

Did you know?

The Great Wall of China is the longest man-made structure in the world, with a length of over 6,352 km. (3,948 miles).



The fascinating world of construction. Brought to you by:



TURN ON DIGITAL SAMSUNG TURN ON TOMORROW

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

TRANSKOM DIGITAL

TRAIN ACCIDENT AL blames irresponsible act of BNP leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP leaders' "sheer irresponsibility" has caused the train accident during the party's Sirajganj rally on Monday, ruling Awami League has said. "The accident occurred due to the utter irresponsible act of BNP leaders," Mahbubul Alam Hanif, AL joint general secretary, said yesterday at a press briefing.

At least six persons were run over and killed by an intercity train, when it spilled through a crowd during a party rally on the railway track at Sayedabad near Bangladesh Multipur.

Tk 23cr loss

Finds railway in primary assessment of Sirajganj damage; service suspended indefinitely

ANWAR ALI, from Rajshahi

Bangladesh Railway has already incurred a loss of at least Tk 23 crore due to the burning of intercity train Drutajan Express in Sirajganj on Monday, and it will have to count an additional Tk 46 lakh as revenue lost for each month the service will remain suspended, said railway officials.

More than 1,000 travellers will suffer daily due to the rail communication disruption between the capital and northern district Dinajpur.

Now travellers to Dhaka from Dinajpur either have to burden the remaining lone intercity train Ekota Express on the route, or they must run to neighbouring Nilphamari district's Syedpur for catching Nil Sagar Express, unless they are willing to pay for costlier bus fares.

Bholanath Banerjee, 75, who is the president of Dinajpur chapter of the Human Rights

Congress for Bangladeshi Minorities, told The Daily Star yesterday that he travels to Dhaka for treatment and official purposes quite often, and it was very easy for him to travel on Drutajan Express.

"Now I will face problems collecting train tickets, or I will have to travel by bus which will not be as comfortable for me," he said.

A mob of BNP activists set ablaze Drutajan Express after it had ploughed through a section of a party rally that had spilled on to the railway tracks at Sayedabad of Sirajganj killing six people.

The railway officials said the train service was popular among travellers, and the railway authority was also earning more than Tk 1.5 lakh on an average from transporting 1,043 passengers daily.

The officials could not say when they will be able to resume the service.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



PHOTO: ABDUL KUDDUS

The national flag flew half-mast at Sirajganj district BNP office yesterday following the death of six attendees of a party rally in Sirajganj on Monday. Undermining the dignity of the national flag is a punishable offence under Bangladesh National Anthem, Flag and Emblem Order, 1972.

TURAG TRAGEDY Long wait for missing loved ones

MUKHLESUR RAHMAN

Elderly Tahura Khatun could barely stand upright. Onlookers helped her to stand amid a huge crowd on the bank of the Turag.

Fixed on the river, Tahura's fading eyesight was hunting something.

"Hazera [her 30-year-old daughter] doesn't come to me anymore. I've been lurking for the three days on the bank. My eyesight has become blurred now," she said in a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

ACC bans use of phone by its officials for inquiry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has imposed a ban on land phone or cellphone use by its officials during investigation.

Against the backdrop of widespread allegation of extortion over phone using names of ACC, the anti-graft watchdog came up with the decision yesterday.

"We have taken the decision so that no dishonest person can take privilege of a situation, and to save people

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

WAR CRIMES TRIAL Sayedee to be produced in court Nov 2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal yesterday directed the jail authorities to produce Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Naye-e-Amir Delwar Hossain Sayedee before it on November 2 in connection with war crimes charges.

Sayedee was not produced before the tribunal yesterday due to his illness.

"If on that day [November 2] the suspected accused

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Durga Puja begins today

SUMAN SAHA

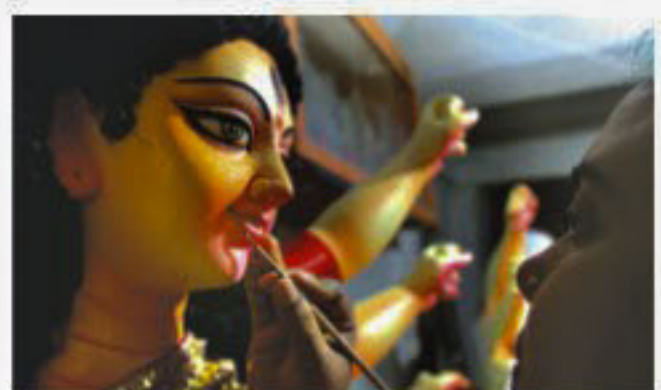
Durga Puja, the largest Hindu festival for Bangladeshis, brings blessings to people as well as business with the invocation (bodhon) of the goddess.

It is an annual Hindu festival that celebrates worship of the goddess, Durga. The key part of the five-day festivities starts today and ends on Sunday with immersion.

A total of 27,000 pandals (mandaps) have been set up across Bangladesh this year to celebrate Durga Puja.

About Tk 200 crore would be circulated around this festival,

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1



AL leader hacked to death in Chuadanga

AMANUR AMAN, from Chuadanga

Unknown assailants chopped a local Awami League leader to death at Hogoldanga village of Damurhuda upazila early yesterday.

Victim Mizanur Rahman Mizan, 43, was AL organising secretary and also a member of ward-7 of Natipota Union Parishad.

Angered by the incident,

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

Tougher stance against 'environment terrorists'

PM says at National Environment Award distribution ceremony

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said some greedy quarters are damaging the country's biodiversity and environment through their short-sighted activities.

The government has taken a tougher stance against these 'environmental terrorists' who indiscriminately cut down trees and hills, and grab lands and rivers under the shelter of the past BNP-Jamaat government, she said while distributing National Environment Medal 2010

at her office.

The premier distributed the awards among three organisations and one person for their outstanding efforts to preserve the environment and nature.

Chittagong City Corporation got awarded in the Environment Protection category, Eco Tex Limited for Environment Pollution Protection, Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) for Environmental Education and Publicity and Humayun Kabir for Environment Research and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Impasse at Ctg port

Cargo handling yet to resume as dockers continue agitation; negotiations on

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The impasse over container handling at all the 12 jetties of general cargo berths (GCBs) at Chittagong Port continued for the second day yesterday with dock workers still agitating to realise their demands.

Officials of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) and labour leaders were chased and two of the leaders manhandled by demonstrating workers at Jetty No 12 yesterday evening. They went there in a bid to end the stalemate that began at 9.00pm on Monday.

Those manhandled are Dock Bandar Sramik Karmachari Federation General Secretary Mahfujur Rahman Khan and Joint Secretary AbdulAhad.

The trouble centred allowing container

handling by private berth operators. Meanwhile, Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan rushed to the port city yesterday.

The minister held a meeting with the district administration, the CPA and different intelligence agencies from 7:30 pm to 9:00pm.

He wanted to hold a meeting with the labour leaders but it did not take place as none of them turned up.

Later, the minister went to the residence of AbdulAhad around 11:30pm.

When this report filed at 12:15am, Shajahan Khan was going to the residences of Mahfujur Rahman Khan and President of the federation Golam Mohammad.

Private berth operators are due to have a meeting with the minister at 10 this morning.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



PHOTO: STAR

Container handling at all the 12 jetties at Chittagong Port remains halted for the second day yesterday with dockworkers agitating to press home their demands. The trouble centres allowing container handling by private berth operators.

OnlinePoll

How do you look at the law enforcers' role in dealing with the killing of Boraigram upazila chairman Sanaullah Noor?

Playing partisan role (65.2%)

Active enough (21.8%)

Lack required efforts (13.0%)

Total votes: 660

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with BNP Chairperson Khaleeda Zia that the Sirajganj train incident was a plot to foil the rally?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

October 13

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-20
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-45	5-50
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Mr. M. A. Hashem Re-elected Chairman of UCB

Mr. M. A. Hashem, Sponsor Director of United Commercial Bank Ltd. and Chairman of Partex Group was re-elected Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Bank. This was unanimously decided in the 306th Board Meeting of the Bank held on 11.10.2010. He is one of the key Sponsor Directors of UCB.

Mr. Hashem, son of Late Al-Haj Abdul Aziz, was born in a respectable Muslim family of Wasaqqur, Begumganj in the district of Noakhali. He was a former Member of Parliament.

A reputed industrialist and philanthropist, Mr. Hashem is actively associated with many educational and socio-cultural organizations of the country. He is a Director of Janata Insurance Co. Ltd. He is also the founder member of North South University, Founder of M. A. Hashem Diabetic Hospital Chowmuhani, M. A. Hashem University College, Kazirhat, Begumganj and Al-Haj Abdul Aziz Lillah Boarding and Orphanage at Chowmuhani, Noakhali. He has been patronizing a number of social, cultural, charitable and sports organizations of the country.

Heartiest felicitations to Mr. M. A. Hashem from the family of Partex.

PARTEX™

আফতাব ফুডস দেশের সীমানা পেরিয়ে এখন অস্ট্রেলিয়ায়

সরিষার তেল

চানাচুর, কাল চানাচুর, বুট ভাজা, মুগ ডাল, বাদাম ভাজা

আমলকির চাটনি, বরই চাটনি, আমের চাটনি, তেঁতুলের চাটনি, মিজভ ফলের চাটনি, লাছা সেমাই

মরিচের গুঁড়া, ধনিয়ার গুঁড়া, জিরার গুঁড়া, হসুদের গুঁড়া, সবজির মশলা, গরুর মাসের মশলা, মুরগির মাসের মশলা, মাছের মশলা, বাসির মাসের মশলা

অন্যান্য পণ্য: আফতাব নুডলস, আফতাব সুগন্ধী চাল, রকমারী আচার, আফতাব মুড়ি, আফতাব টোট বিস্কুট, ছিন পি, আফতাব সেমাই।

আফতাব গ্রুপ কাকরাইল অফিস: ৬৭/৯ কাকরাইল (৪র্থ ও ৫ম তলা), ঢাকা-১০০০। ফোন: +৮৮০-২-৮৩৯১৪৩১-৩২ ফ্যাক্স: +৮৮০-২-৮৩৯১৪৩০, e-mail: info@aftabfoodsbd.com, web: www.aftabfoodsbd.com হেড অফিস: উত্তরা ব্যাংক ভবন (৫ম ও ৬ষ্ঠ তলা), ৯০ মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০, বাংলাদেশ। ফোন: +৮৮০-২-৯৫৫৪২৩৬ ৯৫৬৭১৮৩, ফ্যাক্স: +৮৮০-২-৯১৬২২৫২, e-mail: aftab\_g@aiftab.net, web: www.aftabgroup.com.bd, www.iftekharulislam.com