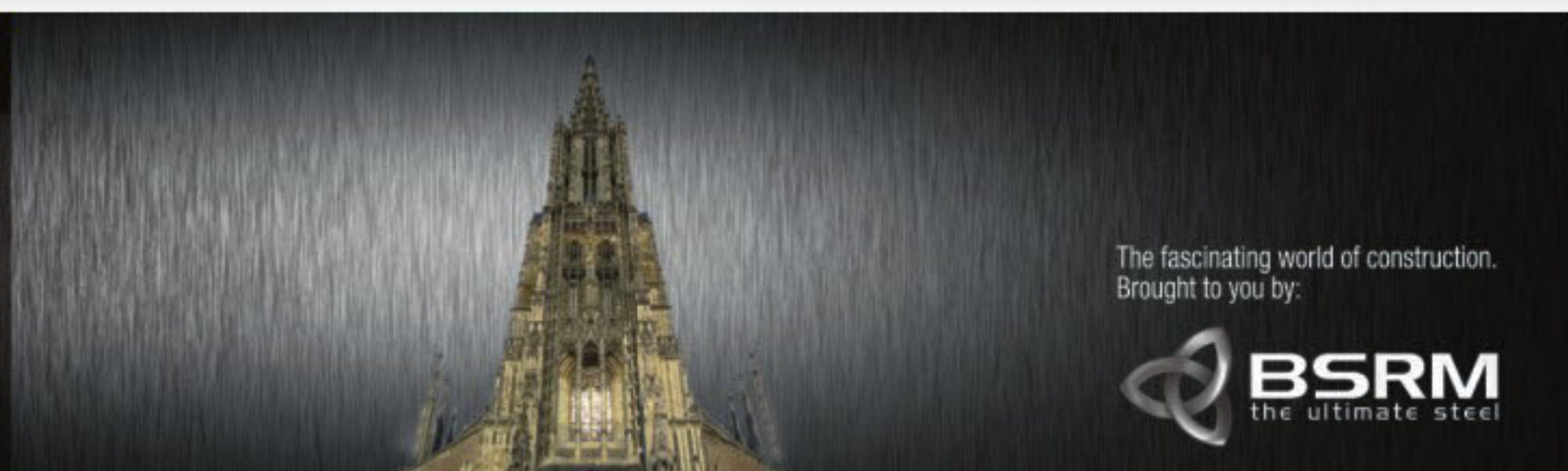


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Govt mulls winding up Privatisation Board

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government is mulling winding up Privatisation Commission.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith has sent a letter to Chairman of the Commission Mirza Abdul Jalil seeking to know if it (commission) is wound up how the functions it now performs would continue to be done.

The minister asked the chairman also to give a brief report on overall activities of the commission, and the role it played in the national economy.

The July 10 letter also sought information on how many of the privatised industrial units are operating successfully, how many of them could pay loans and how many are now in production.

The finance minister also wanted to know whether employment in the privatised units increased or decreased and

how their lands have been used.

Besides, the minister asked for information as to how many SOEs are now awaiting the commission's approval for privatisation, and what is its plan regarding those.

Contacted, Abdul Jalil said it would not be proper to wind up the commission since it has a role in gearing up industrialisation and in overall economic activities.

On the finance minister's letter, he said a reply to it would be given shortly.

The commission has prepared a review report on industrial units which have remained closed. This report will also be sent to the minister, Jalil said.

Asked if there has been any change in the government's privatisation policy, Mirza Jalil said "Not yet."

He also said the government could now mull such steps (winding up the commission) as the ministries of indus-

tries and jute themselves want to privatise industrial units. But it is not possible on the part of any ministry to denationalise any industry, he added.

Finance ministry sources told this correspondent that there has been a discord between the line ministries and the commission over privatisation. The ministries are not very enthusiastic about privatisation. Even if privatisation becomes essential, they want to do this themselves.

Sources pointed out that there has been ambivalence inside the government over further privatisation. The government is yet to take a decision on this, and finalise its industrial policy.

Due to the global economic meltdown, the role of public sector has become significant again. The World Bank and IMF also did not create pressure on the government for privatisation.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



Factories vandalised and injured police personnel looking for medial attention after yesterday's violence at Ashulia centring garment workers' minimum wage.

EC to decide fate of religion based politics

Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) will decide whether to cancel registrations of religion-based political parties in the country, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed said yesterday.

"The Election Commission is a constitutional body and it'll uphold the supremacy of the constitution," the minister told reporters after attending a national consultation meeting

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MIRPUR ARMS HAUL Police yet to know whose den it was

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have yet to know for sure which militant group had stashed the firearms, ammunition and bomb-making materials recovered from the city's Mirpur area on Friday.

Officers investigating the haul said the explosives seized are similar to those earlier seized from different dens of Jama'at ul Mujahideen

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Prayer Timing		
August 1		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-20	4-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-47	6-50
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

OnlinePoll ✓

Do you think the rowdy protest by the RMG workers in the capital against the announced wage is justified?

Yes (30.2%)
No (67.7%)
No Comments (2.1%)

Total votes: 486

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with BNP that the government's 'wrong policy' is responsible for the violence in the garment sector?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

FAKE NEW ZEALAND VISA 8 cheated job seekers return

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The eight Bangladeshi jobseekers, whom an organised gang deserted in Malaysia with fake visas of New Zealand, returned home yesterday.

The victims are Ruhul Amin, Abu Al-Razin, Santo Ghosh, Nesar Uddin, Abul Kashem, Rashed Hossain, Kamrul Islam and Abdul Rahim.

"They [human traffickers] took us to Malaysia promising New Zealand visas from there. But they left us there with fake visas," said Ruhul Amin after arriving at Hazrat Shahjalal (R)

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

FEE HIKE CU students boycott class

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Students of Chittagong University (CU) yesterday boycotted classes and demonstrated against fee hikes and cases filed against 11 CU students Thursday night.

Over one thousand students of different faculties came down in favour of their demand at around 11:00pm and locked the main gates of Arts Faculty, Science Faculty, Social Science Faculty and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6 PHOTO ON PAGE 2

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