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Open to all at long last

Locals rush to play at Dhanmondi ground as city office acts lawfully

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two years have passed by and the Dhanmondi playground has not seen any kids running across.

But the last afternoon was very special for many youngsters in the area as they were allowed into the field and play games. It was sheer jubilation for the children.

The Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) opened the playground to public yesterday. In a notice put up at the entrance to the field, the corporation announced that the ground was open to public.

As the news spread fast, local children and youths went to the field in Road-8 of Dhanmondi to play, while some curious passersby peeped to see the sporting action.

The notice served by an executive magistrate of the corporation makes it clear that entry to the playground is open from now on, DSCC Chief Executive Officer Ansar Ali



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RELATED STORY ON PAGE 18



Children begin playing on the Dhanmondi playground yesterday as the Dhaka South City Corporation hung a notice on the gate, inset, opening the ground to all after two years. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

PADMA BRIDGE Lone Chinese firm submits financial bid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Only one Chinese firm has submitted a financial bid by yesterday's deadline for the construction of the main part of Padma bridge, raising the company's prospects of winning the Tk 9,172 crore contract.

The firm is China Major Bridge Engineering Co Ltd. The deadline for submitting the financial proposal has already been extended once from April 3.

Two other companies -- Samsung C&T Corp and Daelim-L&T JV -- have appealed again for stretching the deadline by another

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IRREGULARITIES 193 hajj agencies face govt action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday took punitive actions against 193 hajj agencies for their irregularities in sending pilgrims to Saudi Arabia last year.

Of them, 53 agencies would not be able to send pilgrims as their licences had been suspended and were slapped fines ranging from Tk 1.5 lakh to Tk 5 lakh.

The rest of the agencies had also been fined and some of their security deposits had been confiscated, said an official of the religious affairs ministry.

"The steps have been taken following recommendations of a committee that probed allegations of irregularities against them," said Chowdhury M Babul Hasan, secretary of the ministry.

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VIOLATING COURT ORDER Joint secy, 3 others jailed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday sentenced four incumbent and retired government officials, including a joint secretary, to different terms of imprisonment for violating an injunction six years ago.

In March 2008, it ordered the Gazipur administration not to evict Abul Kalam alias Kaliullah and eight others from their West Lakhimpura village in Joydevpur municipality of Gazipur.

But government officials led by the then Gazipur deputy commissioner Syed Mizanur Rahman drove away 40 families,

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SNOOPGATE Rahul joins Priyanka in attacking Modi

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Rahul Gandhi yesterday joined his sister Priyanka Gandhi in attacking Narendra Modi over a controversy relating to snooping on a young woman in Gujarat, saying Gujarat government has no regard for women as it gets their phones tapped.

Gujarat authorities allegedly carried out illegal surveillance on the young woman in 2009 on the direction of Modi, a charge rejected by BJP.

Priyanka on Wednesday criticised BJP's PM candidate Modi by raking up the row over "snoopgate" and said leaders who indulge in wrong acts against women should be "thrown out".

BJP reacted sharply by saying top Congress leadership continued to launch personal attacks on BJP leaders while resenting such attacks on



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Family members of eight people who had disappeared, including local leader of Ward-38 unit of BNP Sajedul Islam Sumon, form a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday demanding the return of their loved ones. The families claimed that people in Rab uniform had picked them up five months ago.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

No trace of 8 since December

Families for PM's intervention in rescue bid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Family members of eight people, who were abducted allegedly by law enforcers in six hours' time in December last year, have demanded the prime minister's intervention for the rescue of the victims.

At a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday, they said that six of the victims were picked up from Bashundhara Residential Area and the other two from Shaheenbagh of the capital between 8:00pm on December 4 and 2:00am of December 5.

The family members also formed a human chain in front of the press club after the press conference on the same demand.

The families claimed that Rapid Action

Battalion-1 personnel picked up Sajedul Islam Suman, 36, his cousin Zahidul Karim Tanvir, 30, Mazharul Islam Rasel, 24, Abdul Quader Bhuiyan Masum, 22, Asaduzzaman Rana, 27, and Al Amin, 26, -- from Block I of Bashundhara that evening.

Of the victims, Sajedul of Nakhlarpara is the general secretary of ward 38 unit BNP.

He had been staying out of home fearing arrest and sometimes spent nights at Tanvir's residence in Bashundhara, said Sajedul's mother Hajera Khatun.

On December 4 evening, Sajedul was hanging out with the other five beside a road near Tanvir's under-construction building at Block I.

Around 8:00pm, some 15 Rab personnel

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with AL leaders that BNP's long march was nothing but a politically motivated programme aiming to cheer up its leaders and activities?

Yes (34%)
No (66%)

TOTAL VOTES: 316

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) that despite various initiatives at national and international levels, the victims and their families of Rana Plaza are still in a vulnerable state?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

Teesta water falls again

STAR REPORT

Water flow in the Teesta came down to 1,186 cusecs yesterday, two days after a dramatic rise in the volume of waters in the river.

The water flow at the barrage point in Lalmonirhat rose to 3,006 cusecs on Tuesday afternoon. However, it decreased to 1,243 cusecs the next day.

On average, only 416-650 cusecs of water available in the trans-boundary river in February and March has caused serious problems for Boro farmers of the drought-hit northern districts.

The underground water level has also gone down due to a drastic fall in the water flow in the Teesta.

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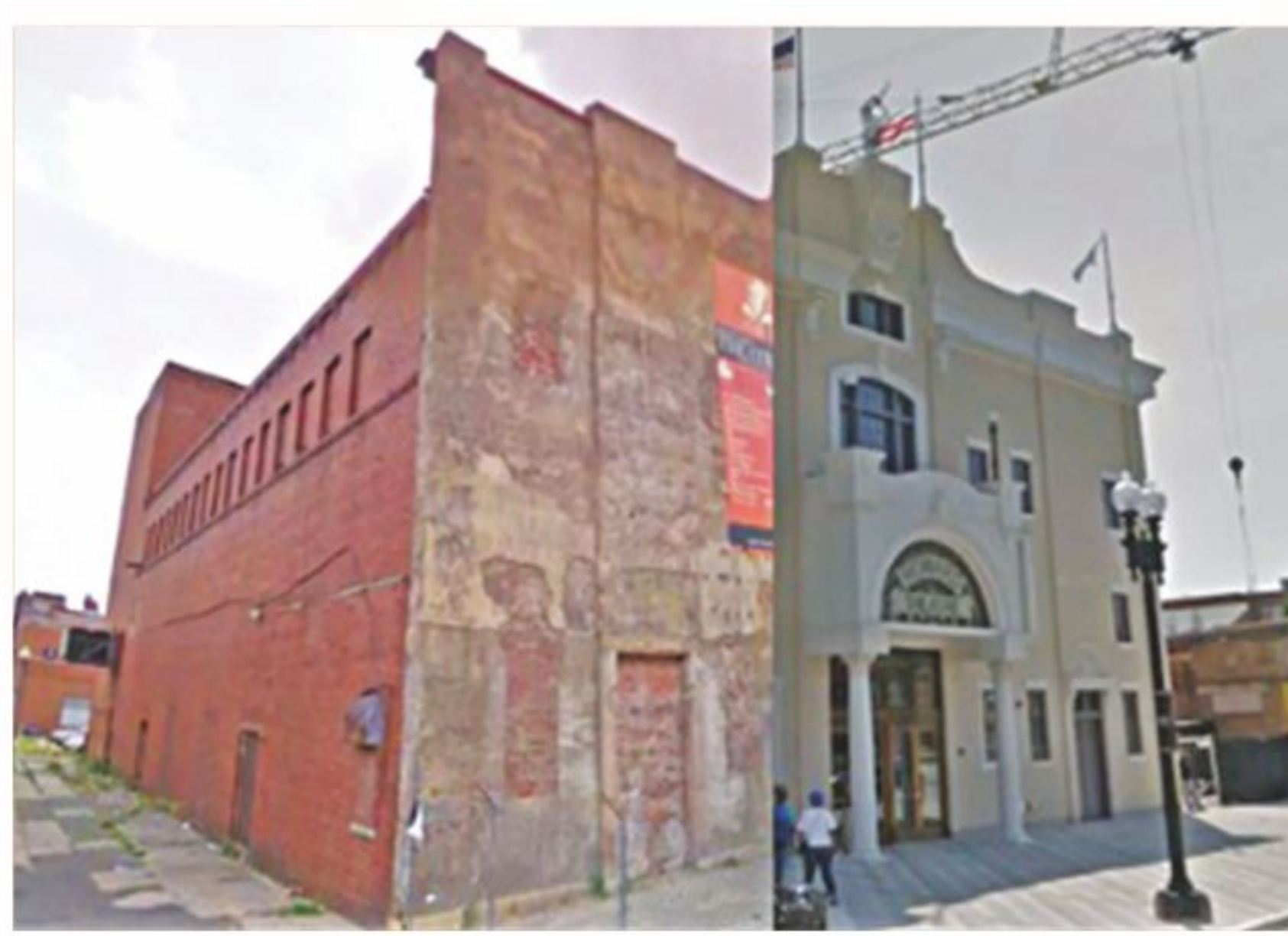
Time machine feature in Google map

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

Google has turned its Google Maps Street View into a time machine to let users travel back in time and see how places have changed.

The new feature will let users track changes in landscape, buildings, roads and entire neighbourhoods from around the world since the Street View mapping

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RADAR PURCHASE CASE Depositions conclude

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday concluded recording statements of witnesses in the much-talked-about radar purchase graft case filed against former president

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PRAYER TIMING April 25		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-25	5-00
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-27	6-31
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation