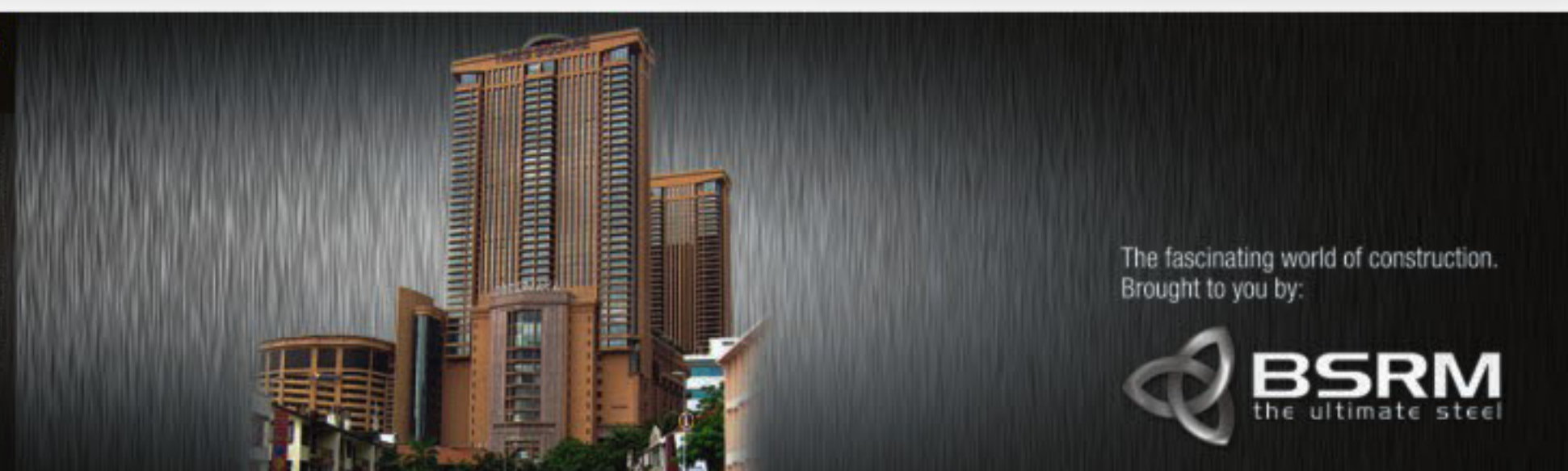


Did you know?

Berjaya Times Square KL is a twin tower complex containing a shopping centre and two 5-star hotels located in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Both towers are 203 meters (666 ft) tall, with 48 floors.



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BNP sits on reform

Executive committee's recommendations not finalised in 45 days

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

Forty-five days after the BNP held its rare executive committee meeting, its high command is yet to finalise decision on recommendations made by the committee to organise and reform party activities.

The executive committee members, most of whom are field-level leaders, had tabled around 100 recommendations to rejuvenate the party's political activities at a meeting held on July 31.

The meeting was held after four years instead of every six months as it was supposed to. The meeting was the first of the new executive committee formed in the last BNP council.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia presiding over the meeting had given decisions on around a dozen of the recommendations and she concluded the meeting saying that decisions on the remaining would be made soon.

Some of the pending decisions include specifying assignments for leaders who are in vital posts like vice-chairmen and secretaries, providing legal aid to field-level leaders now in jail, holding extended meetings of district and upazila level, central leaders' visit to district units, completing the formation of committees before going into anti-government movement, action

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



As many ambulance drivers are still on their extended Eid holidays, this patient had to be taken to a diagnostic centre two kilometres away from his clinic in Mohammadpur on a stretcher in pouring rain. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon near Suhrawardy Hospital.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

FRAUD CASE Warrants issued to arrest 2 QC brothers

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants against two brothers of BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury in connection with a case over bouncing cheque.

Metropolitan Magistrate Konika Bishwas passed the order, as Giasuddin Quader Chowdhury and Saifuddin Quader Chowdhury, the accused, did not appear before it yesterday as per the court order.

The issuance followed the complainant's lawyer Dewan Abdur Rahim's submission of a prayer which sought an arrest warrant against all three accused.

Dewan in the prayer said the accused did not comply with the order even though summonses were duly served to them on September 9.

The court also directed the

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SC stays Mufti Shahidul's acquittal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed for six weeks a High Court verdict acquitting former Islami Oikya Jote (IO) lawmaker Mufti Shahidul Islam in a corruption case.

Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division Justice ABM Khairul Haque passed the order following a petition filed by the government on August 24 seeking stay on the HC judgement.

The court also asked the government to file a leave-to-appeal petition with the apex

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Thousands marooned as floods tighten grip

Major rivers swell due to onrush of water from upstream

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Flood situation in at least nine districts has deteriorated due to a sharp rise of water level in the three major rivers and a tributary in 24 hours till 06:00pm yesterday.

The Jamuna, Padma, Meghna and Arial Khan will continue to swell in the next 24 to 48 hours, the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) said yesterday evening.

The affected districts include Kurigram, Sirajganj, Jamalpur, Rajbari,

Faridpur, Shariatpur, Madaripur, Munshiganj and Manikganj.

About 1.5 lakh people in these districts have become marooned with their houses submerged.

According to a bulletin issued by the FFWC, the Jamuna was flowing 43 cm above the danger level at Siraganj point and the Padma 55cm above the red mark at Bhagyakul point and 65cm above it at Goalundo point.

Executive Engineer of the centre Amirul Hosain said water level at 11 measuring points out of 73 across the country

was above danger level, it was rising at 40 points, falling at 28 points and remained steady at four points.

The upstream water flow from Assam and Arunachal states of India following heavy rainfall is the main reason for the rise of water level of the rivers in Bangladesh, he added.

Meanwhile, some officials the centre said yesterday flood situation in Sylhet will improve in the next 24 hours.

Our Sirajganj correspondent reports: Houses and farmlands of around 1,000

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

BARAPUKURIA COAL MINE

Locals agitate for water

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Thousands of villagers yesterday besieged the Barapukuria power plant and threatened to cut electricity supply to its water pumps following an acute drinking water crisis in the area due to excessive water lifting.

Fourteen pumps at Sherpur village, around one kilometre off the plant, lift 1,300 tonnes of underground water every hour for operation of the 250 megawatt plant, insiders say.

Nearly 3,000 villagers, many of them equipped with sticks, under the banner of "Dudhipur Pani O Bidyut Sangram Committee" announced an agitation programme to be staged on October 26.

Earlier, they held a meeting with Chief Engineer Bishwanath Haldar at the plant's conference room but could not reach a solution.

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Nadal's career Grand Slam

REUTERS, New York

Rafael Nadal sealed his place among the tennis greats on Monday, beating Novak Djokovic to win the US Open and complete his collection of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



The appalling state of a road in Meradia in the capital. The DCC work was supposed to be finished four months ago.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

Potholed, dug up for 8 months

Commuters suffer as work on storm sewers in city's Meradia going on at a snail's pace

HELEMUL ALAM

Nine-year-old twin brothers, Ronny and Jonny were struggling with bundles of goods as heavy as 25 kg each on their shoulders as they trudged for a kilometre from Meradia Primary School to their father's grocery shop.

The two brothers help their father by carrying these goods on foot as the distributor's vehicles cannot reach their shop due to gaping cavities on Meradia Main Road for the last eight months caused by the shovels of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC).

DCC began its excavation since last December to install storm sewers to relieve its residents from perpetual waterlogging. However the delay is causing undue stress on the commuters as it is a major road.

Khairul Islam Sabuj, a 10-year-old who was also carrying heavy bundles of grocery items to and fro from the suppliers' vans to their shop in Madhyapara said he had no other choice as he is the lone helping hand of his father.

Ekrum Hossain, a supplier leaves his vehicle on the main road and walks for 8km to distribute his products to all the shops as the conditions of the road do not allow vehicles.

Nurul Islam, owner of a construction materials shop said his sales dropped alarmingly since last month due to pitiful road conditions.

The carrying cost of the materials rose to Tk 3,000 to Tk 4,000 per truck, which has dropped the earnings of his shop to the point of break even, he said.

"I could sell a brick at Tk 5 earlier but now I

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Robber beaten to death

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

Mob beat to death an unidentified robber at Pashchim Jangalia village of Comilla sadar upazila in the wee hours yesterday.

Police said a gang of 15 to 20 attacked the house of Sirajul Islam around 1:45am.

Hearing screams, local people chased the bandits and managed to catch one.

Sub-inspector Monirul

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

MDG ACHIEVEMENTS

Bangladesh to get UN recognition

BSS, Dhaka

The United Nations is to acknowledge Bangladesh for its achievements in UN-set Millennium Development Goal (MDG) next week as the world leaders join the 65th general assembly session of the highest global forum in New York.

"The United Nations will acknowledge Bangladesh's performance in attaining MDG goals during the UN General Assembly," Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith yesterday told a review meeting on the government's 'Ekti Bari, Ekti Khamar' project, also joined by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office.

Bangladesh already achieved several targets of the eight-point MDG goals and was in the track to achieve the other goals within the deadline of 2015, said Muhith.

The country's achievements particularly in minimising the child mortality rate under the MDG 4 targets earned high global appreciation while the UN decided to formally acknowledge the performance, he added.

A UN spokesman in Dhaka supplemented the minister's

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

OnlinePoll ✓

Do you support the cabinet decision of abolishing the post of tax ombudsman?

Yes (19.9%)
 No (74.3%)
 No Comments (5.8%)

Total votes: 292

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the High Court order that declared illegal the construction of ship breaking yards at costal green belts of Sonaichhari will have an impact on stopping environmental degradation?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

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