

Did you know? Central World is a shopping plaza and complex in Bangkok, Thailand. It is the 2nd largest shopping complex in Southeast Asia. After three years of design and renovation, Central World was expanded to 550,000 square meters of shopping mall and 1,024,000 square meters of complex.



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Govt shelves plan on speed trackers

Opts for speed cameras, speed guns to spot reckless drivers

SHARIFUL ISLAM and ASHUTOSH SARKAR The government now considers installing speed cameras and speed guns on the road to monitor vehicular movement, backtracking from its earlier decision to set up tracking devices in vehicles. Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) will launch a pilot project on a national highway to see its economical and technical viability and then implement the plan for all roads and highways. The authorities are going to adopt this plan as installing speed monitoring devices on vehicles would be very difficult and expensive. "We'll have to seek permission from the High Court before starting the new plan as the court has already issued an order to install speed monitoring devices to all vehicles," said a top BRTA official wishing anonymity. The official added they have stepped back from their earlier plan after a sub-committee recommended using devices like speed cameras and speed guns widely used in the developed countries. The sub-committee was comprised of top officials from BRTA and the ministries concerned and experts from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) and Bangladesh Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (BTRC), the official added. "We will take up a pilot project to set up speed cameras and speed guns at different points on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway to monitor speed," Director (Engineering) Md Saiful Haque told The Daily Star. BRTA officials say they will soon float a tender through newspapers for related firms to install speed cameras and speed guns on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway. Vehicle tracking system does not give clear reading of speed, while it is not economically viable to install the devices in all vehicles, Saiful added. He said a device and its installation would cost around Tk 13,000 in addition to a monthly service charge of around Tk 800, which is too much for many owners. The authorities took a move to equip all 12 lakh vehicles with speed monitoring devices



Residents of the capital returning to the city in droves yesterday, after spending their Eid holidays elsewhere. And the city has started returning to its crowded self. PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

Experts urge all not to get panicked

ANTHRAX UNB, Dhaka Experts at a seminar yesterday urged all not to be panicked about anthrax although the disease is gradually spreading in different parts of the country. They said there is no reason to be panicked as upazila level healthcare centre is enough to provide treatment to the patients infected by anthrax. Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan (Bapa) organised the seminar titled "Spread of anthrax in Bangladesh: What to be done" at its Lalmaia office. The speakers said the government promptly vaccinated some 200,000 cattle in

Drinking water, relief scarce in flooded areas

Situation improves in most districts STAFF CORRESPONDENT Flood situation slightly improved in most of the districts across the country yesterday with thousands suffering due to shortage of food, pure drinking water and other essentials. Although the ministries and district administrations concerned have allocated money and rice for the flood-hit districts, people are yet to get relief materials in most of the districts. The floods have left more than three lakh people marooned and submerged around 20,000 hectares of farmland in 14 districts. Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) officials said flood situation in Kurigram, Gaibandha, Bogra, Sherpur, Jamalpur, Sirajganj, Rajbari, Faridpur, Shariatpur, Madaripur, Munshiganj and Manikganj will improve today while it is likely to deteriorate in Sylhet and Moulvibazar. FFWC Executive Engineer Amirul Hossain said the water level of the Padma, Jamuna, Brahmaputra and Arial Khan rivers will decrease in the next one or two days, but that of Meghna will remain unchanged. A bulletin of FFWC yesterday said, of the 73 points measured, water is flowing above the danger level at 11 points while it is rising toward the alarming level at 22 points. The Jamuna was flowing 39 centimetres (cm) above the danger level at Sirajganj point and the Padma 69cm and 60cm above the danger level at Bhagyakul and Goalundo points respectively, said the bulletin. Sirajganj: Flood situation of the district slightly improved yesterday, as the Jamuna River was in a falling trend yesterday.

Business behind BDR mutiny

Reports BBC documentary STAFF CORRESPONDENT The army's involvement in business is the biggest threat to their profession and it is one of the reasons that led to BDR mutiny, reported a BBC radio documentary yesterday. The committee for investigating the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) mutiny in its report recommended keeping army or any other security forces from business, said the documentary titled "Fouji Banijjo" (military in business). The investigation committee was comprised of army

Govt, opposition MPs unite over poverty

Pledge to fight hunger, achieve MDGs STAFF CORRESPONDENT Parliamentarians of the ruling party and the main opposition yesterday pledged to work together to eradicate poverty from the country. Despite differences in opinions, they shall remain united in dealing with poverty eradication, one of the millennium development goals (MDGs) set by the United Nations in 2000, they said at an anti-poverty rally with Speaker Abdul Hamid in the chair. All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) and the national committee for anti-poverty campaign organised the programme at the South Plaza of the National Parliament. Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abidin Faroque said, "We are here to show our solidarity with the ruling party to work for building a peaceful and rich country." He also lauded the speaker's initiatives to make parliament effective through participation of the opposition party lawmakers. Speaker Hamid addressing the gathering said the country had been waiting for such a day when lawmakers of both the ruling and opposition parties unite for a great purpose. Stressing the need for strengthening parliamentary democracy, he said the consensus among both the parties increased hope for national development and progress. Many steps have been taken since the country's independence to improve the poverty situation but to little avail, he noted, adding, "We failed to formulate a precise policy based on the spirit of the Liberation War."

Mysterious death of housewife

Family alleges 'killing' by in-laws STAFF CORRESPONDENT The husband and in-laws allegedly killed an 18-year-old housewife in Sabujbagh area of the capital yesterday. The deceased is Afroza Akter Mukti. Mukti's husband Mohammad Himel alias Himon, a motor mechanic, and his family members claimed that she hanged herself. Elder sister of Mukti, Munni Begum, pleaded that her sister was strangled in the house of her in-laws at Maniknagar and they are now trying to cover up the killing as a suicide. Informed over the cell phone, Munni reached the house around noon and found



The condition of Gabtoli-Babubazar Road at Sawarighat is simply appalling. The photo was taken early this month. PHOTO: STAR

Never-ending plight of old city commuters

HELEMUL ALAM Whether it is a rainy or a sunny day, the run-down Beribadh road in Swarighat puts the local residents in disarray as they find it extremely hard to cope with its condition. The road stretching from Swarighat to Purba Islambagh in Old Dhaka remains in awfully hazardous state near Swarighat, Kamal Bagh and East Islambagh, which causes the vehicles, especially the non-motorised ones, often turn turtle with goods or passengers. "Last week my rickshaw-van tumbled down on the road at Swarighat while carrying three drums of diesel, causing serious injuries to me," said Kabir Ahmed on the Beribadh, a flood protection embankment on the bank of the Buriganga. Before getting cured properly he had to join his work risking same type of accidents, as he has no other alternative to run his family, he added. Mohammad Ibrahim, owner of a shop at Swarighat Beribadh, said the road was repaired only about two years back and has worn out for poor quality of renovation work. Frequent plying of overloaded vehicles only contributes to its

Parliament to discuss Edn Policy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT The National Education Policy 2010 will be discussed in the next parliament session. "We will place the recently approved education policy in parliament for discussions," said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday at a seminar on national education policy. National Front of Teachers and Employees (NFTE) organised the seminar at the city's Jatiya Press Club to

Prayer Timing September 18 Azan Jamaat Fajr 4-35 5-10 Zohr 12-45 1-15 Asr 4-30 4-45 Maghrib 6-09 6-12 Esha 7-45 8-15 Source: Islamic Foundation

OnlinePoll Do you support the new child policy that fixes 18 years as child's age limit? Total votes: 358 TODAY'S POLL Do you think BNP should join JS for this session? Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

25 killed in Sri Lanka explosives depot blast

AFP, Karadiyanaru A blast at an explosives depot in eastern Sri Lanka yesterday killed at least 25 people, including two Chinese road builders and destroyed a police station, the military said. Three container loads of munitions being stored at a police station in Karadiyanaru, 235 miles (375 kilometres) from Colombo, exploded while some of it was being loaded in a truck by Chinese contractors. The blast was the first major explosion in Sri Lanka since government forces ended its 37-year-year battle against Tamil Tiger rebels by wiping out the top guerrilla leadership in May last year. The military said it had ruled out sabotage. "We completely rule out sabotage. There is no threat to security in that area," military spokesman Ubaya Medawala told reporters in the capital Colombo. The force of the blast obliterated the buildings and surrounding area, which was littered with rubble, twisted vehicles and bodies. Witnesses saw a crater about 35 feet (10 metres) deep at the spot where the police station once stood. Prime Minister D. M. Jayaratne flew to the area to inspect the clean-up operation and visit

CHELUM OF ATIF RAHMAN TOMORROW

In the journey of life some people leave a mark so deep that it becomes very hard to forget them. Late Atif Rahman (Bipu) was one such person. Late Atif Rahman (Bipu) son of Mr. Rezaur Rahman, Managing Director of Bengal Airlift Group and former President of Dhaka Club Limited and Mrs. Kaukab Reza, Senior Teacher of Wills Little Flower School and College passed away on the morning of August 16, 2010 at Mount Elizabeth Hospital, Singapore. Late Atif Rahman's Chehum will be held on Sunday the September 19, 2010 after Asr prayers at Gulshan Azad Mosque. Atif wrote his name in hearts of people he came in touch with. This is where it will stay forever and ever. Mr. Rezaur Rahman and his family request all relations, friends and well-wishers to kindly join them in prayers for salvation of Atif Rahman's departed soul on his Chehum. May Allah give us all the courage, strength and support to overcome the pain of losing someone so dear.

