humanism in the capital.

The MSSK Trust, Forum for Secular Bangladesh and Trial of War Criminals of 1971 and

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Rise in tax, VAT to make life tougher

Claims BNP in first formal reaction to proposed budget

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The proposed tax increase in the budget for fiscal year 2010-11 will make life harder for lower income group people, and swell the population below the poverty line, said the main opposition in parliament BNP.

In its first official reaction yesterday after the announcement of the budget, BNP said the budget is inadequate for the country's requirements, but also described it as ambitious considering the government's implementation ability.

It said the budget is high-sounding and fanciful which will never solve the real problems.

BNP Standing Committee Member MK Anwar read out a written statement at a media conference in party Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office in the afternoon.

Except for some essentials, industrial raw materials, and capital machinery, advance income taxes on others have been increased to five percent from three. As a result, prices of around 3,000 items will go up, said Anwar.

VAT (value added tax) on small and mid-size businesses has been increased from one and a half percent to three, which will become an extra burden for consumers, he added.

BNP also thinks the government is playing hide and seek regarding the scope for money whitening.

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This field of growing crops in Agrabad of Chittagong was once the Zamburi Math where many star-studded football and cricket tournaments used to take place. Now some influential people have started farming on it depriving sports enthusiasts a proper playground.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

25 hurt in BCL attack at DU
JCD calls for indefinite strike from July 1

DU CORRESPONDENT

At least 25 activists of Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) were injured in a violent attack by a group of members of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) at Dhaka University (DU) yesterday.

Following the attack JCD has declared a student-strike for an indefinite period at DU from July 1.

Around 60 BCL men armed with iron rods and sharp weapons swooped on 40 JCD members sitting at Madhur Canteen around midday.

BCL carried out the assault a week after JCD resumed regular organisational activities on DU campus after a break of nearly five months. The attack lasted for nearly five minutes when angry BCL members hurled wooden chairs at JCD activists and even tore off their clothes.

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'SUICIDE' OF MOTHER, 2 CHILDREN
In-laws arrested
Farzana's husband still on the run

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcers yesterday arrested five people in the capital in connection with the deaths of Farzana Kabir Rita and her two children.

The arrestees are Farzana's parents-in-law journalist Shafiqul Kabir and his wife Noor Banu, their daughters Kabita and Sukhon and Kabita's husband Delwar Hossain Patwari.

According to a case filed by Farzana's mother on June 11, two main accused Rashedul Kabir and his second wife Razia Sultana Smriti are still at large.

The Detective Branch (DB), however, only confirmed Delwar Hossain Patwari's arrest.

Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Monirul Islam of DB said they arrested Delwar Hossain Patwari at the High Court while he was leaving on being denied bail.

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SHIP-BREAKING YARD
Worker burnt to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A worker died in a fire when he was dismantling a vessel at a ship-breaking yard in Bara Awlia of Sitakunda upazila yesterday.

He was identified as Abdul Hye, 26, son of late Abdul Jalil, of Hasherhat of Tamijuddin upazila in Bhola.

Abdul was cutting steel plates inside the ship around 1:00pm when a blowtorch ignited a fuel tank, which caused the fire. Abdul was trapped inside the ship, said Sub-Inspector Hasan of Sitakunda Police Station.

Abdul's body will be handed over to his family members, who are reluctant to file any case, said the sub inspector.

BNP leader Aslam Chowdhury owns the ship-breaking yard Rising Steel Ltd.

A report of a survey conducted by two internationally reputed organisations, Greenpeace and International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), says on average at least one worker is injured a day and one dies a week in the ship-breaking yards.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Mohiuddin hails Manjur at last

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Former Chittagong mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury yesterday hailed Chittagong City Corporation mayor-elect Mohammad Manjur Alam.

Mohiuddin's greetings to his successor came through a statement issued yesterday evening, three days after the CCC poll results were announced.

In the statement, Mohiuddin said he expects Manjur to play a vital role in implementing the projects he took up but could not finish due to his around two years of detention following the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Two Huji men held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion in the last two days arrested two Huji (Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami) members, who had been sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment for possessing illegal firearms and explosives.

The arrestees are Abul Kashem alias Abdullah and Abdul Haque alias Jahangir.

The law enforcers arrested Abdullah on Sunday at about 9:00pm and Jahangir yesterday morning from Valuka bus stand in Mymensingh, said Legal and Media Wing Director of Rab Commander Mohammad Sohail.

Earlier, Abdullah and Jahangir were arrested with another 39 Huji members on February 19, 1996 from a training camp in a deep forest at Thanaikhali of Ukhiya near the Bangladesh-Myanmar border.

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PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

In this digital age, Md Farukh takes a photo of another photo for preservation using a pinhole camera at Gulistan in the capital. Farukh and his brother have been earning their living with this for the last 50 years. The onslaught of the digital revolution threatens their craft.

Anomalies found in army accounts
JS recommends refunding Tk 2.26cr to state exchequer within 15 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary committee yesterday suggested that Bangladesh Army should deposit Tk 2.26 crore, kept in its private fund, with the state exchequer in 15 days.

The parliamentary standing committee on Public Accounts also told the army to submit a report with satisfactory explanations from the people involved.

The irregularity was found while scrutinising the army's accounts for fiscal year 2003-04, says an audit report of the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).

The Daily Star obtained a copy of the report yesterday.

About Tk 2.26 crore was collected in rent and electricity bills from different establishments in cantonments, according to the report discussed at a meeting of the committee at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan.

The CAG office suggested depositing the money with the government exchequer. In response, the defence ministry said actions could be taken as per the audit objection, says the report.

The committee made the suggestions after a discussion, said a press release issued by the parliament secretariat.

The parliamentary body recommended that the authorities concerned should contest a case to realise Tk 57.49 lakh from contractors for failing to complete "risk purchase."

The contractors filed a writ petition in 2006 against a move by the Directorate General of Defence Purchase to realise the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Charges pile against Law enforcers
Says HR Commission chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Human Rights Commission has received complaints of violating rights mostly against the law-enforcers.

Most of the complaints the commission received in the last one year were against the law enforcers, said HR Commission Chairman Justice Amirul Kabir Chowdhury after a function at its Lalmaia office yesterday. The commission was organised for the publication of the commission's annual report.

The law enforcers should be given training on human rights, he added.

Replying to a query, he said the agencies are run by the public funds and it is their duty to work for the people's right.

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'BNP leaders plotted Sylhet grenade attack'

Mufti Abdul Hannan tells court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Huji leader Mufti Abdul Hannan yesterday in a Sylhet courtroom placed the blame on a few BNP men including an ex-state minister for the grenade attack on an Awami League meeting in the city.

Hannan's brother Mofizur Rahman and Huji operative Sharif Shahedul Alam Bipul also gave the court similar statements. Additional Public Prosecutor Shamsul Islam told The Daily Star.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Heartiest Congratulations

Our heartiest congratulations to Mrs. Monowara Hakim Ali for being elected as the Director of The Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry - FBCCI. We wish her the best effort in the economic development of the country and face the challenge of Globalization towards the women empowerment in Bangladesh.

May Almighty Allah bless her to accomplish her tasks.

HOTEL AGRABAD, CHITTAGONG

OnlinePoll

Do you think RMG workers demand for a minimum wage of Tk. 5000, which caused frequent clashes recently, is realistic?

Yes (74.10%)
No (23.83%)
No Comments (2.07%)

Total votes: 726

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (RAJUK) will be able to pull down illegally constructed buildings of Bashundhara Group as part of its demolition drive against unauthorised buildings?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

June 22		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-52	6-55
Esha	8-17	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation