


Did you know?
 The Bank of America Tower at One Bryant Park is a 1,200 ft (366 m) skyscraper in the Midtown Manhattan district of New York City, in the United States. It is the second tallest building in New York City, after the Empire State Building, and the fourth tallest building in the United States.

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PADMA BRIDGE
 Govt to review contractors' qualifications

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to re-examine the qualifications of contractors interested in constructing the Padma Multipurpose Bridge.

It took the decision in consultation with the co-financiers including the World Bank, said a press release of the WB yesterday.

The detailed design of the bridge completed recently recommended modification in the technical specifications for constructing a stronger and high quality bridge. The decision to re-examine the qualifications of contractors followed this, the WB said.

"Given the magnitude and technical demands of this

5-year plan to cover all fears

HR Commission chief tells *The Daily Star*

RAKIB AHAMMED

In an attempt to pull the plug on human rights violation in the country, the National Human Rights Commission is set to announce a five-year strategic plan tomorrow.

The plan will accumulate commission's mission and vision as well as a roadmap of its activities to end violation of human rights in the areas including repression against women and children, extra judicial killings and violation of rights of ethnic minority groups.

"A guideline will be integrated to the comprehensive plan to address all the fundamental issues concerning human rights," the NHRC



Prof Mizanur Rahman

Chairman Prof Mizanur Rahman told *The Daily Star* yesterday.

Eminent human rights consultant and former chief of the National Human Rights Commission in New Zealand, Peter Hosking is assisting the commission to prepare the plan.

"We are closely working with Peter to prepare the action plan and it is almost done," said Prof Mizanur, adding that other commissioners of NHRC are also lending their hands to the endeavour.

The commission seeks to see a visible and significant slide in human rights violation incidents in the country after five years. The

SEPT 30 DEADLINE

No extension on offer for taxpayers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Board of Revenue Chairman Nasiruddin Ahmed yesterday insisted that the September 30 deadline for filing income tax returns would not be extended, despite appeals from different business bodies to widen it.

"This time a clear message has been sent out that there will be no extension. The finance minister also declared it," the NBR chief told a press conference at this office.

Responding to repeated queries from the journalists Nasiruddin said according to law, the income tax returns must be submitted by September 30.

Maths teaching in dismal state

Schoolteachers' poor background in the subject blamed in report

WASIM BIN HABIB

Secondary level mathematics teachers in the country lack adequate teaching skills due to their poor academic qualifications in the subject.

This is greatly holding back the young learners to acquire proper knowledge on mathematics, a government report says.

The government-formed committee report reveals that a substantial number of maths teachers, who are in the profession for nearly a decade and will remain so for two more decades, took general course of only 100-marks on the subject in their secondary level education (up to SSC) -- and that is all.

"These teachers are dependent on notebooks, and follow only one method of solving mathematical problems," said the report, adding, if anyone solves a problem going beyond that methodology, he will get zero.

This creates fear among the learners and destroys their critical and analytical thinking ability, it adds. The report was submitted to the education ministry yesterday.

Kiwis arrive in Dhaka

SPORTS REPORTER

The New Zealand cricket team arrived in Dhaka last night to play a five-match one-day series against the Tigers at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

The Kiwis will play two warm-up matches against a BCB XI on October 1 and October 3 at the BKSP before the start of the five-match series on October 5.

The second match will be held on October 8 while the third, fourth and fifth matches

OnlinePoll

Do you agree with BNP Secretary General Delwar Hossain that the PM in her speech at UN general assembly spread propaganda against the opposition?

Yes (59.7%)
 No (38.5%)
 No Comments (1.8%)

Total votes: 950

TODAY'S POLL

What should be Bangladesh's reaction to the US request to send combat troops to Afghanistan to ensure security and stability in the war-ravaged country?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing
September 29

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-35	5-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	6-00	6-05
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation




PHOTO: STAR

The top photo shows Shahjahan, left, and Suhrawardi, chopping up trees on September 3 at Char Jajira of Sonaikandi in Rajshahi. Posing as beneficiaries of the forestation programme, the same two are seen (on the left of the inset photo) among other tree thieves at a meeting with forest official Farukh Hossain when he went there yesterday to investigate the illegal logging.

Probe team sits with loggers

Declares no forest men found involved in tree plunder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A forest department probe team yesterday heard most of the alleged tree plunderers ignoring locals' statements to decide that no staffs were involved in deforestation on three Padma chars.

The one-member probe team instructed local forest officials to inform all beneficiaries and others concerned for investigation. However, the foresters only informed alleged

tree plunderers -- Saral Khan, Yunus Ali, Manzur Hossain and their men.

"We did not find involvement of any staffs with tree plundering," said Md Faruque Hossain, conservator of forests, Bogra circle.

He however admitted rampant stealing of trees besides erosion denuding the chars and neglect by forester M Moyen Uddin and nursery attendant Abdur Razzak.

"The forest staffs did not inform their

Our **34th** Branch will be


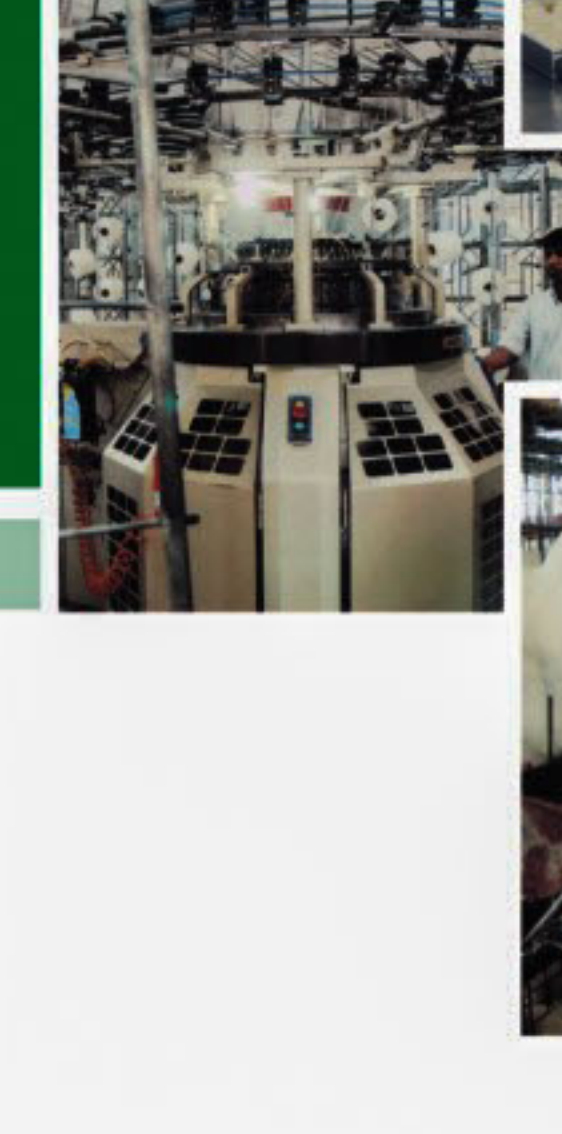
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Dhaka- Bangkok - Dhaka	BDT 10,410.00 or EQV	BDT 11,323.00	BDT 21,733.00
Dhaka- Hongkong - Dhaka	BDT 16,934.00 or EQV	BDT 11,316.00	BDT 28,250.00
Dhaka- Kuala Lumpur - Dhaka	BDT 12,492.00 or EQV	BDT 10,879.00	BDT 23,371.00
Dhaka- Singapore - Dhaka	BDT 16,171.00 or EQV	BDT 11,199.00	BDT 27,370.00

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