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**in Short**

**Drive to free Kalyanpur canal in city**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) with the help of the district administration yesterday demolished nearly two dozen illegal structures in a drive to free the city's Kalyanpur canal from encroachers.

The eviction team knocked down at least 23 illegal structures including two houses but spared two mosques that encroached upon the

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**Driver shot dead, microbus hijacked**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hijackers shot dead a driver and stabbed a passenger of a microbus and took it away in the city's Lalmatia yesterday.

The injured passenger, Ivan Ahmed, 25, is taking treatment at Dhaka Medical

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**Comilla rape victim dies**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A sixteen-year-old rape victim, who had 76 percent of her body burnt, succumbed to her wounds early yesterday after fighting for life for seven days at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

The deceased, a

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PRAYER TIMING		February 1
Azan	Jamaat	
Fajr	5:30	6:05
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	4:15	4:30
Maghrib	5:52	5:56
Esha	7:15	7:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

**Protesters call non-stop strike across Egypt**

**3 ministers axed**

AFP, Cairo

A sea of protesters flooded downtown Cairo yesterday, brushing aside limited concessions by President Hosni Mubarak and vowing to bring down his regime through strikes and a million-strong march.

In what is seen as a sop to the protesters, a new cabinet line-up was announced in which widely hated interior minister Habib al-Adly as well as the finance and culture ministers of the previous cabinet were axed.

But protesters massed in downtown Cairo insisted they would only be satisfied when Mubarak quits, and vowed to step up their efforts to topple his creaking regime.

Organisers announced an indefinite strike and said that today would see a "march of a million" in the

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**Bangladeshis in Egypt safe**

Says foreign ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshis living in Egypt faced no troubles so far in the African country where tens of thousands of people are taking to the streets demanding the president's resignation.

"Our people in their workplaces in Egypt are safe," Wahidur Rahman, director general (Africa) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs told The Daily Star yesterday evening.

Around 9,000 Bangladeshis are working in Egypt, he said, adding: "We are closely monitoring the developments there."

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**Star reaches out to students**

**Launches first-ever e-learning website for Bangla medium students**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first ever e-learning website for Bangla medium school students was launched yesterday in a bid to bridge digital divide and boost online education.

A joint initiative by The Daily Star and TeamCreative, the site will provide interactive examination papers for mathematics and science-related subjects from class III to X, with an emphasis on timing and self-assessment.

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**MUTINY IN SYLHET 61 BGB men jailed**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Sixty-one jawans of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) of Sylhet sector headquarters were yesterday sentenced to jail terms ranging from four months to seven years for their involvement in the 2009 mutiny.

The BGB Special Court-14 headed by Col SM Farhad also fined them Tk 100 each. Of the convicts, six were handed highest

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**Maiden arrests over Buriganga grabbing**

**3 fined, sued by DoE**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) in a special drive yesterday realised Tk 3.21 lakh in fines from three river grabbers, filed cases and arrested two of them for filling up the Buriganga at three points.

This was the first time river grabbers were arrested.

The arrestees are Haji Mahubur Rahman and Bilal. The other grabber -- Saleha Begum -- was not arrested.

The DoE also ordered them to re-excavate those parts of the river they had filled up.

A DoE press release said the drive conducted by a special team covered a two

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**Human chain to press for strong ACC**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and Sachetan Nagorik Committee (SNC) formed a human chain in Savar yesterday asking the government not to change

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PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

A wrecker [not seen in the photo] tries to pull a truck stuck with the footbridge near Ramna Park yesterday. Unable to take the load, its rear tyres punctured. The vehicle trapped since early hours was finally rescued around 9:00am.

**Metro rail route faces modification**

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

The communications ministry is going to modify a part of the first-phase route of Dhaka metro rail considering commuters' convenience.

The route from Uttara Third Phase to TSC of Dhaka University via Pallabi, Farmgate, Sonargaon Hotel will remain unchanged. From TSC, the route will divert towards Curzon Hall, the Jatiya

Press Club, Bangladesh Bank and up to the Kamalapur Railway Station.

As per the existing plan, the route from TSC was supposed to touch the Central Shaheed Minar, Fulbaria, Gulistan and Tikatuli before reaching Syedabad.

"We are considering the modification to benefit more people from the service,"

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**JS session resumes today**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The new-year session of parliament resumes this afternoon after a six-day recess.

Lawmakers from the BNP-led opposition are yet to decide the date for their return to the House ending the prolonged

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# বই খুলে দিক মনের চোখ

আমরা বিশ্বাস করি, বাংলা ভাষা এবং সাহিত্য ও সংস্কৃতি চর্চার পথ বেয়েই পরিপূর্ণ বিকাশ হবে আমাদের দেশীয় চেতনার। আর সেজন্যই আবারো অমর একুশে গ্রন্থমেলায় গর্বিত সহযোগী ব্যাক ব্যাংক। সৃজনশীলতা ও চেতনার জাগরণে আমাদের আস্থা অবিচল।

আপনি বইমেলায় সবাঙ্কব আমন্ত্রিত প্রতিদিন দুপুর ৩টা থেকে রাত ৯টা, শুক্র ও শনিবার সকাল ৯টা থেকে রাত ৯টা পর্যন্ত।

অমর একুশে গ্রন্থমেলা ২০১১-এর গর্বিত সহযোগী

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বাংলাদেশের মহান জাতীয় সংসদে বীমা বিষয়ক সর্ব প্রথম "বীমা উন্নয়ন ও নিয়ন্ত্রণ কর্তৃপক্ষ" আইন পাশ হওয়ায় এবং কর্তৃপক্ষের সর্ব প্রথম চেয়ারম্যান হিসাবে এদেশের আর্থিক সেक्टरের সর্বোচ্চ সনদ প্রাপ্ত একমাত্র এ্যাকচুয়ারী ও বিশিষ্ট বীমা ব্যক্তিত্ব **জনাব এম. শেফাক আহমেদ কে** নিয়োগ দেওয়ায় কোম্পানীর পরিচালনা পর্ষদ ও সকল কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারীদের পক্ষ থেকে জানাই আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা ও প্রাণঢালা অভিনন্দন।

**জীবন বীমায় বিশ্বস্ত নাম**

**পপুলার লাইফ ইনস্যুরেন্স কোম্পানী লিমিটেড**

**ONLINE POLL**

Do you agree with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that the Habiganj by-election is a political win for the Awami League and the government?

Yes (27.1%)

No (71.6%)

No Comments (1.3%)

TOTAL VOTES :918

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think the government should cancel the plan to build Bangabandhu International Airport in the Arial Beel area?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)