

**Did you know?**

The Colosseum or Roman Coliseum is an elliptical amphitheatre in the center of the city of Rome, Italy, the largest ever built in the Roman Empire. Capable of seating 50,000 spectators, it is considered as being one of the greatest works of ancient Roman architecture and engineering.



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# A park killed 15 years ago

*DCC built community centre at Narinda Park, more structures came up over the years*

HELEMUL ALAM

Fatima, a student of class ten at Bangla Bazar Government Girls High School, spent her entire childhood confined within her house in Narinda for lack of open space for outdoor activities.

"Watching TV and playing games on computer are the ways I entertain myself," said Fatima.

Twenty-five years old Rohijan, Fatima's sister, who used to play at Narinda Park when she was a child, said in those days there were slides, swings and see-saws in the park.

"My daughter Muskan, a student of playgroup at Maitri Kindergarten, is tired of being cooped up like a chicken in a farm as there is no open space," said Nazrul Islam, a resident of Narinda.

"Even her school doesn't have space open enough for children to run around," he added.

Places like Narinda Park and Bagan Bari Math which were favourite haunts of young children don't exist today, he added.

The Narinda Park, one of the most affected parks in the city, now remains only in papers as Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) constructed a community centre on the park 15 years ago followed by a multi-storey mosque, ten years later.

The park with 0.33 acres of land in ward 77 had a few amenities to entertain children but those vanished after the construction of the two concrete structures leaving no scope for anyone to recognise that there was a park even around five years back, the locals said.

Asif Ahmed, a resident of Narinda, said the park had been there as far as he could remember and served as an amusement park for children. Asif had been living in Narinda since 1969.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6



Residents of the neighbourhood of Narinda in Old Dhaka feel nostalgic when they look at this community centre set up by Dhaka City Corporation on the only park there 15 years ago. A mosque has also been established on the park, which now remains only in paper.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Banglavisión stops series on hangman

*Govt intervention alleged*

RAKIB AHAMMED

Private television channel Banglavisión has stopped broadcasting interviews of a hangman, who was involved in hanging murderers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, reportedly on the government's instruction.

A high-ranking official of Banglavisión programme department told The Daily Star the information ministry had asked them not to continue airing hangman Babul

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

## RESERVED FOREST Forest dept move worries hill people

M ABUL KALAM AZAD, back from Khagrachhari

The Department of Forest has moved to take control of a vast area declared as reserved forest in three Chittagong Hill Tracts districts, putting thousands of indigenous hill people in fear of becoming landless.

Hill people say their homes and livelihoods will be jeopardised if the district administrations of Rangamati, Khagrachhari, and Bandarban hand over the forestland to DoF. Two decades ago 12,849 acres of forest in 6 mouzas under Dighinala upazila of Khagrachhari, was declared as reserved.

In a letter on October 12, Divisional Forest Officer (Jhum Control) in Rangamati ABM Abdul Barik requested Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Khagrachhari Anis-ul Haque to hand over the forestland.

Of the forestland to be handed over, 1,400 acres are in 55 Hazachara Mouza, 4,600 acres in 28 Renkazya, 1,750 acres in 29

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

## POLLS SECURITY BNP demands army in all municipalities

UNB, Dhaka

Main opposition BNP yesterday demanded army deployment in all municipalities before and after the upcoming elections to ensure fair elections and peace in the post-election period.

Talking to journalists after a meeting with Election Commission (EC), Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abedin Farroque said they placed their demands to the EC.

"We've demanded army deployment in all municipalities for free and fair polls. The

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

## Law being used to serve petty interest

*Speakers at roundtable express concern over rule of law*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rule of law in the country is at stake now as people are worried they won't get justice from the existing system, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

The speakers also stressed the need for a mass movement saying rule of law won't be established until transparency and accountability are ensured in every sector.

They criticised lawmakers, law-enforcement agencies and the judiciary for violating laws and said law is now being used in the interest of politics and certain individuals.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

## HIDING WEALTH ACC sues school principal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday filed a case against Udayan School and College Principal Khaleda Habib on charge of concealing information about wealth and amassing wealth beyond known sources of income.

The ACC filed the case with Ramna police station accusing her on concealing information about wealth worth Tk 30.60 lakh and amassing wealth worth Tk 75 lakh beyond known income sources.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5



Anti-clockwise from top right: The "blackened" appearance of dolphin meat and bones in pieces that are burned for preservation and for use as ingredients of fishing bait. The dolphin was caught at Mohonganj, mid-point of the Hura Sagar and the Jamuna rivers; freshly cut meat/blubber being put in a canister for extracting oil; dolphin oil being sold to a local angler; and dolphin oil from an old collection being mixed with fishing bait.

PHOTO: SMA RASHID

## New airport plan sparks protests

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Several thousand people formed a human chain and barricaded Dhaka-Mawa highway at Hasara in Munshiganj for four hours yesterday demanding that the proposed Bangabandhu International Airport be shifted elsewhere.

The airport is to be built covering a vast area including agricultural and wetlands in three upazilas of Dhaka and Munshiganj.

Traffic movement on the highway remained suspended from 10:00am to 2:00pm due to the barricade, causing tailbacks and consequent sufferings to thousands.

The demonstrators vandalised several vehicles and set fire to

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

## Results of primary exams today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The results of Primary Education Terminal and Ebtedayee (madrasa) Examinations will be simultaneously published today.

The copy of the results will be handed over to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today at 10:00am, said primary and mass education ministry

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

## Death toll from Khilkhet fire now 8

*Another victim dies at DMCH*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Only three workers among 11 victims in Friday's fire at Goodknight Mosquito Coil and Spray warehouse remain alive as another worker died

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Prayer Timing		
December 28		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-27	5-30
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Journalists' death toll reaches 105 this year

*Mexico, Pakistan most dangerous places for them, says media watchdog*

AFP, Geneva

Some 105 journalists have been killed while doing their job this year, media watchdog Press Emblem Campaign said yesterday, describing the killing of reporters as an "epidemic with no cure."

Fewer fatalities have been reported this year compared to 2009 when 122 journalists died, but the toll is nevertheless higher than the 91 deaths recorded in 2008.

"The killing of journalists has become an epidemic with no cure," noted the watchdog's secretary-general Blaise Lempen.

"The international community has not found solutions to it, or put in place effective mechanisms for bringing the perpetrators of those crimes against journalists to trial," he said.

Mexico and Pakistan are the two most dangerous countries for media workers this year.

Fourteen journalists were killed in Mexico's drug war, while another 14 fatalities were reported in Pakistan, most of them occurring in the border areas with Afghanistan.

Over five years, some 529 journalists have been killed, with Iraq topping the list as the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

**OnlinePoll** ✓

Do you think filing cases against TIB officials over its survey report on corruption in service sectors is justified?

Yes (25.6%)

No (73.3%)

No Comments (1.1%)

**Total votes: 733**

**TODAY'S POLL**

Which party do you think will win the January 27 by-polls in Habiganj-1 and Brammanbaia-3 constituencies?

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

**Felicitations**

Mr. Jahangir Alamin, Chairman of Shamsul Alamin Group & Managing Director of Fuad Spinning Mills Ltd. has been elected as the President of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA).

We firmly believe that the Trade Bodies as well as the economy will be immensely benefited from his dynamic leadership, expertise and farsightedness in enhancing Trade & the Image of the business community and BTMA in the International business arena.

We, the Partex family, wish him a grand success as a leader of the business community.

**PARTEX**