

Did you know?

The Potala Palace is located in Lhasa, Tibet. The building measures 400 metres east to west and 350 metres north to south, with sloping stone walls averaging more than 16 ft thick at the base. Copper was poured into the foundations to help proof it against earthquakes.



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

# Shake-up done professionally

A number of bureaucrats see no politics behind major shuffle in admin

M ABUL KALAM AZAD and HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Tuesday's major shuffle of the civil administration has been welcomed by many bureaucrats as the first instance of prioritising professionalism over political affiliation by the Awami League-led government in matters of administrative postings.

Talking to The Daily Star, a number of bureaucrats yesterday said the latest shake-up has also been the most crucial one so far by the present government. They think the changes will help infuse dynamism in administrative work, and help establish firmer government control over the bureaucracy.

The government on Tuesday shuffled 21 of its secretaries, four of whom were made officers on special duties (OSD).

One of the reasons the bureaucrats seem happy with the new postings is that the changes were not recommended by Prime Minister's Establishment and Administrative Affairs Adviser HT Imam, but by a small group of offi-

cers at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). There has been widespread dissatisfaction among the bureaucrats about transfers and promotions designed by Imam.

Ideally, such changes should be recommended by the establishment ministry.

A PMO source said more similar changes in the civil administration, including some promotions, are in the pipeline.

The shuffle came in the wake of non-cooperation by a section of top bureaucrats, and their increasing distance from the ministers. The situation seriously hampered routine activities of the administration, and implementation of development projects.

Tuesday's shuffle duly placed competent officers in some important ministries, said the bureaucrats. They are seeing the move as vital, considering the upcoming local government polls.

"For the first time the shuffle has been well thought out," a top bureaucrat told The Daily Star, on condition of anonymity.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



Children wash hands marking the Global Handwashing Day at Mohammadpur Residential Model School and College in the city yesterday. Observed since 2008, the day calls for improved hygiene practices. PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

## SQ CHOWDHURY Sahara trashes reports on arrest move

UNB, Dhaka

Home Minister Sahara Khatun yesterday dismissed the rumour about government move to arrest BNP leader Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury as reported by a section of print and electronic media.

Responding to reporters' queries at the home ministry, she said police did not go to Chowdhury's residence in Chittagong Tuesday night.

IGP Hasan Mahmud Khandaker, who was also present there, echoed the home minister, saying that the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

## 5 'criminals' killed in 'gunfights,' attack

STAR REPORT

Four outlaws were killed in Pabna yesterday in separate incidents of "gunfight" and attack, and an alleged criminal was killed in another "gunfight" with law enforcers in Cox's Bazar the same day.

The deceased were identified as Faruk Ahmed Paban, 40, a central leader of Lal Pataka faction of the outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML), Siddique Pramanik, 35, and Bishu Pramanik, 26, two operatives of Janajuddha faction of PBCP, Mohammad Khokon, 27, a cadre of a local gang --Bahini-- and Rashed Uddin Chowdhury Babar, 35, an alleged criminal in Cox's Bazar.

Our Pabna correspondent reports: Paban was killed in a 'shootout' between Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and his accomplices in

Ishwardi upazila early yesterday.

Paban hailed from Baraichara village in the upazila, and he was accused in several cases including those for murder and robbery, Rab said.

Commander of Rab-12 Pabna Camp Lt Commander TAH Mahmud said acting on a tip off that Paban was holding a secret meeting with his accomplices at a field in his village, they conducted a raid in the area. Sensing this, the gang opened fire on the Rab men, prompting them to retaliate with fire.

After a "gunfight" for about 20 minutes, Rab found Paban lying in a pool of blood, Mahmud added.

Paban's accomplices managed to flee the spot leaving three guns and eight bullets, Rab said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## BDR MUTINY TRIAL 280 accused jawans plead not guilty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A BDR special court yesterday continued hearing on framing charges against the 622 accused jawans of 13 Rifle Battalion of Pilkhana, of whom 280 pleaded not guilty.

The Special Court-8, set up at the Darbar Hall of BDR headquarters, asked the 280 suspected mutineers individually whether they admit their guilt or not, to which each of them unequivocally said 'honourable court, I am innocent.'

Prosecution sources said

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## BANGABANDHU BRIDGE CRACKS REPAIR Minister blasted for backing dubious firm

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary committee yesterday blasted Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain for selecting a blacklisted Chinese firm for repair of cracks on Bangabandhu Multipurpose Bridge.

The minister faced a volley of questions and enquiries from members of the House watchdog on the communications ministry as to how the firm was selected despite its black record.

"We are not satisfied with the minister's explanation on selection of the blacklisted Chinese firm for repairing the cracks on Bangabandhu Bridge," said a member of the committee after it met at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

"Members of the committee asked him (minister) to come up at the committee's next meeting with detailed information in the regard," he told The Daily Star wishing not to be named.

Emerging from the meeting, chief of the committee Sheikh Muzibur Rahman told journalists that the minister did not give details about the matter despite being asked to do so. The blacklisted firm was selected by the communications ministry on September 13.

But the cabinet purchase committee on the following day cancelled the tender awarded to the blacklisted firm, and decided to invite a fresh tender for the work.

The House body also criticised the ministry

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## JU ADMISSION Tests of two units stalled on HC order

UNB, Dhaka

Jahangirnagar University (JU) authorities yesterday postponed its admission tests of 'Kha' and 'Ga' units for the academic session 2010-11 for indefinite period following a stay order by High Court.

The stay order came on October 13 following a writ petition filed by madrasa students.

The decision to postpone the tests was taken at an emergency meeting of central admission committee chaired by Vice Chancellor Dr Sharif Enamul Kabir.

The admission tests of the two units, scheduled for October 23 and 24, will not be held.

The fresh date for admission tests of two postponed

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



Students block a train in Natore demanding punishment of the killers of a college teacher. A group of local stalkers ran a motorbike into Mizanur Rahman, inset, a chemistry teacher, last week. Mizanur succumbed to his injuries yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

## Teacher injured by stalkers dies

Students, locals block train, demand punishment to culprits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The college teacher, who was attacked and injured allegedly by stalkers on October 12 in Natore, yesterday succumbed to his injuries at BSMMU hospital in Dhaka.

Mizanur Rahman, chemistry teacher of Lokmanpur College in Bagatipara upazila of the district, had been in coma for eight days and died early yesterday.

Meanwhile in Bagatipara, around a thousand students of the college along with locals blockaded a train for about 30 minutes from 1:20pm at Lokmanpur station in protest at their teacher's death. They demanded punishment to the killers.

Students of Lokmanpur High School and Lokmanpur Primary School also joined the protest. The students called off the barricade after police had assured them that the perpetrators would be arrested.

Our Natore correspondent reports: students and teachers of Lokmanpur College alleged that some local boys led by Asif and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

## TRAIN ATTACK 4 more arrested

A CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Four more people were arrested in connection with the October 11 attack on the intercity train Drutajan Express and setting it ablaze near a BNP rally in Sirajganj early yesterday.

The arrestees are local BNP leader Selim Reza, local Jubo Dal leader Faridul Islam and party activists Shahidul and Swapan.

Police picked them up conducting raids at different places in the district.

So far, 80 people have been arrested in eight cases filed in connection with Sirajganj violence.

Six people were killed on October 11 when the train ploughed through an opposition rally at Soidabad near

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## HATIRJHEEL-BEGUNBARI PROJECT Rajuk demolishes more structures

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) yesterday knocked down around 10 structures including a three-storey building on the sideline of the under-construction Hatirjheel development project in the city's Begunbari area.

The other demolished structures were makeshift tin sheds. "We knocked down part of the building and makeshift structures to free the alignment of the proposed peripheral road," said Jamal Akhtar, executive engineer of Rajuk.

On Tuesday, Rajuk pulled down six structures including portions of a three-storey and a five-storey building in the same area.

Further drives will be conducted on next Sunday or Monday to complete the eviction, said Jamal Akhtar.

A number of owners and residents of the demolished structures, however, alleged that Rajuk did not serve them any notice to move out.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## 3 murdered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three people were stabbed to death yesterday at Pallabi, Dakkhin Khan and East Jurain in the capital.

The dead were identified as Zakir Hossain, 32, Mohammad Shawkat, 60 and Mamun Hossain, 17, a factory worker.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

| Prayer Timing |       |        |
|---------------|-------|--------|
| October 21    |       |        |
|               | Azan  | Jamaat |
| Fajr          | 4-50  | 5-25   |
| Zohr          | 12-45 | 1-15   |
| Asr           | 4-00  | 4-15   |
| Maghrib       | 5-36  | 5-39   |
| Esha          | 7-15  | 7-45   |

Source: Islamic Foundation

**BANGLADESH INTERNATIONAL TUTORIAL**  
Girls' Section (Class I - X)  
Established in 1990

**CELEBRATING TWENTY YEARS**

When it comes to the future of your daughter - there is no time like the present in preparing them for it. The Girls' section of B.I.T. opened in 1990 - it has become a symbol - it is intended to improve the education given to girls and provide equal opportunities. It is now universally recognised that girls do better in all girls' schools. The students are the reason for this school's existence - and the inspiration for its future.

**Administrative Building (G.C.E.)**  
House # 02, Road # 128, Gulshan, Dhaka  
Tel : 8810044, 9886016

**Address of Girls' Section :**  
House # 36, Road # 43, Gulshan, Dhaka  
Tel : 8825983