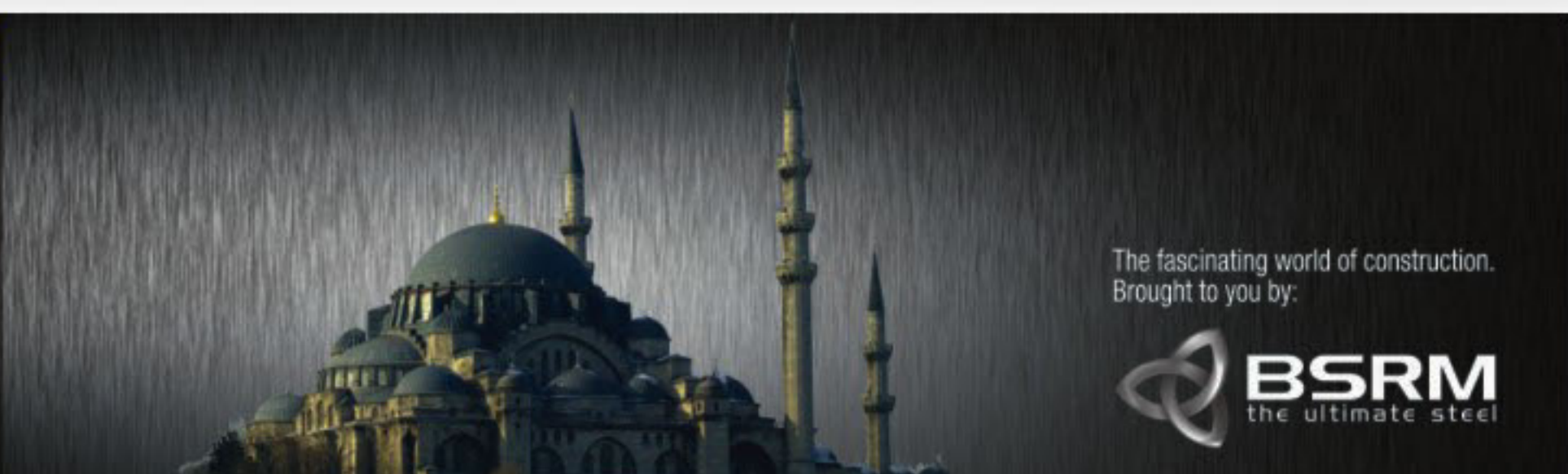


Did you know?

Hagia Sophia is a former Orthodox patriarchal basilica, later a mosque, now a museum in Istanbul, Turkey. From the date of its dedication in 360 until 1453, it served as the cathedral of Constantinople except between 1204 and 1261.



The fascinating world of construction. Brought to you by: **BSRM** the ultimate steel

TURN ON DIGITAL SAMSUNG TURN ON TOMORROW

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

TRANSKOM DIGITAL think electronics... think DIGITAL

Model schools in 306 upazilas

Govt takes up project for areas without public schools

WASIM BIN HABIB

The government has taken up a Tk 465.77 crore project to convert 306 non-government high schools into model institutions with one each in the upazilas having no public high school now.

The schools which now get government funds under its Monthly Payment Order (MPO) will come under the project to be implemented by fiscal 2013. And 100 of these schools will be converted this fiscal year, official sources said.

The project titled "Transformation of existing non-government schools into model schools in 306 selected upazilas" is aimed at minimising the wide urban-rural gap in the quality of education by ensuring standard education for the rural students.

There are 74 lakh students of high schools in the country with two-thirds of them in rural parts. The new project will benefit at least two lakh students.

The country now has 317 public high schools with limited seats.

The Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) has already finalised a list of 306 schools based on their reputation, results, location and state of school management, said KM Rafiqul Islam, the project

director.

Each of the schools under the project will get computer laboratories, 10 computers, accessories and one xerox machine, furniture worth around Tk 5 lakh; books worth around Tk 1 lakh, science equipment of Tk 2 lakh, and sports goods of Tk 50,000.

In addition to physical facilities like buildings, new classrooms, repair, renovation and extension of the schools, more teachers having master's degree would be recruited and teaching aids would be provided. More than Tk 1.40 crore each will be spent for schools.

"We want to ensure one teacher for 40 students in these schools," Rafiqul Islam said.

Besides, resource centres in nine regions of the DSHE will be developed under the project for teachers' training.

Education ministry sources said the project was initiated by the immediate past caretaker government. But it got stuck up due to bureaucratic tangles.

The present government resumed the project.

Contacted, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid expressed the hope that the project would have a positive impact on the overall standard of education.



The tin-shed house in Fatullah, Narayanganj after an explosion there yesterday that injured six people.

6 injured in N'ganj explosion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

At least six people including three siblings sustained severe burn injuries in an explosion at a tin-shed house in Fatullah of Narayanganj early yesterday.

One of the injured told The Daily Star that the explosion occurred due to a leakage in a gas burner inside a kitchen of the house.

Narayanganj Superintendent of Police Biswas Afzal Hossain, however, said it was a bomb explosion that occurred around 3:30am at two tin-shed rooms of a house in Masdar Gabtoli Natun Bazar area.

He also suspected that the injured might have links with a militant outfit as law enforcers

SEE PAAE 15 COL 7

PRAYER TIMING		
October 19		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-50	5-25
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-38	5-41
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

BDR MUTINY TRIAL RESUMES

Special court reads out charges against 623

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As a special court yesterday resumed trial of 623 accused from 13 Rifle Battalion, the prosecutor told the court that the bloody mutiny at BDR Headquarters began from this battalion.

He said sepoy Moin, one of the key planners of the mutiny, who first attempted to kill the then BDR director general during Darbar on February 25 last year, was from this battalion.

Moin has been absconding since then.

Prosecutor Lt Col Akhter Hamid Khan, who is also commanding officer of 13 Rifle Battalion, was placing charges against the accused before the court set up at the Darbar Hall in Pikhana.

If the jawans of this battalion would not assist sepoy Moin, the BDR officers did not have to lay down their lives, he said.

After Lt Col Hamid's deposition the court

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

OnlinePoll ✓

Do you support BNP's decision on countrywide protest programme against the government notice asking Khaleda Zia to leave her Cant house, and cancellation of Koko's parole?

Yes (60.6%)

No (39.0%)

No Comments (0.4%)

Total votes: 1586

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with BNP leader SQ Chowdhury that army should decide on Khaleda Zia's Dhaka cantonment house issue and it has no relation with politics, administration and judiciary?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

শ্রদ্ধাঞ্জলি



আজ ১৯শে অক্টোবর ২০১০ ইং, মঙ্গলবার নাভানা লিমিটেড ও আফতাব অটোমোবাইলস্ লিমিটেড-এর প্রতিষ্ঠাতা, পরম শ্রদ্ধেয় মরহুম আলহাজ্ব জহুরুল ইসলাম সাহেবের ১৫ তম মৃত্যুবার্ষিকী।

তিনি ছিলেন আমাদের আদর্শ, পথ প্রদর্শক এবং সকল কর্ম প্রেরণার উৎস। তাঁর বিদেহী আত্মার প্রতি জানাই গভীর শ্রদ্ধা এবং পরম করুণাময়ের কাছে কামনা করছি তাঁর আত্মার মাগফেরাত।

সফিউল ইসলাম (কামাল)
চেয়ারম্যান

NAVANA নাভানা লিমিটেড

afab আফতাব অটোমোবাইলস্ লিমিটেড

Deals signed for 2 power plants

UNB, Dhaka

The government yesterday signed two contracts with Chinese company Dongfang Electric International Corporation to set up two more peaking power plants in Shantahar and Katakali of the northern region.

Each of the plants run by furnace oil will have 50 megawatts generation capacity.

The two projects are part of the government's move to install a number of peaking power plants across the country to resolve the nagging power crisis.

As per the contracts, the contractor will complete the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Public Notice

We would like to inform all that Mr. **Taufique Elahi Akhand** is no more working with the company with an effect from 1st October 2010. Any act of him after that date would not be treated as company activity.

For any queries for PRYM snap button please call 01711 82 82 20 or email on info@panbangla.com.

Thanks for supporting us for last 12 years by choosing our products & services.

Pandora Associates Ltd. (only associate of PRYM in Bangladesh) www.panbangla.com

BANGLADESH INTERNATIONAL TUTORIAL
Established in 1983

Learning today - to lead tomorrow

It has been noted that girls do better academically in an all girls' school; this is backed by leading educationalists and psychologists. In 1991 BIT opened the first all English medium Girls' school - to maximize the benefits of a classic education for girls.

- The first school in Bangladesh to offer three languages (other than English).
- Effective and favourable student - teacher ratio.
- A rigorous academic programme that has resulted in our students in being accepted at world-class institutions like Princeton, Stanford, Columbia, London School of Economics, Cambridge, McGills and many more.
- The success of your children in secondary school and university depends on the foundation they build in junior school.

Administrative Building (G.C.E.)
House # 02, Road # 128, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212
Telephone : 8810044, 9886016

The Daily Star

VOICE NEWS SERVICE

Dial 2222

for the latest news highlights in English

To keep germs and illnesses at bay you must wash both hands with soap

- Washing hands with water alone is not enough. Always use soap!
- Washing hands with soap reduces the chances of diarrhoea and pneumonia by 50% . It is a simple but effective solution to save the life of children.
- To stay healthy, wash both hands with soap regularly after using latrine, before eating and feeding children, and after cleaning child's feces.

Global Handwashing Day 2010 more than just a day

Celebrate the Global Handwashing Day live only on **ATN** - 20 October, 11:15 am

Global Handwashing Day October 2010