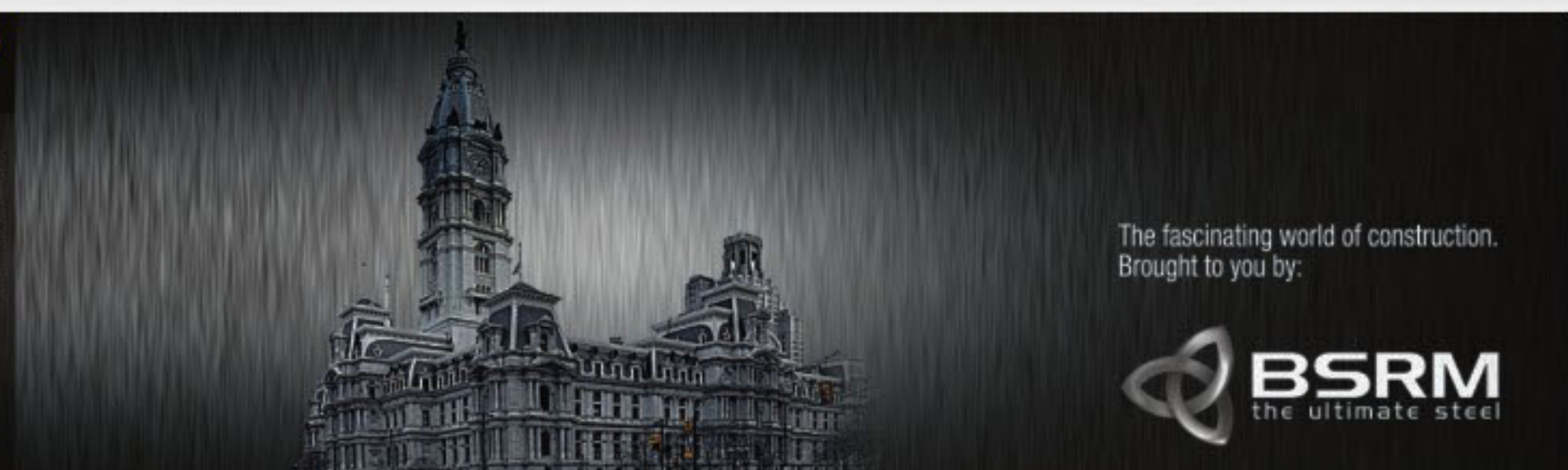


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# Beware of land grabbers' ad

## Housing state minister cautions people, defends plan to save Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People should not be tricked by the flashy publicity of land grabbers who jeopardise the lives of 1.5 crore Dhaka dwellers, said the state minister for housing and public works yesterday at a conference in the capital.

Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) organised the policy conference on Emerging Urban Future: Relation and Trade-off. Abdul Mannan Khan, the state minister, was talking on the detailed area plan (DAP) of Dhaka city.

"It is a civic duty of all of us to resist the grabbers," he said referring to the outrageous reaction by a section of developers to the recently gazetted DAP.

"Public opinion should be formed against them so that they [grabbers] find no escape route," he said. "Nobody will be allowed to

become a billionaire overnight by occupying rivers and canals."

If some quarters assume that they are more potent than the government, they are imbalanced, he said adding it is not a minister but they themselves call each other land grabbers.

The state minister said he had just performed his duty by publishing the gazette notification of the DAP following repeated directions from the prime minister.

He said any aggrieved party would have a chance, as per the provision in the DAP, to lodge an appeal with the authorities of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) to reconsider a certain deviation in land use or alteration to the designated land use pattern.

Even a layman's view would be considered in the implementation of DAP, he said.

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A bus ablaze in front of Dhaka College in the capital last night.

PHOTO: STAR

## 10 hurt as BCL clashes with Jubo League

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Ten people were injured in a clash between Bangladesh Chhatra League and Jubo League activists at Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday over sheltering an Islami Chhatra Shibir cadre.

The clash ensued as the RU unit BCL protested Jubo League men defending a shibir cadre on the campus.

BCL has been protesting Shibir's presence on the campus over the last few months.

Sources said Moniruzzaman Jewel, a Shibir cadre and also a master's final examinee of History Department came to the university to sit for exam under the protection of Jubo League activist Rabi and his brother Shahid.

A group of BCL men led by

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## 2 shot in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed extortionists shot and injured a cable network employee at Mirpur on Friday while a businessman was shot by unknown criminals in old Dhaka yesterday.

Injured Sumon Pandey, 25, an employee of Jesus Cable Network at Barabagh in Mirpur and businessman Zakir Hossain, 42, owner of Zakir Electric Market at Siddique Bazar in Bongshal were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Sumon said two armed extortionists went to Jesus Cable Network office around 10:30pm and fired at least six bullets leaving him injured while he and two of his friends were inside the office.

The attackers escaped the scene as locals rushed to the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

# Railway limps with low manpower

SHAHNAZ PARVEEN

Bangladesh Railway is limping with an acute shortage of manpower without having about one third of the required staff for long forcing it to shut down 106 stations across the country.

The state-owned railway needs about 40,000 staff to operate efficiently. But it has a shortage of 14,157 staff as of this month, says a report prepared by it.

The railway now has 698 posts of locomotive masters (train drivers) and 435 station masters vacant, which is more than half of its requirement.

"Shortage of these two categories of workforce is causing trains to run on delays frequently", said Director General of the railway Md Belayet Hossain.

"Sometimes we even have to cancel a trip simply because there no locomotive master is available", he told this correspondent.

Shortage of locomotive masters forced the railway to shut down 10 train services during

the last one month. And some stations that attract less passengers have been shut either partially or completely.

"In addition, locomotive masters are always over-worked that affects their performance and increases the risk of mishaps", Belayet said.

Railway sources said 138 posts of first class officials and 353 of second class officials including engineers are lying vacant.

Besides, about 7,179 posts of class four employees such as gatekeepers at rail crossings, way man, khalashi, porter and security guard are now vacant.

The sources mentioned that there has been no recruitment of staff since 2004. Efforts for recruitment failed thrice since 2006 while retirement of experienced staff continues to worsen the situation.

And around 500 staff including 82 station masters and locomotive masters are set to retire this year.

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## Nirmul forms body to assist war tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee has formed a 71-member new platform to support the International Crimes Tribunal formed for trying war criminals.

The group titled "Platform for Supporting International Crimes Tribunal Dhaka" was announced at a press conference at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity yesterday.

Executive president of the Nirmul Committee Shahriar Kabir in a written speech said if the tribunal seeks assistance, the platform would give legal explanations and help identifying killing spots across the country.

Kabir alleged that a section

SEE PAGE 7 COL 6

## PILKHANA MUTINY

# 29 plead guilty

## Top accused denies charges; BDR court presses charges against 667

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-nine BDR jawans out of 667 yesterday confessed their involvement in the February 25-26 Pilkhana carnage before a BDR court but the prime accused of the mutiny case denied the charges brought against him.

When the court asked, nonchalant Subedar Major Gofran Mallick stood up from his seat on the front row dock, took a mouthpiece and uttered, "Honourable court, I am innocent." He was handcuffed and shackled.

The Special Court 5 headed by BDR Director General Md Rafiqul Islam yesterday also pressed charges against all the 667 accused of the 24 Rifle Battalions and adjourned the proceeding till 9:00am on September 4.

Gofran along with other rebel leaders allegedly led the massacre during the BDR mutiny in Pilkhana on February 25-26 last year, which left 74 people, including 57 army officers, killed.

Officials linked to the trial told The Daily Star wishing anonymity that Gofran's cruelty even in his old age astonished them. There is hardly any brutal incident from killings to dumping bodies, torching houses and lootings where Gofran was not

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## NIMTOLI, BEGUNBARI 98 families get cheques from PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday handed over cheques of Tk 100,000 to each of the 98 families affected by the Begunbari building collapse and Nimtoli blaze in the city.

Besides, Rupali Bank donated Tk 200,000 as fixed deposit for each of the Asma, Ratna and Runa couples.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Prayer Timing		
June 27		
	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



Rashedul Kabir and his second wife Razia Sultana Smriti are being taken to a Dhaka court yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## DEATHS OF MOTHER, 2 KIDS Prime accused, 2nd wife held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective police yesterday arrested Rashedul Kabir and his second wife Razia Sultana Smriti from the capital's Gulshan area in connection with the deaths of Farzana and her two children.

A DB team led by Assistant Commissioner (AC) Mohammad Mukhlesur Rahman arrested the couple from opposit Pizza Hut in Gulshan-1, where they were waiting for a taxicab around 11:45am.

Rashedul and Smriti were going to another hideout from a house in Badda, said AC Mukhlesur.

With them the number of arrestees in this connection rose to nine.

Investigation officer (IO) of the case Sheikh Md Mahbubur Rahman produced Rashedul and Smriti before a Dhaka court, which placed each of them on a seven-day remand.

The court also placed Rashedul's parents Shafiqul Kabir and Noor Banu, his sisters Kabita and Sukhon and Kabita's husband Delwar Hossain Patwari each on a fresh three-day remand.

Deputy Commissioner Monirul Islam of DB said Smriti is not expecting a child as mentioned in the wall writings in Farzana's bedroom.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

OnlinePoll

Do you think hartal is an appropriate political instrument for protest?

Yes (31.8%)

No (67.6%)

No Comments (0.6%)

Total votes: 1275

TODAY'S POLL

Do you support that police vows to go tough against the pickets on June 27 hartal?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

## Telecos asked not to worry

### JS body assures of help in fixing controversial amendments to telecoms law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday assured cellphone operators and telecommunications and ICT-based entrepreneurs of taking necessary steps to remove growing anxiety over proposed amendments to the telecom laws.

On their concern and objections to the proposed amendments, the parliamentary standing committee on post and telecommunications ministry said it would carefully examine those and bring amendments to the bill, if necessary.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## 2 indigenous men killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Two indigenous young men were gunned down by their rivals at Bogapara village in Dighinala upazila of Khagrachhari at about 5:30am yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Barisha Chakma alias Bariji, 28, son of Lungyaja Chakma of Chatakchhara village and Shushil Tripura alias Kusum, 25, son of Jonadhan Tripura of Jamtali village in the upazila.

Dighinala police said

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

As the festival of Eid approaches, The Daily Star is putting together the Star Fashion- Eid Album 2010, right ahead of the country's largest shopping season.

If you wish to participate, send outfits and accessories you would like to feature in the album.

Last date for submission July 07, 2010

ATTENTION Designers & Boutiques

Contact: (For submission of products) Selim S H Chowdhury Production & Events Manager email- selim@thedailystar.net Cell- 01675744501

Criteria for Participation:

1. Dresses, saris and accessories should express the mood of the festival.
2. Materials used should be locally produced.
3. All submissions must be accompanied with a short description of the product, including price.
4. Designs should be original and fabrics should suit the weather and environment.
5. The attires and accessories sent for the album are returnable.
6. Entry fee per entry is Tk 300 (minimum 3 entries for each participating house).

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