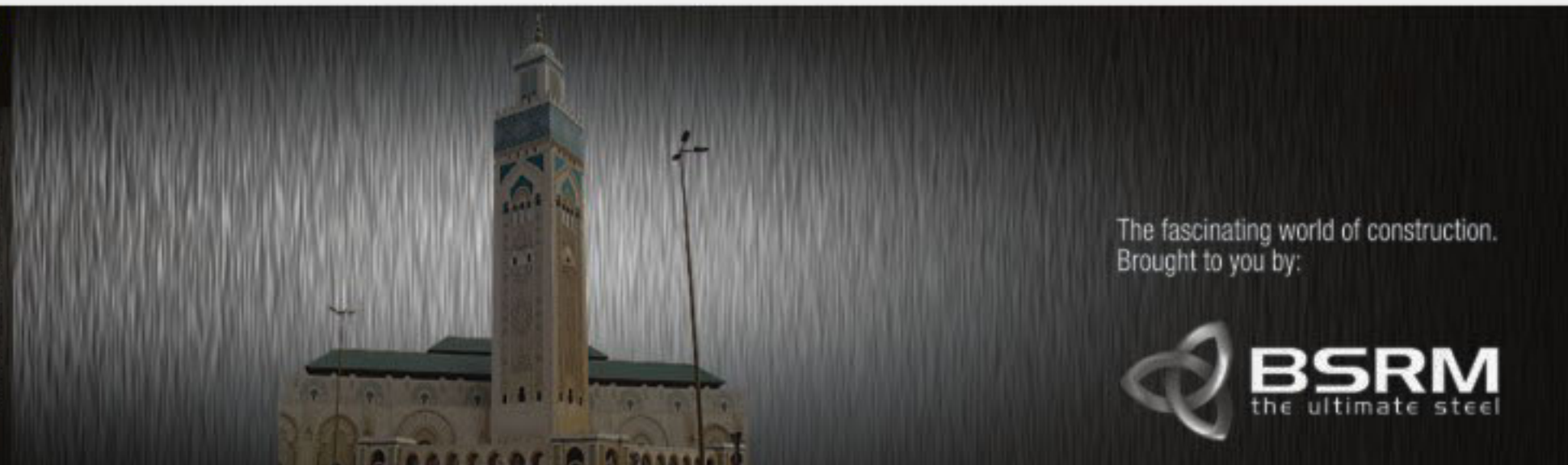


Did you know?

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).



The fascinating world of construction. Brought to you by:



**World Cup THINK Big Mega Offer**

32" LCD TV (3409) RSP: Tk. 75,000 World Cup Offer: **65,000**

42" LCD TV (3609) RSP: Tk. 125,000 World Cup Offer: **105,000**

47" LCD TV (3609) RSP: Tk. 175,000 World Cup Offer: **173,000**

Offer available on other models also.

**TRANSKOM DIGITAL**

think electronics... think DIGITAL

For More Information: 8855366-8, 01712 685483

# FREE EDUCATION UP TO DEGREE LEVEL

## Body formed to draft policy

### Stipend for female degree students from July

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has formed a sub-committee to draft a policy for introducing free education up to degree level in government educational institutions and non-government institutions having Monthly Payment Order (MPO).

The sub-committee headed by Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Abdul Karim was formed yesterday at a high level meeting chaired by Planning Minister AK Khandker at his office.

The education ministry has already sent a proposal to the Executive Committee of National Economic Council to approve providing from this July a monthly stipend of Tk 200 each to at least 40 percent of female students at degree level in all government institutions and non-government ones on the MPO list, the meeting was told.

The sub-committee has been asked to draw

up a policy on setting up a Trust Fund and recommend ways to operate the fund. Besides, it has to make suggestions on how to receive donations to the fund from private sector, the public and expatriates.

At present, education is free at primary level. Planning ministry sources said the move to introduce free education up to degree level has been initiated following a directive from the prime minister. The directive was given at an Ecneec meeting on April 20. The premier also formed a committee headed by the planning minister to chalk out how free education can be introduced soon.

The sources mentioned that the education ministry has also proposed providing the female students getting stipend with an additional Tk 1,500 a year as tuition and examination fees and for buying books.

## Yunus meets Japan leaders, talks social business

BSS, Dhaka

Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday called on Japanese Crown Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako at their invitation in Tokyo at the Imperial Palace.

During the meeting, the Imperial couple discussed Prof Yunus's concept of social business and its potential role in solving some of society's most pressing problems, in Japan, Bangladesh and elsewhere, a release said yesterday.

Princess Masako had expressed particular interest in meeting Prof Yunus since her father, Justice Hisashi Owada, a former diplomat and currently President of the International Court of Justice, is a long time friend of Prof Yunus.



Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus talks to Japanese Prime Minister Naota Kan at the latter's residence in Tokyo yesterday. They discussed application of the concept of social business in Japan and other countries.

## CIC suggests amending RTI Act for transparency

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) Muhammad Zamir yesterday called for amending the Right to Information Act, 2009 to ensure transparency in all the corporate bodies and financial institutions.

"Most of the corporate companies and giant financial institutions in the country remain out of the jurisdiction of the act. But people have the right to know about their activities and financial dealings. So the act should be reviewed to bring those under

# Notorious gang held in Chittagong

## Rab arrests 'Yakub Bahini' chief, 17 accomplices with 19 firearms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion early yesterday arrested notorious Yakub Bahini chief Yakub and 17 of his accomplices along with 19 firearms, ammunition from Jangle Salimpur under Sitakunda upazila in the district.

Yakub was the second-in-command of Akkas Bahini, which grabbed around 2,000 acres of government khas land at the hilly area of Jangle Salimpur at bordering Bayezid Police Station in the city.

The arrestees include Yakub's son Saddam, 18, his body guard Sujan, 22, Amena, 40, Aman, 17, Razu -1, Sazu, 18, Jahangir, 30, Selim, 19,

Jolekha, 30, Razu-2, Liakat, 20, Rubel -1, Babul, 25, Zakaria, 20, Rubel-2, Noyon Mia, 30, and Rashed, 22.

The recovered arms and ammunition include 13 light guns, five single-barrel breaching guns, one revolver, 11 rounds of bullets and 24 rounds of cartridges, five daggers, four machetes, one Chinese axe and 15 parachute flares.

Three uniforms of security guard and a number of money receipts, identity cards and visiting cards were also recovered during the drive led by Rab-7 Commanding Officer Lt Col Sazzad Hussain.

## Govt to import up to 1 lakh tonnes rice from Vietnam

UNB, Dhaka

Food Minister Abdur Razzak yesterday said the government would import 50,000 to one lakh metric tonnes of rice from Vietnam soon.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to this effect would be signed today.

"There will be no dearth of rice during Ramadan month," he told reporters after a meeting with Vietnamese team led by Vietnam Southern Food Corporation's Vice General Director Cao Thi Ngoc Hao at his ministry.

Moreover, Razzak said

## US pledges Tk 210cr for low-carbon emission strategy

BSS, Dhaka

US President Obama administration assured Bangladesh of providing Taka 210 crore for promotion of Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS).

A USAID delegation said this in a meeting with State Minister for Environment and Forests Dr Hasan Mahmud at his secretariat office yesterday.

Acting Mission Director of the USAID in Bangladesh Dennis Sharma led the delegation.

After Copenhagen Climate Conference it will be the first commitment of the US government following a number of European countries to support Bangladesh to combat adverse impacts of climate change.

Bangladesh is one of the 18 countries selected by the US administration for Support Service for Low Emission Development (SSLED), Sharma told the state minister.

He said the LEDS project will help take initiative for

## Ex-HC judge asked to submit wealth report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has served notices to former High Court (HC) justice Joynul Abedin and two other HC bench officials asking them to submit wealth statements within a week.

Joynul Abedin and the bench officials -- Ehteshamul Haque and Pradip Kumar Das -- were sent the notices on Sunday.

ACC sources said the notices were issued following a preliminary investigation that found the three officials possessed huge wealth likely to be acquired by illegal means

## CAR TORCHING CASE Kamaruzzaman, Quader Molla shown arrested

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Two Assistant Secretaries General of Jamaat-e-Islami, Md Kamaruzzaman and Abdul Quader Molla were shown arrested yesterday in connection with a case filed for setting a private car on fire that killed its passenger on July 1.

Meantime, Jamaat Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami was sent to jail yesterday on completion of his 16 days remand in five criminal cases filed with different police stations on different charges.

Metropolitan Magistrate



Rab parades Yakub, the one in bandages, his gang members along with the arms and ammunition recovered from them, before the media at Rab's Chittagong headquarters in Patenga yesterday.

# Malaysia to recruit undocumented foreign workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Malaysia is considering recruiting undocumented foreign workers to meet the high labour demands, reports Malaysian newspaper The Staronline.

A special committee dealing with the issue of foreign workers is discussing the matter among other issues, reported the news paper on July 16 quoting Malaysia's Human Resources Minister Datuk S Subramaniam as saying.

Such a statement comes as good news for Bangladesh, as some 50,000 to 60,000 Bangladeshi workers are believed to be living in Malaysia undocumented, said Bangladesh's Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Secretary Zafar Ahmed Khan.

If implemented, the decision will be beneficial to both the parties--the Malaysian employers can get workers easily, while the irregular Bangladeshis facing problems would get documents and employed, he said.

According to Subramaniam, Malaysia's human resources ministry was also discussing ways to address problems of abuse of foreign workers, especially domestic maids.

"The ministry is faced with two major problems in dealing with illegal immigrants in the country, namely the existence of illegal workers and the high demand for workers by employers.

"Because of the high demand, illegal immigrants continue to enter the country. We are looking for a suitable mechanism to deal with this effectively," he told a media conference at the

## BARAPUKURIA MINE Villagers call off siege after talks

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Affected villagers early yesterday called off their indefinite besiege programme at Barapukuria Coal Mine Company Ltd (BCMCL) following a meeting with the company authorities.

Ibrahim Khalil, convener of Jibon O Shampad Rakkha Committee, said they called off the strike around 2:00am giving the BCMCL authorities 15 days' timeline to implement the meeting decisions.

The meeting decided to

# NEPAL PM ELECTION

## Big three field candidates

HINDUSTAN TIMES

The race for Nepal prime minister's post has become interesting with all three major parties fielding candidates for today's election.

Ram Chandra Poudel of Nepali Congress, Maoist chief Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' and Communist Party of Nepal (UML) Chairman Jhulanath Khanal filed their nominations yesterday evening.

Since none of the three parties enjoy clear majority in the 601-member Constituent Assembly it seems unlikely that anyone would secure the simple majority needed to get elected to the post.

## 2 teenagers drown in Buriganga

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two teenaged friends drowned in the river Buriganga yesterday.

The deceased identified as Sajal, 18, and Shaheen, 16, were employees of a shop at New Super Market on Mirpur Road in the capital.

Witnesses said Sajal and Shaheen went to the river at Nizambagh in Kamrangirchor around 2:00pm to bathe after a game of football on the riverbank.

Suddenly Sajal, who did not

# 'TERRORIST MATERIAL' Thousands of blogs shut down

BBC ONLINE

A web hosting company has said it shut down a blogging platform that was home to over 70,000 bloggers because a "link to terrorist material" and an al-Qaeda "hit list" was posted to the site.

BurstNet said Blogetery.com also posted "bomb-making instructions".

The company said it acted after receiving "a notice of a critical nature from law enforcement officials".

But the move has angered bloggers who use the platform and said they were given no notice of the shutdown.

In response Blogetery.com said its server had been "terminated without any notification or explanation."

The site added that it is trying to resolve the situation.

BurstNet defended its position.

"The posted material, in addition to potentially inciting dangerous activities, specifically violated the BurstNet acceptable use policy" said the web host firm.

BurstNet also claimed that the site had a history of previous abuse.

The news blog Cnet.com reported that

Prayer Timing		
July 21		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-54	6-58
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

**OnlinePoll** ✓

Do you think the government will be able to keep the prices of essentials stable during Ramadan?

Yes (50.2%)

No (49.4%)

No Comments (0.4%)

**Total votes: 1130**

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you support the CNG drivers and rickshaw-pullers' demand for withdrawal of toll for the second Buriganga bridge for CNG and non-motorised vehicles?

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