



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

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24 PAGES PLUS STAR LIFESTYLE PRICE: Tk 10.00



REGD. NO. DA 781 | Vol. XXII No. 196 | SHRABAN 16, 1419 BS | RAMADAN 11, 1433 HJRI

'CHAKRAVYUH'
Indian filmmaker Prakash Jha turns his attention to Maoism
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2010 FARUK KILLING
Charge sheet names 110 Jamaat-Shibir men in the RU student murder case
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'A NAIL IN ASSAD'S COFFIN'
Aleppo attack proves the regime is coming to an end, Panetta says
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ILLEGAL HOUSING PROJECTS Govt making those legal

TAFIQUÉ ALI
The government has legalised two illegal private housing schemes and is going to okay at least four others to the destruction of natural wetlands and rural homesteads on the capital's north-eastern fringe.
An inter-ministerial body led by the housing minister conditionally approved BDDL Natundhara and United City (Neptune Land Development) in early May following recommendations from Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk).
Other schemes awaiting partial approval soon are Bashundhara (East West Property Development), Ashiyani City and Swarnali Abashan.
All of these housing schemes are among the 77 projects declared illegal by the High Court in June last year.
The court had directed the government to take action against the schemes developed over the past decade by filling up low-lying wetlands, water bodies, rural homesteads and croplands.
A year before the HC directives, an expert body on Dhaka's detailed area plan (DAP) recommended removal of BDDL Natundhara, Swarnali Abashan and United City, showing those to be on floodplains in Bhatara, Santarkul, Dumni and Sutibhola moujas.



The low stretch of land is Dumni canal in the capital. The filled-up portions at the far end used to be water bodies. Land developers are filling up these wetlands for housing projects, many of which were declared illegal by the High Court a year ago. The photo, taken in February, is an instance of random destruction of wetlands going on unabated also elsewhere.

Quirkiness the charm of Olympic football
QUAZI ZULQUARNAIN ISLAM from London
"He is a lizard," spits the beefy gentleman sitting a few rows over from the press tribunes. It's a cold, wet summer afternoon at an almost full Wembley, and the atmosphere is surprisingly raucous at the home of football. Mexican waves do the business and boos ring out every time a wiry player in a blue shirt gets a touch of the ball. The player is Luis Suarez.
The Liverpool forward is a much-hated figure ever since his racist bust-up with Patrice Evra and it

Comedy at city kitchen market

RASHIDUL HASAN
Guided and controlled by business and shop owners' associations, a parliamentary body yesterday expressed "deep satisfaction" over price of essentials following visits to two major kitchen markets in the capital.
Consumers and even sellers at these wholesale markets termed the Jatiya Sangsad body's visit "farical". They said such visits in motorcade accompanied by police force, market leaders and ministry's high officials are of no use as shop owners seldom tell the real prices.
Their account proved right when an aggrieved sexagenarian consumer dared to protest in front of the chief of the JS body on commerce about the price hike of essentials, especially skyrocketing prices of fish.

PADMA BRIDGE PROJECT WB failed to give graft evidence

PM tells BBC; says she didn't mention anyone in her 'bloodsucker' comment
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the World Bank could not present evidence for the graft allegations over the Padma bridge project.
Interviewed by Stephen Sackur for BBC HARDtalk, Hasina also said she would hold office again if her party and the people gave her a mandate.
The prime minister slammed the charging of high interest rates by Grameen Bank in its microcredit programme.



'Small cabinet' during polls

PM invites BNP to join interim gov; Khaleda says 'no'
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Ruling out the restoration of caretaker government system, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has suggested forming a "small cabinet" including the opposition ahead of the next parliamentary polls.
In an interview scheduled for broadcast today, Hasina told BBC Bangla Service that she would allow if the opposition wants to be part of the government.
"We can have a small cabinet at that time. We can discuss it. They [opposition] should come up with their suggestion before parliament."
In June last year, the provision that mandated a non-elected caretaker government to oversee the national elections

WETLAND 'GRABBING' HC weighs in

Asks govt not to give environmental clearance to Hallmark Group, stays penalty waiver
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The High Court yesterday directed the Department of Environment (DoE) not to issue any environment and site clearance certificates to Hallmark Group for establishing an industrial park in Savar for the next four months.
In response to a writ petition, the court ordered the business group authorities to stop for the same period any kind of earth-filling in Kandibaliarpur, Nandankhali, Jamur, Muchipara and Vopri moujas of Savar upazila for establishing the industrial park.
A little known Hallmark Group had started setting up the park on a 100-bigha plot of land in the moujas, which were identified as agricultural and rural residential areas



Crime goes unchecked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Pallabi-bound human hauler came to a sudden stop just before the Sheorapara bus terminal. Nearby, five youths were waiting, ominously. They were armed with steel pipes, bamboos and bricks.
There were ten to twelve passengers, including three women, in the human hauler city shuttle plying from



JU teacher killed in road crash

JU CORRESPONDENT
A senior teacher of Jahangirnagar University was killed in a road accident near Ashulia bridge on the outskirts of the city last night.



Indian train fire kills 32

STAR REPORT
Thirty-two passengers were burnt to death and 25 injured as a fire tore through a coach of a train in southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh yesterday.
The accident, on a long-distance service from New Delhi, occurred in the early hours of the morning near the town of Nellore with an electrical short-circuit seen as the most likely cause.
Images showed dozens of rescuers, survivors and



GRAFT CASE HC scraps Mamun's 10-yr jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The High Court yesterday scrapped the 10-year jail sentence against Giasuddin Al Mamun in a corruption case filed by

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