

Did you know?

Christ the Redeemer is a statue of Jesus Christ in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The statue is 39.6 metres (130 ft) tall, including its 9.5 metre (31 feet) pedestal and 30 metres (98 ft) wide. It weighs 635 tons (700 short tons) and is located at the peak of the 700 metres (2,300 ft) Corcovado mountain.



The fascinating world of construction. Brought to you by: **BSRM** the ultimate steel

TURN ON DIGITAL **SAMSUNG** TURN ON TOMORROW

Experience a brand new range of Samsung Electronics & Appliances at Transcom Digital

TRANSKOM DIGITAL

TELCO LICENCES Cancellation decision under JS scanner

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary body yesterday formed a four-member sub-committee to verify whether Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission's (BTRC) step to cancel licences of five private landline operators was justified.

The parliamentary standing committee on post and telecommunication ministry also asked the sub-committee to identify offences committed by the land phone companies and find out ways to uphold the interests of subscribers and employees of those operators.

The sub-committee, SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

WORLD BANK REPORT Madrasa teachers mostly untrained

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers with no formal training mostly staff the Qawmi madrasas in Bangladesh, said a World Bank (WB) report.

A staggering 82 percent of math teachers there are untrained. Around 80 percent English teachers in Qawmi madrasas are untrained while it is 44 percent in Aliyah madrasas and 19 percent in general schools, the report said.

The WB yesterday arranged a publication ceremony of the report styled "Secondary School Madrasa in Bangladesh: Incidence, quality and implication for reform" at a city hotel.

M Niaz Asadullah, lecturer of Department of Economics of Reading University and a visiting fellow of Oxford University, presented the key findings of the study at the ceremony.

The study found that although the madrasas have played a significant role in increasing student's enrolment in institutions, the quality

of higher secondary level madrasa education remains a major challenge. According to it, at secondary level nearly one out of five children attends madrasas, mostly in registered ones.

It, however, said the overall quality of secondary level education across the country is low and urged the government to focus more on the sector to improve the standard of education in Bangladesh.

The report suggested that the government engages in a dialogue with Qawmi madrasa representatives to explore options such as introducing modern subjects and forming of a regulatory body to oversee the overall improvement.

The research team administered four tests to over 9,000 grade-VIII students of 400 secondary schools and madrasas to assess their learning outcomes. They found that on an average the students answered 35 percent math questions correctly. The success rate is even poorer

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

ATTACK IN TANGAIL Ahmadiyyas demand steps for security

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ahmadiyya Muslim Jam'at Bangladesh yesterday urged the government to take active steps to rehabilitate the ousted Ahmadiyyas in Tangail, guarantee their security so that they can perform daily activities safely.

Ten Ahmadiyyas were injured on Sunday when a group of enraged villagers attacked them at Chandtara village of Ghatail upazila when they were raising a mosque.

A section of religious extremists led by a local Jamaat-e-Islami leader are behind the assault, claimed the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jam'at leaders at a press

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

CURBING PRICE HIKE JS body unhappy at govt efforts

RASHIDUL HASAN

Expressing dissatisfaction over the government's attempts to prevent a price hike of essentials during the upcoming month of Ramadan, a parliamentary body yesterday said the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) does not have enough stock on hand.

Regarding the initiatives of the commerce ministry, the parliamentary body said there are some shortcomings in the TCB's activities to control the prices.

The House watchdog directed the TCB to ensure that the stock consisted of adequate amount of daily necessities like sugar, edible oil, lentils, and onions.

"The TCB should have at least ten times the amount of sugar and other essentials than the present stock they hold," Lutful Hai, chief of the House body told journalists after the meeting at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

Hai, also a ruling AL lawmaker said TCB carries 50,000 tonnes of sugar at present and 50,000 tonnes more are being imported soon. However, during Ramadan, the cumulative demand of sugar rises to nearly 1.25 lakh tonnes, which far surpasses the current stock.

"We have asked the ministry to continue monitoring the SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



Blair due in city Aug 20

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair and his wife Cherry Blair will visit Bangladesh on August 20-22 to attend a programme of the Tony Blair Faith Foundation (TBFF), official sources said.

This is for the first time Tony Blair will be visiting Bangladesh. Foreign ministry officials said the former British Premier will be given

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Rice OMS kicks off

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The open market sales (OMS) of rice began yesterday in divisional headquarters including the capital, and in some districts that are affected by flood or have concentration of industries.

"The dealers started selling rice at 68 points in the capital," said Ananta Kumar Biswas, deputy director of the department of food.

An individual can buy a maximum of five-kg of rice at Tk 24 per kg a day from the dealers who open sales at 9:00am and continue till 6:00pm.

Coarse rice in regular markets of the capital now sells for Tk 30-32 per kg, while slightly better quality ones sell for Tk 33-37.

Mohammad Nuruzzaman, an OMS dealer in the city's Sabujbagh, said public response is quite impressive.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



A truck stands at the capital's Palashi yesterday to sell rice at the subsidised rate of Tk 24 a kg under the open market sales (OMS) programme. The government started the sale ahead of Ramadan in an effort to maintain stability in essentials' prices.

Robbers shoot villager dead

One from the gang beaten to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A robber was beaten to death by a mob after a gang of robber shot a villager dead and injured 10 others at Deputy Ghona village in Banskhal upazila of Chittagong early yesterday.

Local people chased a gang of 10 to 15 armed bandits, when they were passing through the village at about 1:30am, police said.

Sensing danger, the robbers opened fire on the villagers, leaving Abul Hossain, 70, critically injured. He died on the way to the local upazila health complex.

During chase and counter-chase, locals managed to catch Abu Sayed, 45, one of the bandits, and severely beat him to death.

At least 10 people were injured when the gang opened fire and threw brick chips at the villagers.

Abu Taher, 35, one of the injured villagers, was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital with bullet injuries.

SM Ataur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Banskhal Police Station, said the gang might have planned to commit robbery in the adjoining areas.

Police were conducting raids in the area to nab other members of the gang, he added.

OnlinePoll ✓

Do you think all schools and colleges in the capital should declare early Eid vacation to help ease traffic congestion?

Yes (63.9%)
No (34.9%)
No Comments (1.4%)

Total votes: 430

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with BNP that the billion dollar loan deal with India is a "pact of slavery"?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing August 11

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-25	5-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-41	6-44
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Star FASHION EID 2010

Evolve in your imagination with inspiring designer look

Get Star FASHION EID 2010 Celebrate Eid in Style

PM defends Indian credit

UNB, Dhaka

Defending the one billion dollar loan from India, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the money would be used for much needed infrastructure to ensure development of the nation that caused burning of BNP-Jamaat alliance which had plundered the public wealth during its rule.

She rebuffed the allegation of opposition leader Khaleda Zia who termed the Indian loan deal signed on Saturday as 'pact of slavery'.

Hasina was talking to executive committee of Rajshahi University Teachers' Association that called on her at her office.

The Indian loan will be utilised for implementation of 14 projects, mostly related to development of railway infrastructure in Bangladesh, upgrading of Ashuganj river port, construction of roads and bridges to facilitate transit of Indian goods to its North-Eastern region through Bangladesh, purchase of double-decker buses from India and connecting

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

এই গরমে প্রতিদিন ইফতার ও সাহুরাতে এক গ্রাম রুহ আফিজা

শরীরের পানি ঘাটতি পূরণ করে..

হামদ

www.roohafza.com.bd

Today the 11th August Grand Opening of Our Uttara Branch

Uttara Branch
Plot No: 10, Gareeb-e-Newaz Avenue
Sector: 13, Uttara Model Town, Dhaka-1230
Mobile: 01811408244, 01199023631
E-mail: uttara@fsibld.com

ফার্স্ট সিকিউরিটি ইসলামী ব্যাংক লি: FIRST SECURITY ISLAMI BANK LTD.
www.fsibld.com