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SYED BADRUL AHSAN

The people of Bangladesh, in every sector of life, demonstrated remarkable unity under the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as he carried his non-violent non-cooperation movement along throughout the better part of March 1971. On March 8, the civil administration, which had already decided to follow Bangabandhu's leadership, set about implementing the new directives relating to banking, trade and other essential services announced the previous day. The directives stipulated that railways and ports would



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Railway dues Tk 12,600cr

206 govt organisations among 240 defaulters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As many as 240 government and private organisations owe over Tk 12,600 crore to the Bangladesh Railway, Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain told the House yesterday.

Replying to lawmakers' queries, the communications minister said most of the organisations did not pay heed to the railway's repeated appeals to pay back the money.

In a scripted reply, the minister said 206 out of the 240 organisations are government bodies and the rest are private companies.

The major heads of dues are siding charges, level crossing, duty charges for delay, under charges, licence fees, sale of railway land and commission bills for unloading goods.

On realising the huge amount, the minister said the ministry has been trying to this end since 1994 and a committee was also formed to figure out how to realise the money.

"But most of the organisations did not take any effective steps till now to pay the money" he added.

About the ministry's latest move, Abul Hossain said several inter-ministerial and inter-division committees were formed in November last year to realise the money.

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PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

People at Shahjalal International Airport wait anxiously for the arrival of their relatives from strife-torn Libya.

Metro rail route gets cabinet nod

Project starts by June

HASAN JAHID TUSHER and M ABUL KALAM AZAD

The government yesterday approved the proposed Uttara-Sayedabad route for metro rail and a proposal to form a Special Project Organisation (SPO) to start implementation of the project by June this year.

The approval came at a weekly cabinet meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

The meeting also endorsed the communications ministry's proposal to halt construction of four underpasses from Hotel Sonargaon to Shahbagh as come in

conflict with the metro route, officially known as Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Line-6.

"The construction of the rail route will begin immediately and will be completed within 2013," prime minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad told reporters after the meeting.

The government will form Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA) at the earliest to implement and operate the MRT system.

The Tk 1.7 billion project of the 26 kilometre long metro from Uttara Third Phase

SEE PAGE 13 COL 8

England in Ctg with no Pietersen

MOHAMMAD ISAM, From Ctg

A Kevin Pietersen-less England arrived in Chittagong yesterday, seemingly buoyed by their thrilling 6-run win over South Africa in Chennai on Saturday.

The Chittagong city mayor Manzur Alam

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

MEETING WITH BSF TODAY BGB to protest land grabbing

M RAHMAN

Bangladesh will raise the issue of occupying its land by Indian nationals backed by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) in the director general-level talks between Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and BSF in New Delhi today.

Major General Rafiqul Islam, the BGB director general (DG), will lead the 20-member Bangladesh delegation in the six-day meeting.

The team will include home ministry Deputy Secretary Md Siddique Ullah Bhuiyan and a top official of the Bangladesh embassy in India.

A senior home ministry official said Bangladesh will also protest building of structures and military wire

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ONLINE POLL

Do you think the government should withdraw the decision to remove Prof Muhammad Yunus from the Grameen Bank's managing director post?

Yes (80.8%)
No (18.1%)
No Comments (1.1%)

TOTAL VOTES : 800

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with BNP chief Khaleda Zia that the debate created by the government centering Grameen Bank and Dr Yunus is nothing but a blatant exhibition of its partisan views and mean mindedness?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

in Short

Brutal triple murder in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three bodies with throats slit and mouth, hands and legs roped were found floating on a wetland at West Mohammadpur in the city yesterday.

The dead were identified as Jony and his brother Babu of Sabujbagh, and their friend Hasan of Rasulbagh in

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LAND GRABBING HC summons VC of Uttara University

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday in a suo moto order summoned the vice chancellor and registrar of Uttara University to appear before it on March 16 to explain why they have encroached river Turag for setting up campus.

The HC bench of Justice AHM

SEE PAGE 6 COL 8

AUG 21 PROBE CID asked to place report by March 23

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday warned Criminal Investigation Department (CID) for delaying probe of an August 21 grenade attack case and asked it to submit its report by March 23.

The Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



Women queue up at an Open Market Sale (OMS) point at Begunbari of Tejgaon a few days ago to buy rice at subsidised price. The queues at the city's OMS are getting longer as the rice price keeps spiralling.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

বিশ্ব নারী দিবস

উপলক্ষে দেশের নারী সমাজকে অগ্রণী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর পক্ষ থেকে অভিনন্দন ও আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা

দেশের অর্থনীতিতে নারী সমাজের ভূমিকা আরো গতিশীল করতে অগ্রণী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড চালু করেছে বিশেষ ঋণ কর্মসূচি

“নারী অগ্রণী”

“নারী অগ্রণী” কর্মসূচির বিপরীতে শিল্প খাত, সেবা খাত এবং ব্যবসা খাতে ঋণ প্রদান করা হচ্ছে।

- ১০,০০,০০০ (দশ লক্ষ) টাকা পর্যন্ত ঋণ জামানতবিহীন।
- ১০,০০,০০০ (দশ লক্ষ) টাকার বেশি সর্বোচ্চ ১,০০,০০,০০০ (এক কোটি) টাকা পর্যন্ত ঋণের ক্ষেত্রে ন্যূনতম সম অংকের সহযোগী জামানত প্রয়োজন।
- মেয়াদী ঋণের মেয়াদ সর্বোচ্চ ৫ (পাঁচ) বছর।
- চলতি মূলধন ঋণের মেয়াদ সর্বোচ্চ ১ (এক) বছর।
- সুদের হার বার্ষিক মাত্র ১০%।
- নারী উদ্যোক্তাদের ঋণ গ্রহণ / প্রদানের সুবিধার্থে দেশের ১০০ টি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ শাখায় Women Entrepreneur's Dedicated Desk খোলা হয়েছে

বিত্তরিত জানতে নিকটস্থ যে কোন শাখা অথবা আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয় অথবা প্রধান কার্যালয়ের এসএমই ও মাইক্রোক্রেডিট বিভাগে (ফোন নং ৯৫৭০০১৯) যোগাযোগ করুন।

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PRAYER TIMING March 8

Asan Jamaat
Fajr 5-15 5-50
Zohr 12-45 1-15
Asr 4-30 4-45
Maghrib 6-05 6-10
Esha 7-30 8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation