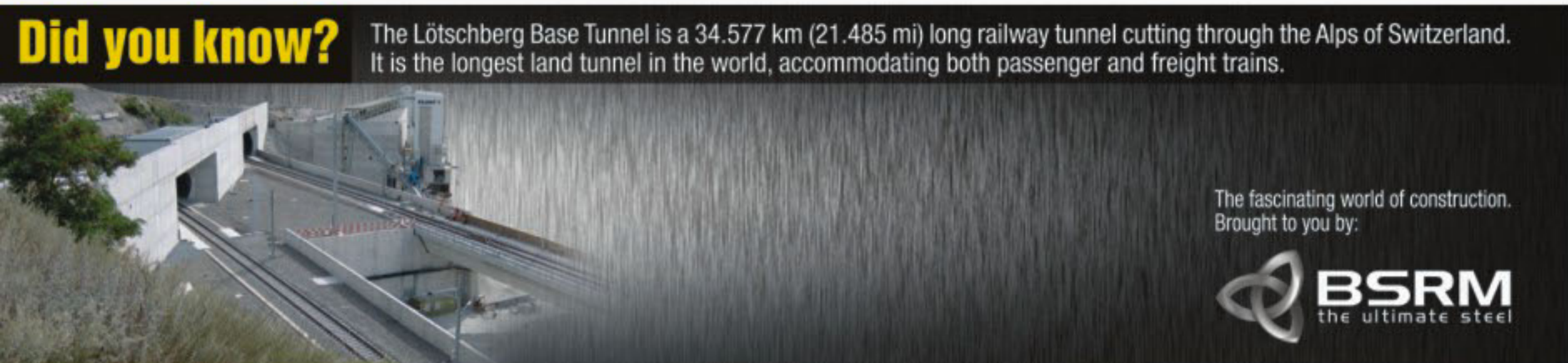


**Did you know?** The Lötschberg Base Tunnel is a 34.577 km (21.485 mi) long railway tunnel cutting through the Alps of Switzerland. It is the longest land tunnel in the world, accommodating both passenger and freight trains.



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# Allegation untrue

## Financial offer of expressway's bid winner opened; losing bidder's claim loses ground

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Total cost of Dhaka Elevated Expressway (DEE) as per financial offer of the winning bidder is Tk 8,703 crore, and not Tk 13,000 crore as the losing bidder had earlier alleged.

Construction cost per kilometre of the 26-kilometre elevated expressway will be around \$30 million which is \$5 million more than what local experts earlier estimated.

The DEE tender evaluation committee headed by Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury opened the proposal yesterday.

As per the proposal of the winning bidder -- Ital-Thai -- it will pay the government 37.5 percent corporate tax on its income, 15 percent value added tax on daily toll and 11 percent customs duty on imported materials.

The company will hand over the charge of the expressway to the government after 25

years of concession period.

Out of four short-listed bidders, Ital-Thai Development Company and Sikder-KCC JV (Bangladesh-South Korea) participated in final bidding.

Having been rejected in technical evaluation, Sikder alleged that its financial offer was Tk 9,000 crore but the government accepted that of Ital-Thai out of favouritism although its offer was Tk 13,000 crore.

But opening the proposal, the evaluation committee found that Ital-Thai's offer was actually less than that of Sikder.

"At last, it has been proved that the allegation had no basis," said Chowdhury, former professor of civil engineering of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) and former vice-chancellor of Brac University.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1



A sand sculpture of Birshrestha Sepoy Hamidur Rahman on the Cox's Bazar beach. Teachers and students of the Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University, built the sculpture as tribute to the martyr on the eve of Victory Day.

# ACCESS TO SERVICES

## EC asks govt not to make NID must for now

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Election Commission has urged different government departments not to make national identity card (NID) mandatory right now for access to services.

The commission made the request yesterday at a meeting with senior officials of ministries, divisions and departments on grounds that many people are yet to get NIDs.

The EC in January last year issued a circular urging ministries and divisions not to make mandatory for people to show

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

# Most NGOs yet to meet RTI need

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Only 201 non-government organisations out of some 30,000 have employed public information officers as required by the Right to Information (RTI) Act 2009.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

# HA-MEEM FACTORY FIRE

## Missing claim stops wheel

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

A few hundred workers of That's It Sports Wear Ltd of Ha-Meem Group yesterday staged a demonstration at the factory gate claiming that many of their co-workers have gone missing since the fire.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

# Green fund to come next year

**Says environment minister**  
UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh will receive money from Green Climate Fund next year to enhance the country's adaptation to climate change, Hasan Mahmud, state minister for forest and environment, said yesterday.

He was talking to reporters on returning home from the Cancun Climate conference.

The minister said all the money from the Green Climate Fund would be spent on forestation in the coastal belt, construction of cyclone shelters and dredging of rivers.

He said the commitment enshrined in the Copenhagen Accord to raise a fund of \$30 billion within 2010-2012 has been ensured at the Cancun Climate Conference.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

# Tender sees light after 21 months

**ADB disqualifies govt's pick of Chinese bidder for Khulna power project**

**SHARIER KHAN**

Tender for Khulna 150 megawatt dual fuel power project finally sees the light after remaining 21 months in process as the project's financier recommended picking a Spanish bidder that the government was reluctant to select.

Project financier Asian Development Bank (ADB) in a letter to the North West Power Generation Company (NWPGC) on Tuesday also rejected the bid of Chinese company Shandong on ground that its offer was flawed.

The NWPGC that floated the tender for the peaking power plant in March last year recommended awarding the contract to Shandong as the lowest bidder among four participants.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

# LOTTERY SYSTEM AT SCHOOLS

## 24 kids vie for 1 seat

**WASIM BIN HABIB**

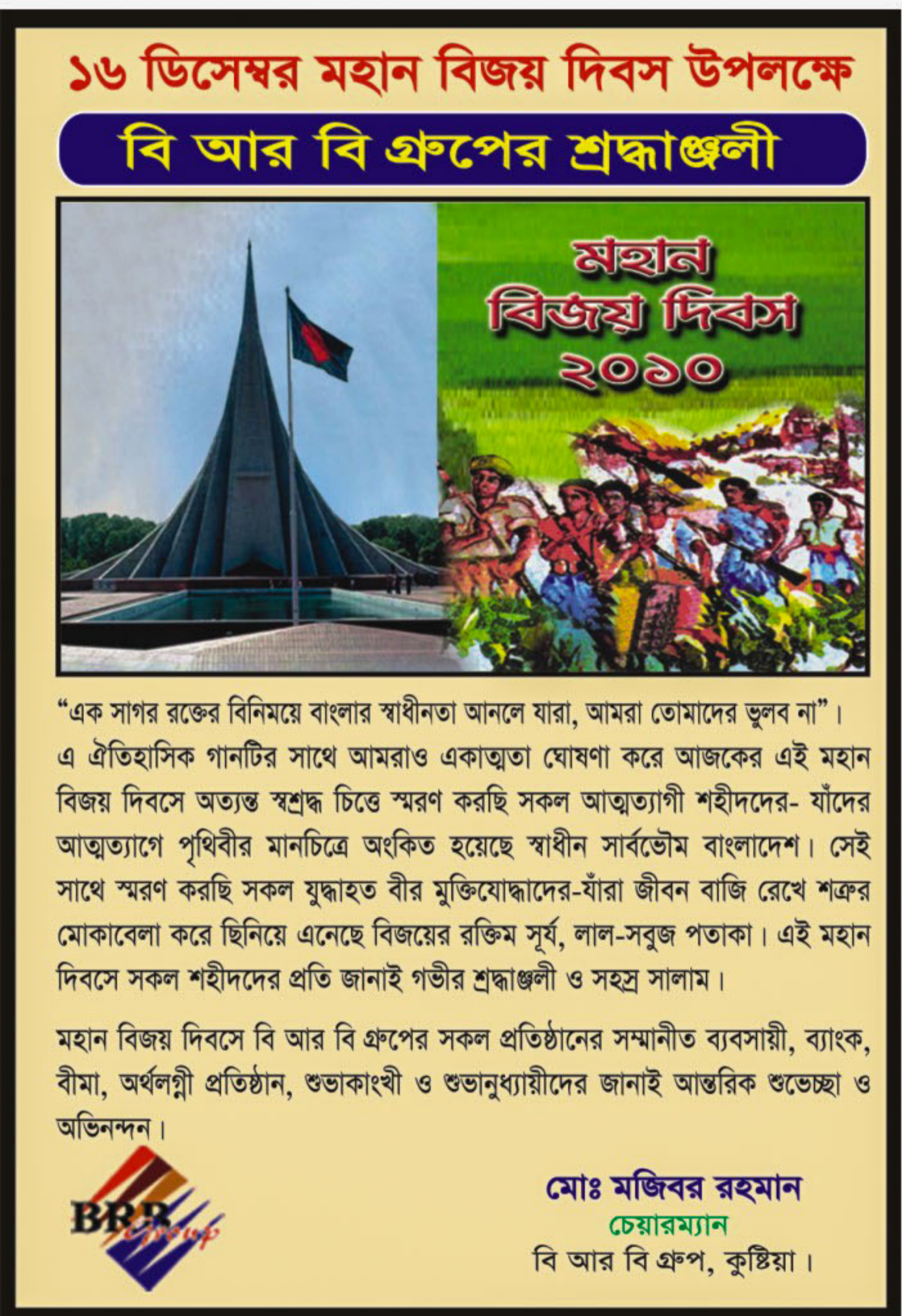
Twenty-four kids will try their luck for one seat in grade-one in government schools in the capital following the newly introduced lottery system for enrolling students in the elementary level.

The system has been introduced this year in all 317 state-run secondary schools across the country including 24 in the city. The authorities concerned believe it will relieve the preschoolers and their parents from the psychological pressure to secure seats in schools.

The lottery will be held in front of the guardians, teachers, education ministry and secondary and higher education directorate officials and the media.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

**১৬ ডিসেম্বর মহান বিজয় দিবস উপলক্ষে**  
**বি আর বি গ্রুপের শ্রদ্ধাঞ্জলী**



**মহান বিজয় দিবস ২০১০**

"এক সাগর রক্তের বিনিময়ে বাংলার স্বাধীনতা আনলে যারা, আমরা তোমাদের ভুলব না"। এ ঐতিহাসিক গানটির সাথে আমরাও একাত্মতা ঘোষণা করে আজকের এই মহান বিজয় দিবসে অত্যন্ত স্বশ্রদ্ধ চিত্তে স্মরণ করছি সকল আত্মত্যাগী শহীদদের- যাঁদের আত্মত্যাগে পৃথিবীর মানচিত্রে অংকিত হয়েছে স্বাধীন সার্বভৌম বাংলাদেশ। সেই সাথে স্মরণ করছি সকল যুদ্ধাহত বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের-যারা জীবন বাজি রেখে শত্রুর মোকাবেলা করে ছিনিয়ে এনেছে বিজয়ের রক্তিম সূর্য, লাল-সবুজ পতাকা। এই মহান দিবসে সকল শহীদদের প্রতি জানাই গভীর শ্রদ্ধাঞ্জলী ও সহস্র সালাম।

মহান বিজয় দিবসে বি আর বি গ্রুপের সকল প্রতিষ্ঠানের সম্মানিত ব্যবসায়ী, ব্যাংক, বীমা, অর্থলগ্নী প্রতিষ্ঠান, শুভাকাংখী ও শুভানুধ্যায়ীদের জানাই আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন।

**মোঃ মজিবুর রহমান**  
চেয়ারম্যান  
বি আর বি গ্রুপ, কুষ্টিয়া।

**Prayer Timing**  
December 16

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-20	5-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-22	5-25
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

**OnlinePoll**

Do you agree with Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam that BNP has extended its support to the December 26 countrywide hartal to protect war criminals?

Yes (32.7%)  
 No (66.9%)  
 No Comments (0.4%)

**Total votes: 5116**  
**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think action should be taken against Jamaat's acting Secretary General ATM Azharul Islam for his distorted statement about history that India plotted the intellectuals' killing in 1971?

Please cast your vote at [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

[www.divinegroupbd.com](http://www.divinegroupbd.com)

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