

Did you know?

The main tower of Moscow State University, Russia, was the tallest building in Europe from its completion in 1953 until 1990. It consumed over 40,000 metric tons of steel, and at 240m is still the tallest educational building in the world.



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CURRENCY, TRADE POLICIES

G20 leaders sharply split

AP, SEOUL, South Korea

A strong sense of pessimism shrouded the start of an economic summit of rich and emerging economies yesterday, with President Barack Obama and fellow world leaders arriving in Seoul sharply divided over currency and trade policies.

The Group of 20 summit, held for the first time in Asia, has become the centerpiece of international efforts to revive the global economy and prevent future financial meltdowns.

Failure in Seoul could have severe consequences. The risk is that countries would try to keep their currencies artificially low to give their exporters a competitive edge in global markets. That could lead to a destructive trade war. Countries might throw up barriers to imports - a repeat of policies that worsened the Great Depression.

Hopes had been high that the Group of 20 - encompassing rich nations such as Germany and the US as well as growing giants such as China and Brazil - could be the world forum for hashing out an economic way forward from financial crisis.

But agreement appeared elusive as the summit began, divided between those such as United States that want to get China to allow its currency rise and those irate over US Federal Reserve plans to pump \$600 billion of new money into the sluggish American economy, effectively devaluing the dollar.

Obama told fellow leaders that the US cannot remain a profligate consumer using borrowed money and needs other countries to pull their weight to fix the world economy.

"The most important thing that the United

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People gather on the occasion of foundation laying ceremony for a Liberation War memorial and a commemorative park at Chottakhola, Tripura yesterday. Inset, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni along with other guests during the function.

PHOTO: STAR

Tripura park to treasure war history Dipu Moni lays foundation

REZAUL KARIM, from Chottakhola, Tripura

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, who laid the foundation of a Liberation War memorial and a commemorative park here, said yesterday that the establishment would be a source of inspiration for the freedom lovers of the world.

"On full completion of the project, this tiny Chottakhola will be a place of inspiration for the freedom loving people of the world," she said while addressing a huge gathering at Chottakhola, a border village at Rajanagar under Belonia of South Tripura.

Chottakhola, 130 kilometres from Tripura's capital Agartala, had functioned as one of the 11 warfront-camps

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Car bomb hits police in Karachi, kills 18

AFP, Karachi

Militants armed with guns and a truck bomb demolished a police department used to detain terror suspects in Pakistan's biggest city of Karachi yesterday, killing 18 people and wounding 100 others.

Pakistan's Taliban swiftly claimed responsibility for what was a rare attack on

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Bus driver killed

Helper also shot as bus hits businessman; conflicting claims over firing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A businessman allegedly gunned down and killed a bus driver and injured its helper with his licensed pistol following a scuffle between them in the city's Phulbaria Bus Stand area yesterday morning.

The deceased is Nizam Uddin Nizam, 25, a driver on Gulistan-Abdullahpur route.

Helper Russell, 26, was undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Incensed at the killing, fellow bus workers and locals beat up

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PHOTO ON PAGE 15

Railway in hiring mode

Plans to recruit 7,275 staff, call back 62 retired drivers, 57 stationmasters

SHAHNAZ PARVEEN

In a desperate move to tackle acute shortage of manpower, Bangladesh Railway (BR) is calling back 119 retired train drivers and stationmasters.

It is also going to recruit 7,275 staff in various categories to fill up the vacuum created in the last 25 years. There has

been hardly any recruitment in the BR since 1985.

TA Chowdhury, BR acting director general, said 62 retired locomotive masters (train drivers) and 57 stationmasters will be hired on a two-year contract. Medical tests of 50 of these veterans have been completed.

The 7,275 fresh recruits will be mostly

operational staffs and important technical hands in 68 categories. They include stationmasters, way men, mechanics, trade apprentice, booking assistants and ticket collectors, he told The Daily Star.

Application forms for the new posts are being sold from November 1, and will continue till 22. Officials intend to com

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Suu Kyi loses court battle Junta mum on her possible release

AP, Yangon

Myanmar's democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi suffered her latest courtroom loss yesterday but close aides remained optimistic that she will soon be granted freedom from house arrest in the military-ruled country.

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DHAKA'S NOISE POLLUTION

Sound level double at many points

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The existing sound levels at different places in the capital are nearly double the permissible level, speakers said quoting a survey report at a discussion yesterday.

As per the Noise Pollution (Control) Rules 2006, the noise level should remain within 50 decibels.

Najnin Kabir, project officer of Work for a Better Bangladesh (WBB) Trust, quoting the survey report said traffics at Sayedabad are exposed to 102 decibels, at Banglamotor to 92 decibels, Farmgate 93 decibels, Mohakhali 98 decibels, Tejgaon 95 decibels, Gulistan 92 decibels, Motijheel 93 decibels and Dhanmondi residential area to 101 decibels.

Due to lack of enforcement of rules, noise pollution continues unabated especially in urban areas, worsening physical and mental health of the people, the speakers said.

Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikdar said besides creating awareness among people, the government is thinking of enforcing sound pollution control rules with the help of traffic police.

Sobhan made the remarks while inaugurating the four-month-long programme titled "Reduction of Sound Pollution

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OnlinePoll

Do you think the Cabinet Purchase Committee should have a member who has conflict of interest as seen in PDB's Ghorashal power project?

- Yes (8.6%)
- No (53.2%)
- No Comments (38.2%)

Total votes: 442

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think 1-year jail term and fine are sufficient to stop stalking in the country?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-00	5-35
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-22	5-25
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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