



**Did you know?** The Fort Peck Dam is the highest of six major dams along the Missouri River, in the United States. At 21,026 feet (6,409 m) in length and over 250 feet (76 m) in height, it is the largest hydraulically filled dam in the U.S.



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# 4-lane sees green light

*Dhaka-Ctg highway project freed of consultancy glitch after a year; new firm gets the job; govt to purchase 211 vehicles for upazila parishads*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet committee on purchase yesterday approved proposed appointment of a new consulting firm as a consultancy glitch already delayed by a year the upgrading of Dhaka-Chittagong highway.

It gave the approval at a meeting with Finance Minister AMA Muhith in the chair.

The consulting firm is Joint Venture of Consulting Engineering Services (India) Pvt Ltd and Dev Consultants Ltd (of Bangladesh). It will receive Tk 23.88 lakh from the government in consultancy fees.

Expansion of the two-lane highway was initiated in 2006 to complete the work in three years. But implementation of the project is yet to start.

The present government revived the four-lane project on a priority basis and signed a deal with Chinese company Sinohydro Corporation and two local companies-- Reza Construction and Tahir Brothers Ltd-- on January 10 this year.

The project has been in jeopardy since Pakistani consultant Nespak, which was supposed to monitor the work, suddenly quit in June this year after its demand for higher fees was rejected. It did not respond despite repeated warnings prompting the

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Flag-draped coffin of Mir Shawkat Ali is carried to Banani military graveyard for his burial yesterday afternoon. War veteran Mir Shawkat died on Saturday at the age of 74. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

# Mir Shawkat laid to rest in state honour

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

War veteran Mir Shawkat Ali, Bir Uttam, was laid to rest yesterday afternoon in state and military honour at the city's Banani military graveyard.

Before that thousands of BNP leaders and workers and people from all walks of life joined in the namaz-e-janazas held at Lalbagh Shahi Jame Masjid and in front of the BNP's Naya Paltan office to pay their last tribute to the freedom fighter.

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Brig Gen (Retd) Hannan Shah, Abdul Moyeen Khan, Air Vice Marshal (retd) Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, Abdullah Al Noman, among others, participated in the janaza in front of the BNP's central office. BNP and its associate organisations also placed wreaths on the coffin of the BNP leader.

The third namaz-e-janaza was held at noon at the South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban where deputy speaker, chief whip, ministers,

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# AUG 21 GRENADE ATTACK CID given more time for probe

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted three and a half months to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to complete the investigation into one of the two cases filed for the August 21 grenade attacks on an Awami League rally in 2004.

The CID has been given more than 18 months in six phases so far to complete the investigation into the case filed for killing 23 people including Ivy Rahman and injuring scores in the attack.

Judge Fozila Begum of Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's

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# Mobile court jails youth

*Controversy follows as he denies stalking charges*

MUKHLESUR RAHMAN

A mobile court yesterday convicted a young man for stalking a 13-year old girl and sentenced him to one-year imprisonment in the capital, but the trial gave rise to a controversy among local residents.

The victim's father Faruque Hossain filed a general diary with Ramna Police Station on Sunday stating that Sakib Hossain Sajib, 20, kidnapped the girl and took her to his residence where he kept her captive, three days before Eid-ul-Azha.

Ramna police arrested Sajib from his grocery shop adjacent to his residence in Gabtala of Moghbazar yesterday noon and then informed the mobile court which convened at the police station in the afternoon. The court, presided over by Executive Magistrate Babul Mia, convicted and sentenced Sajib for stalking the girl of class VII.

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# FREE PRIMARY TEXTBOOKS

# Delay feared for slow progress in printing

WASIM BIN HABIB

Distribution of around three crore copies of free textbooks for students of primary classes is likely to miss the deadline due to slow progress in the local printer's work and negligence of the paper supplier.

Thirty-eight days are left to start the textbook distribution, but only 28 percent or 2.90 crore copies of total primary textbooks have been sent to upazilas.

The government has targeted to print around 23.18 crore textbooks for 2011 academic year students of primary (class I-V), secondary (VI-X), ebtedai (primary level of madrasa) and dakhil (secondary level of madrasa) and vocational classes.

Of them, 10.48 crore copies are for primary students and 12.75 crore for secondary level.

However, distribution of secondary-level books has progressed and around 72 percent or 9.18 crore copies of those have already been sent to upazila headquarters.

This year, the government for the first time took initiative to do the printing of three crore copies of textbooks for class I, II and III from India through international tender. The copies are expected to arrive by December 15.

The National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) officials claimed that around six lakh copies of textbooks

had already reached Kushtia and over one crore books are awaiting entry into the country.

But Hasan Book Depot, a local printer, which won the contract for printing around 2.18 crore copies of primary books through international bidding, supplied a small number of books.

"They [Hasan Book Depot] got work order for printing 10 percent of total primary books. There would be a huge setback if they failed to supply the books on time," said a highly placed source.

According to new govt rules printers are tasked with sending books to upazilas. Contacted, Abul Kalam, one of the

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# Police wants Dipjol's arms licenses revoked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday appealed to the deputy commissioner of Dhaka to cancel four firearms licenses of film actor also Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Ward Councillor Monwar Hossain Dipjol, who has been on the run to avoid arrest.

Officer-in-charge of Darus Salam Police Station Abdul Malek told The Daily Star last night that they submitted the

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina being greeted by Bangladesh Ambassador to Russia SM Saiful as she reaches Saint Petersburg Airport yesterday. Story on page 1. PHOTO: PID

# DB raids Jamaat HQ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police conducted an hour-long raid on Jamaat-e-Islami head office in the city's Moghbazar last night.

Sources said a joint team of police and Detective Branch (DB) of Ramna launched the raid around 7:00pm in a bid to arrest Rezaul Karim, president of Islami Chhatra Shibir.

The Shibir leader of Jamaat's student wing is accused in a number of cases including one for issuing threats to the government.

Shiblee Noman, officer-in-charge of Ramna Police

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# Primary terminal exams begin today

*25 lakh students to sit*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Primary Education Terminal Examination 2010 begins today with around 25 lakh students sitting for the exams.

Students of both general education and madrasas will sit for the exams which will take place at 5,993 centres across the country as well as seven more in Riyadh, Jeddah, Abu Dhabi, Qatar, Tripoli, Singapore and Berlin.

The exam will commence today with Bangla at 11:00am followed by English tomorrow.

A total of 24,88,148 students, have registered this year with as many as 4,049 students from English version.

The number of female examinees is higher than that of the boys, this year. In general category, 10,07,108 boys and 11,49,907 girls will sit for the exams while 1,54,751 boys and 1,76,382 girls

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# No wild tigers in 12yrs!

AP, St Petersburg, Russia

Wild tigers could become extinct in 12 years if countries where they still roam fail to take quick action to protect their habitats and step up the fight against poaching, global wildlife experts told a "tiger summit" yesterday. The World Wildlife Fund and other experts say only about 3,200 tigers remain in the wild, a dramatic plunge from an estimated 100,000 a century ago.

James Leape, director general of the World Wildlife Fund, told the meeting

in St. Petersburg that if the proper protective measures aren't taken, tigers may disappear by 2022, the next Chinese calendar year of the tiger.

Their habitat is being destroyed by forest cutting and construction, and they are a valuable trophy for poachers who want their skins and body parts prized in Chinese traditional medicine.

The summit approved a wide-ranging program with the goal of doubling the world's tiger population in the wild by 2022 backed by governments of the 13 countries that still have

tiger populations: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand, Vietnam and Russia.

The Global Tiger Recovery Program estimates the countries will need about \$350 million in outside funding in the first five years of the 12-year plan. The summit will be seeking donor commitments to help governments finance conservation measures.

"For most people tigers are one of the wonders of the world," Leape told

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**MOVED TO ITS OWN PREMISES**

The Daily Star is happy to announce that it has shifted its offices to its own premises at 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215.

In addition to our old telephone numbers 8124944, 8124955, 8124966 our new telephone numbers are 9102973, 9102974, 9102975, 9102976. Our Fax numbers remain unchanged: 8125155, 8126154 (News) & 9144332 (Advertisement), and our website is the same as before: www.thedailystar.net.

We request all concerned to kindly take note of the above and contact us only at the new address.

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The Daily Star Management