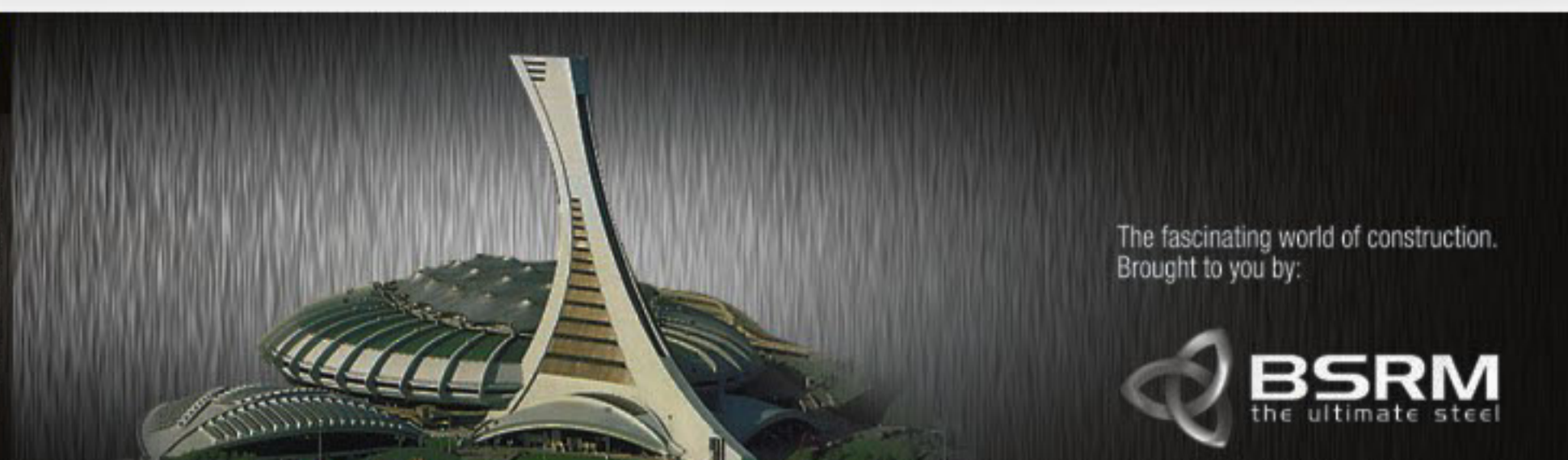


Did you know?

The Olympic Stadium is a multi-purpose stadium in the Hochelaga-Maisonneuve district of Montreal, Quebec, Canada built as the main venue for the 1976 Summer Olympics. It currently serves as a 56,040-seat multipurpose facility for special events.



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UNSAFE LEVEL CROSSINGS

No progress in overpass plan

KAILASH SARKAR

Nothing has been done to implement the city's overpass and flyover projects the government undertook last year following a train crash on Moghbazar level crossing, except for laying foundation stones of two flyovers only.

On June 17, 2009, an express train rammed two cars and a bus stuck in a gridlock on Moghbazar level crossing. Eight people were reportedly injured in the accident.

The next day the government made a snap decision to build six overpasses on Moghbazar, Malibagh, Sayedabad, Jatrabari, Staff Road and Jurain level crossings to avoid train accidents.

But following a set of recommendations from Dhaka Transport Coordination Board, the government changed the plan and decided to construct four flyovers at Jatrabari-Gulistan, Kuril, Malibagh-Moghbazar and Jurain and two overpasses at Staff Road and Sayedabad.

In the last one year and four months, at least 17 people were killed and 60 others wounded in eight accidents at the city's different level crossings.

On Wednesday, a train hit two buses stuck on Sayedabad level crossing killing six people and injuring 25.

But the projects are yet to move forward. All the government could do was laying foundation stones of Kuril and Gulistan-Jatrabari flyovers.

Communications Secretary Mozammel Hossain Khan on Wednesday told The Daily Star that the rest of the projects would start in June 2011.

He added the government had assigned five departments --

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Heavy traffic passes through the Sayedabad level crossing in the capital where an accident left six people dead Wednesday. The government more than a year ago decided to build overpasses over some level crossings in Dhaka but there is almost no sign of progress in that direction.

Court's dignity can't be upheld thru' contempt proceedings

Roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The image and dignity of the apex court cannot be protected through the contempt of court proceeding, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

The court itself has to protect its image and dignity and at the same time tolerate media criticism, said barrister Rafique-ul Huq at the roundtable on "Dignity of Court and Freedom of Media: Present Perspective".

Energy Solution of Bangladesh (ESB) organised the discussion at the Jatiya Press Club.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Private clinic vandalised over death of patient

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Locals vandalised a clinic yesterday following a woman's death due to alleged negligence of the health centre where a caesarean operation was performed on her Thursday night.

Faima Begum, 28, wife of Sadeque Ali, was admitted to Phulbari Health Care Clinic with labour pain Thursday night, police quoted family members as saying.

Fatema Ahmed, who was labelled by the private clinic as a gynaecologist, performed the caesarean operation on

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Recruitment test held in Pabna amid tight security

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Local administration in Pabna yesterday conducted a recruitment test for some low-ranked employees for the district's statistics department amid tight security.

It was the first such test since more than 100 Jubo League and Chhatra League activists on September 17 attacked government officials during a recruitment test, thus foiling it, as the deputy commissioner (DC) refused to entertain various demands of local Awami League lawmaker

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

\$40m ADB loan for high value crops

UNB, Dhaka

The Asian Development Bank will soon ink a deal with the government for providing \$40 million in soft loan to boost production of high value crops (HVCs).

The amount will help produce HVCs like vegetables, fruits and spices on 50,000 hectares of land in a bid to raise the poor farmers' income.

The loan will be disbursed under the Second Crop Diversification Project focusing on increased agricultural output and profitability, said an official at ADB Resident Mission here.

The ADB proposed credit will have a 32-year term, including a grace period of eight years, carrying interest rate of 1.0 percent per annum during the grace period and 1.5 percent thereafter.

The ADB loan of \$40 million will finance 87

percent of the project cost of \$45.81 million. Of the remaining \$5.81 million, the government will provide \$5.42 million to finance 12 percent of the project cost and the farmer communities to provide \$0.39 million to finance one percent.

Department of Agricultural Extension and Bangladesh Bank are the executing agencies for the Second Crop Diversification Project, which is expected to be completed by June 2016.

The main focus of the project will be given on the proven market demand, high profitability and commercialisation of HVCs including fruits, vegetables, pulses, spices, cut flowers, potted plants and foliage production.

The direct project beneficiaries will include about 240,000 HVC-growing households, of which 175,000 will receive credit. More than 37,500 person-years of annual employment will be generated mostly among landless rural

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Mizanur's nephew behind triple murder

Cops suspect

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police suspect that Sumon, a family member of Thursday's triple murder victims, is behind the killing, as they found "signs of blood" on his legs and nails.

Sumon is a nephew to Mizanur Rahman, who, along with his wife Bithi and his mother Sufia, was shot and stabbed to death Thursday morning by unidentified criminals at his Jatrabari residence.

"Experts from forensic

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

AL, BNP men clash over govt pond, 5 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

At least five persons were injured in a clash between the supporters of ruling Awami League and opposition BNP over the possession of a government pond in Mostofi area in Lalmonirhat sadar around 9:00pm on Thursday night.

The AL men blocked the Lalmonirhat-Rangpur road at Mostofi Bus Stand from 9:30pm to 10:30pm protesting the attack. They also vandalised a truck and two buses there.

The injured are AL activists Manir Uddin, 36, Mokhes, 42, and BNP workers Yakub Ali, 30, Afzal Hossain, 42, and Mohitul Islam, 28. They were admitted to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital and local clinics.

Road communication between Lalmonirhat and Rangpur and with other parts of the country was snapped during the blockade. A police team of Lalmonirhat Sadar Police Station reached

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



Trucks and tankers carrying supplies for Nato forces in Afghanistan burn following an attack by gunmen at Shikarpur in the southern Sindh province early yesterday. They torched more than two-dozen trucks and tankers.

PHOTO: AFP

OnlinePoll ✓

Do you think giving reception to the PM by blocking roads every time she returns from overseas tour is acceptable?

Yes (3.0%)
No (96.3%)
No Comments (0.7%)

Total votes: 600

TODAY'S POLL

The NBR has extended the income tax submission deadline to October 7. Do you think it will help boost tax collection?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Pak militants torch 27 Nato tankers

AP, Shikarpur

Suspected militants in southern Pakistan set ablaze 27 tankers carrying fuel for foreign troops in Afghanistan yesterday, highlighting the vulnerability of the US-led mission a day after Pakistan closed a major border crossing.

The Pakistani government shut the Torkham border in the northwest in apparent protest at a Nato helicopter incursion that killed three of its soldiers on the border. The events raised tensions between Pakistan and the United States, which have a close but often troubled alliance in the fight against militants. Pakistan also lodged a formal protest with Nato.

The convoy of tankers attacked was likely

headed to a second crossing in southwest Pakistan that was not closed. It was not clear if the vehicles had been rerouted because of the closure at Torkham.

Around 80 percent of the fuel, spare parts, clothing and other non-lethal supplies for foreign forces in landlocked Afghanistan travels through Pakistan after arriving in the southern Arabian sea port of Karachi. The alliance has other supply routes to Afghanistan, but the Pakistani ones are the cheapest and most convenient.

Islamist militants occasionally attack Nato supply tankers in Pakistan, mostly in the northwest where their influence is stronger.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

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