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BANGABANDHU MULTIPURPOSE BRIDGE

Cracks come under fixing

M ABUL KALAM AZAD, back from Bangabandhu Bridge

The repair of cracks on the Bangabandhu Multipurpose Bridge is going on in full swing with a target to complete the work by March.

China Communications Construction Company (CCCC) is doing the job under a Tk 243 crore project. It is also replacing the damaged expansion joints of the country's largest bridge connecting northern region with the capital.

Supervised by a team of Buet (Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology) experts, 500 workers including 106 Chinese are carrying out the repair work. They are being assisted by Chinese experts.

During a recent visit to the bridge, this correspondent found that highly sophisticated methods and materials are being used to fill the cracks.

Epoxy, a type of glue, is being injected first into the cracks, followed by pasting of Carbon Fibre Reinforced Polymer (CFRP) to make sure no more crack develops. A kind of epoxy resin is being used to level off the CFRP with the bridge's deck. For waterproofing, epoxy and asphalt are being used.

Finally, the entire bridge deck is being covered with a layer of 50 millimetres carpeting with mastic stone, bitumen and wood fibre.

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Workers applying epoxy, a type of glue, on the deck of the Bangabandhu Multipurpose Bridge to repair its cracks. Inset, Workers pasting a chemical on the cracks. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Good reason to eat greens

It makes people more optimistic about the future

MAIL ONLINE

People who eat plenty of fruit and vegetables tend to be more optimistic about the future, new research suggests.

Scientists have discovered that optimistic folk have higher levels of plant compounds called carotenoids in their blood.

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Algeria hostage siege not over

Algiers under fire over raid; confusion reigns over casualties

AGENCIES

Algeria came under mounting international criticism yesterday as fears grew for dozens of foreign hostages still unaccounted for after a deadly commando raid against their Islamist captors at a desert gas field in the worst international hostage drama for years.

The state-run APS news agency said special forces had freed more than 670 hostages, among them 573 Algerians and around 100 foreigners during the Thursday raid but still 30 foreigners remained missing, reported AFP.

The army was trying to free those foreigners still held at the complex near the border with Libya, it said adding that 12 hostages, including foreigners, along with 18 terrorists were killed in the operation.

Earlier, a spokesman for the militants told the Mauritanian ANI news agency that 35 hostages and 15 militants had been killed in Thursday's operation. One Algerian official said the figures were "exaggerated".

However, Mauritania's ANI news agency, quoting the

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Home boss for pepper spray

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Home Minister MK Alamgir yesterday said international conventions approve pepper spray as a tool for dispersing unlawful assembly and this is why nobody has the right to argue over its use.

The minister made the statement while replying to queries of local journalists in Chandpur, at a time when police are facing criticism for using pepper and teargas sprays indiscriminately on people at close contact.

A day ago, Supreme Court lawyer Aklas Uddin Bhuiyan served a legal notice asking the government to stop within 24 hours the use of pepper spray on people.

In the notice, he mentioned the Los Angeles Times had reported that 61 death incidents happened between 1990 and 1995 due to the use of pepper spray.

According to US army, pepper spray can cause cancer and diseases to heart,

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No death penalty for note forgery

Central bank discards proposal after German reaction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The central bank yesterday said it would ditch a proposal seeking death penalty for currency forgers after Deutsche Bundesbank threatened to pull out from a cooperation agreement with Bangladesh on anti-counterfeiting.

Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman told The Daily Star, "The proposal is being called back.

"Ours is a central bank with a human face and the death penalty in this case goes against our principles."

The Deutsche Bundesbank, the German central bank, has been providing consultation and advisory services for central banks around the world for decades. The counterfeit prevention programme between Bangladesh Bank and the German bank was due to begin next month.

"It had not been aware of the death-penalty threat when it offered consultation and training services on counterfeit prevention as part of its cooperation activities," the German bank said in a statement on Thursday.

The Bundesbank said: "While the Bundesbank

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BAHRAIN BLAZE

Bodies of 13 Bangladeshis to be flown in Tuesday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The bodies of 13 Bangladeshi workers, who died in a fire in Bahrain eight days ago, will arrive home on Tuesday, Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain said yesterday.

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PRAYER TIMING		January 19
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5:30	6:05
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	4:15	4:30
Maghrib	5:40	5:44
Esha	7:00	7:30

Source: Islamic Foundation

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with minister without portfolio Suranjit Sengupta that focus should be given to create a strong election commission for a free, fair and transparent election instead of arguing about the reinstatement of caretaker government?

Yes (22.0%)
No (76.0%)
No Comments (2.0%)

TOTAL VOTES: 387

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with BNP leader Moudud Ahmed that pro-ruling Awami League student body Bangladesh Chhatra League's "violence and crimes" at different public universities would determine the government's fall?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net
YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT [facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews)

Cheered-up students pose for pictures with books they were awarded yesterday in the capital's Ramna Park. They received the prizes for their excellence in a book reading contest, organised by Biswa Sahitya Kendra.

ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন, ঢাকা

“আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন
আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন”

নগরবাসীর সদয় জ্ঞাতার্থে
জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, সামাজিক জীবনে নারীর নিরাপত্তা ও মর্যাদা সমুল্লভ রাখা বর্তমান সরকারের অন্যতম অগ্রাধিকার কার্যক্রম। কিন্তু সাম্প্রতিককালে লক্ষ্য করা যাচ্ছে যে, ঢাকা মহানগরীসহ দেশের বিভিন্ন স্থানে স্থাপিত বিভিন্ন বিজ্ঞাপন চিত্র/বিলবোর্ড/সাইনবোর্ড/ব্যানার এ নারীর ব্যবহার্য দ্রব্যাদি ও ছবি প্রদর্শন এবং দোকান ও দোকানের বাইরে নারীর ড্যামি প্রদর্শনের ক্ষেত্রে প্রত্যাশিত মাত্রায় শালীনতা বজায় রাখা হচ্ছে না। নারীর ব্যবহার্য জামা-কাপড়সহ অন্যান্য সামগ্রী অশোভনভাবে (বিশেষভাবে নির্মিত হ্যাঙ্গারের মাধ্যমে পোশাকের আকার পরিবর্তন) প্রদর্শন করা হচ্ছে। এ প্রেক্ষিতে ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের এলাকাধীন অশালীন সকল বিজ্ঞাপন/বিলবোর্ড/সাইনবোর্ড/ব্যানার এবং দোকান ও দোকানের বাইরে স্থাপিত/রক্ষিত অশোভন ড্যামি আগামী ৩ দিনের মধ্যে সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে নিজ দায়িত্বে অপসারণসহ নারীর ব্যবহার্য জামা-কাপড় শালীনতা বজায় রেখে প্রদর্শন নিশ্চিত করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। এর ব্যর্থতায় ট্রেড লাইসেন্স বাতিলসহ ড্রাম্যামান আদালত পরিচালনার মাধ্যমে আইন ও বিধি মোতাবেক অন্যান্য ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

অনুরোধক্রমে
প্রশাসক
ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন

ডিএসসি/পিআরডি/১৩৩/১২-১৩
জিডি-২১৬

School Activation round in full swing

MOYUKH MAHTAB

The School Activation round of the Spelling Bee is well underway in Dhaka, Barisal, and Rajshahi cities where the number of schools visited has already risen to 10 since its start three days ago.

Participant turnouts in the schools have been as good as expected. Last year, over one lakh students took part in the English spelling contest. The number is expected to double this year.

The event styled "The Daily Star Spelling Bee-Powered by Horlicks, brought to you by Champs21.com" began in

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