

Did you know?

Christ the Redeemer is a statue of Jesus Christ in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The statue is 39.6 metres (130 ft) tall, including its 9.5 meter (31 feet) pedestal and 30 metres (98 ft) wide. It weighs 635 tons (700 short tons) and is located at the peak of the 700 metres (2,300 ft) Corcovado mountain.



The fascinating world of construction. Brought to you by: BSRM the ultimate steel

PHILIPS Get a 32" LCD TV (Selected Models) at Tk. 4,945 only* Up to 18 Equal Monthly Installments available at 0% Interest

SAMSUNG

For More Information: 8855366-8, 01712-665463

TRANSKOM DIGITAL think electronics... think DIGITAL

Govt makes U-turn

Scraps recommendation for withdrawing murder, robbery charges citing them as 'politically motivated'

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The state minister for law said it was a mistake to recommend the withdrawal of the robbery and murder charges against five persons and the government has taken steps to ensure that they are tried.

The home ministry on August 26 recommended withdrawal of the charges against Joynal Abedin Mollah, Iqbal Hossain, Shahin, Sharif and Humayun Kabir Reaz in a case considering them "politically motivated" and meant for "harassment". Of them, Shahin and Humayun are on the run.

The home ministry made a U-turn at its meeting yesterday, a day after charges against the five were dropped.

A letter signed by M Abu Sayed Mollah, assistant secretary to the ministry, was sent to the public prosecutor office in the afternoon to include the five as accused in the case.

The case has 10 accused.

After receiving the letter, Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Abdullah Abu submitted a petition along with the letter to the Speedy Trial Tribunal-2, Dhaka. The hearing on including the five back into the case will be held on January 3.

According to the case filed with Uttara Police Station, Abdul

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6



Rescuers try to get a worker out of the rubble after the roof of the under-construction Fatema Rani church in Bandarban collapsed killing a person.

PHOTO: STAR

One killed, 26 hurt as church collapses

A CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A two-storey under construction church collapsed in Bandarban Sadar area yesterday killing at least one person and injuring 26 others.

Salim Khan, 28, a construction worker, died on the spot when the Fatema Rani Church fell down on the workers around 1:45pm, sources said.

Fire brigade, police and army personnel rushed to the spot and rescued 26 workers and sent them to hospital.

Four critically injured workers -- Siddik Ahmed, 25, Md Azahar, 25, Md Hasan, 15, and Md Mizanur, 28, -- were sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital, Abdul Kader, station officer of Bandarban Fire Brigade and Civil Defence, said.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Mizanur Rahaman of Bandarban and Upazila Nirbahi Officer Israt Zaman visited the spot.

DC Mizanur said they had formed a committee to probe the incident.

The rescue operation was going on till filing of the report at 5:40pm.

Pro-AL panels sweep Duta, Cuta polls

STAR REPORT

Pro-Awami League teachers' panels yesterday swept both the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) and the Chittagong University Teachers' Association (Cuta) election.

The blue panel in Duta election secured 11 posts including all the key positions out of 15 posts while the yellow panel in Cuta bagged 10 posts out of 11.

Our DU correspondent reports: Blue panel's Prof Anwar Hossain of biochemistry and microbiology department was elected president

SEE PAGE 6 COL 7

MUTINY IN SYLHET 39 BDR men Jailed 5 acquitted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Thirty-nine BDR jawans of the 21 Rifles Battalion, stationed in Sylhet were sentenced to jail terms ranging from four months to seven years by BDR Special Court-14 yesterday.

The court also fined each of the convicts Tk 100 and acquitted five others when all the 44 accused were produced before it.

It is the second judgment for BDR mutiny in greater Sylhet region.

Col SM Farhad, director of communication of BDR Headquarters, was the chief judge while Lt Col Akhtaruzzaman and Maj Maksudul Alam were members of the court.

Deputy Attorney General Farhad Ahmed represented the attorney general while special public prosecutors Gazi Zillur

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

Licence must for foodstuff stock

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will soon make licence mandatory for foodstuff business and impose restriction on hoarding against the backdrop of its failure to control price hike of essentials.

The Ministry of Food and Disaster Management yesterday decided to revive the East Bengal (Foodstuff) Price Control and Anti-Hoarding Ordinance, 1953 that was not in force for the last two decades.

On 14 October 1991, the then BNP government had stalled application the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

OIL SPILL IN BAY Ship's agent admits, but denies liability

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The operating agent of the Indian ship Ocean Pearl has admitted that "some oil" might have spilled in the Bay from its fuel tank containing nearly 400 tonnes of furnace oil and diesel.

The company, however, refused to take any responsibility for the spill.

Zafar Alam, director of Chittagong Department of Environment (DoE), said the ship's Chittagong-based agent Sygma Shipping Lines in its response to a DoE notice said it is only responsible for the welfare of its crewmembers.

Sygma officials also declined to disclose the name of the ship's owner company.

"We are trying to find out the original owner of the ship, and our preparations are underway to prosecute the captain of the ship for causing marine pollution," Alam told The Daily Star.

The DoE has also asked the Chittagong Port Authority to take "immediate action" against the ship for illegally emptying the oil in the water.

"We have evidence that clearly shows that the Ocean Pearl caused the spill," said the DoE director.

Under Environment Conservation Act 1995 (Amendment 2010), an environment polluter faces a maximum fine of Tk 10 lakh or 10 years imprisonment or both, if convicted.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

BNP fears rigging in by-polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is likely to resort to 'vote rigging' in the upcoming by-elections in Brahmanbaria and Habiganj constituencies, apprehended Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain Standing Committee

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

Prayer Timing		
December 30		
Fajr	Azan	Jamaat
5:30	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

Innovations WIN HEARTS

Navy to get submarine

PM says maritime boundary issues to be resolved

UNB, Chittagong

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the government has plans to include submarine with base facility in Bangladesh Navy by 2019 to build it as an effective 'deterrent force'.

Hasina stated this while addressing the commissioning function of Bangladesh Navy's first ever hydrographic survey ship 'Anusandhan' at Isha Khan Naval Base yesterday morning.

About problems with the neighbouring countries over maritime boundaries, the premier said efforts are underway to solve the problems. "We do not want any war or conflict in this region. We believe in peace," she said.

Hasina referred to a speech of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman where he had said that Bangladesh would not intervene in anyone's internal affairs, but if others try to interfere in Bangladesh's internal matters, it would also not be tolerated.

Bangladesh Navy will be built as modern and well equipped force in the future to boldly resist illegal trespass by foreign ships into Bangladesh territory and to stop smuggling through the sea, the premier said.

The government has already decided to open the Chittagong and Mongla ports for neighbouring countries for enhancing cooperation in the economic, political and diplomatic fields, Hasina said.

Sea allowance will be introduced and housing problem of the members of the Bangladesh Navy would be resolved, the PM added.

Earlier, at the parade arranged to mark the Alpha batch

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5 PHOTO ON PAGE 5

OnlinePoll

Do you think BNP's demand of deploying army in all municipalities to ensure fair polls is justified?

Yes (61.1%) No (38.3%) No Comments (0.6%)

Total votes: 2088

TODAY'S POLL

Do you support the government decision to build Bangabandhu International Airport on thousands of acres of agricultural land and the biggest wetland near the capital?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর
পরিবেশ ভবন
ই/১৬ আগারগাঁও, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭
www.doe-bd.org
নং-পরিবেশ/প্রচার/জাঃ পঃ পঃ-২০১১/৩৩/২০১০/৪৯৮
তারিখঃ ০৫/০৯/১৪১৭
১৯/১২/২০১০

জাতীয় পরিবেশ পদক ২০১১

পরিবেশ উন্নয়নে অসামান্য অবদানের জন্য যোগ্য ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান থেকে জাতীয় পরিবেশ পদক ২০১১-এর আবেদন আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। নিম্নোক্ত ৪ (চার) টি ক্ষেত্রে এ পদক প্রদান করা হবেঃ

ক্ষেত্র	পুরস্কার	সংখ্যা
পরিবেশ সংরক্ষণ	১৮ (আঠার) ক্যারেট মানের	প্রতি ক্ষেত্রে ১ (এক)টি
পরিবেশ দূষণ নিয়ন্ত্রণ	২ (দুই) তোলা ওজনের স্বর্ণ পদক, সনদপত্র এবং ৩০ (ত্রিশ) হাজার টাকা সম্মানী	
পরিবেশ বিষয়ক গবেষণা ও প্রযুক্তি উদ্ভাবন		
পরিবেশগত শিক্ষা ও প্রচার		

বিশ্ব পরিবেশ দিবস ২০১১ উদযাপন উপলক্ষে অনুষ্ঠেয় উদ্বোধনী অনুষ্ঠান বা সরকার কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত যে কোন সুবিধাজনক সময়ে আনুষ্ঠানিকভাবে এ পদক প্রদান করা হবে। আবেদনের নির্ধারিত ফরম পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তরের অভ্যর্থনা কেন্দ্র (সদর দপ্তর) থেকে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। এছাড়া পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তরের ওয়েবসাইট www.doe-bd.org এবং নিম্নবর্ণিত দপ্তরসমূহ থেকেও আবেদনপত্র সংগ্রহ করা যাবেঃ

বিভাগীয় কার্যালয়	জেলা কার্যালয়
ঢাকা ফোনঃ ০২-৯১২৬৮৭৪	নারায়ণগঞ্জ (সেলঃ ০১৮১৬-৪২৮১৭৫), মানিকগঞ্জ (সেলঃ ০১৭১৬-৪৯৫৯৭৯), মুন্সীগঞ্জ (সেলঃ ০১৮১৮-৫৪০৩৩৮), গাজীপুর (সেলঃ ০১৭১৫-০৩০৪১১), টাঙ্গাইল (সেলঃ ০১৭১২-১৭০৯৪৬), নরসিংদী (সেলঃ ০১৭১৫-২৭৯৩৯৩), ময়মনসিংহ (সেলঃ ০১৫৫২-৩৬১০৯১) ও ফরিদপুর (সেলঃ ০১৫৫৬-৪৫৭৪৭১)
চট্টগ্রাম ফোনঃ ০৩১-৬৫৯৩৭৯	কুমিল্লা (সেলঃ ০১৫৫৬-৩৪০৭৭৬), ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া (সেলঃ ০১৭১১-৩৪৬৩২৫), চাঁদপুর (সেলঃ ০১৭১২-০৮৬৪৬৬), নোয়াখালী (সেলঃ ০১৭১১-১১১৫৭৬), ফেনী (সেলঃ ০১৭১৬-৪৩৭৪৪১) ও কর্ণাওয়াজার (সেলঃ ০১৭১১-৪৪৬২৪৯)
রাজশাহী বিভাগীয় কার্যালয়, বগুড়া ফোনঃ ০৫১-৬০৮১০	রাজশাহী (সেলঃ ০১৭১০-৯৮৭৬০৩) ও রংপুর (সেলঃ ০১৭১৩-৯৫১৪৫০)
খুলনা ফোনঃ ০৪১-৮৬১৫০৭	কুষ্টিয়া (সেলঃ ০১৭১২-৫৮৮৭২৮), যশোর (সেলঃ ০১৭১২-৯৩২৩৮০) ও বাপেরহাট (সেলঃ ০১৭১২-০৪০২৭৪)
সিলেট ফোনঃ ০৮২১-২৮৩০২৭৮	
বরিশাল ফোনঃ ০৪৩১-৬২৪৮২	

যে কোন ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান পদকের জন্য উপযুক্ত ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের অনুমুদিত আবেদনপত্র/পত্রাব ৩১ জানুয়ারি ২০১১ তারিখের মধ্যে পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তরের সংশ্লিষ্ট জেলা/বিভাগীয় কার্যালয়ে প্রেরণ করতে পারেন।

মনোয়ার ইসলাম, এনভিসি মহাপরিচালক

GD-5512