

**PROUD TO BE THE CONSTRUCTION PARTNER OF PADMA BRIDGE**

BE SAFE **BSRM** the ultimate steel

**SHAH CEMENT**

**HIGHEST SELLING CEMENT** in Bangladesh now for **12** years

f/shahcementbd www.shahcement.com



Arnob & Friends mesmerises the audience on the last day of Celebrating Life at Khulna University of Engineering and Technology. The Daily Star and Standard Chartered Bank jointly organised the programme yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

ROOPPUR NUKE PLANT  
**Cost \$12.65b**

Cabinet committees give approval, construction deal by month-end

SHARIER KHAN and REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh is set to sign its biggest ever contract worth \$12.65 billion this month to build the Rooppur nuclear power plant that would generate 2,400 megawatts of electricity.

The contract equivalent to Tk 1,01,200 crore is more than the total development budget of this fiscal year.

Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission and Russian builder ASP, a subsidiary of Russian state nuclear power company Rosatom, would sign the contract. The construction part alone involves around \$11 billion.

"It is beyond just electricity, it's the technology," said Minister for Science and Technology Yefesh Osman. "It will take Bangladesh to a new height."

He said the prime minister was keen on seeing at least one of the two units, each with 1,200MW capacity, to go into operation within 2021.

However, it takes about seven years to build such a plant, he said.

Russia had said it might be able to meet that deadline for one unit, if the government signed the construction agreement within this month. "This is why we are trying to sign soon," Yefesh said.

Two government committees -- the cabinet committee on economic affairs and the cabinet committee on purchase -- yesterday approved the proposal for general contract signing with Rosatom.

Of the \$12.65 billion, the Russian government would provide 90 percent (\$12 billion) as loan.

During loan negotiations, Russia argued that the cost was not high and that compared to nuclear power plants built by Rosatom in other countries, Rooppur would be cheap.

Earlier this month, the government initialled the financial contract with Russia. This was expected to be done some time next year.

Nuclear plants demand high upfront cost. But as its fuel cost is comparatively low and plant life is very high, power tariff turns out to be very cheap.

The economic life of the plant has been estimated to be 50 years. However, Rosatom says the Rooppur power plant would last for 60 years, three times higher than conventional coal or gas powered plants.

The exact power tariff would be available after the construction agreement is signed.

"During negotiations with Russia, we have secured some extra things (that makes

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

CHANDPUR TEA ESTATE  
**Consult with workers first**

11 noted citizens urge govt over move to set up economic zone

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eleven eminent citizens yesterday called upon the government to hold open consultations with tea workers before setting up an economic zone on 511 acres of agricultural land at Chandpur Tea Estate in Habiganj.

In a statement, they said they were deeply concerned that a government authority is trying to hurriedly implement the decision to establish the economic zone.

Of the estate's 3,951 acres of land, 951 acres were arable land, which had been cultivated by tea workers of the area for the last 150 years. At least two crops are grown here every year, said the signatories.

Many of the families do

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

**Beatles cheers**

Music of the band to be available on streaming services before Xmas



BBC ONLINE

The Beatles' music is being made available on a wide range of streaming music services.

Spotify, Apple Music, Google Play, Tidal and Amazon Prime Music are among nine services that will offer the band's tracks worldwide.

The group split up in April 1970. However, their songs - including Hey Jude and Yesterday - remain hugely popular and influential.

One expert suggested that the move would help their legacy endure.

"In terms of digital the Beatles have always been

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

**MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS 2015**

VIOLATION OF POLLS CODE

**EC to act tough on 2 dozen MPs**

PANKAG KARMAKAR

The Election Commission is likely to ask the returning officers concerned today to look into the allegations of electoral code violation against around two dozen ministers and lawmakers, and take action against them if found guilty.

The EC makes the move on the basis of newspaper reports that said they took part in electoral activities flouting the rules, according to an election commissioner.

"There have been reports in the media that some ministers and lawmakers violated electoral rules by joining polls activities," the commissioner told The Daily Star yesterday, seeking anonymity.

Officials at the EC secretariat yesterday prepared a draft list of the ministers and MPs.

The ministers who are on the list include Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu, Religious Affairs Minister Motior Rahaman, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam, State

Minister for Food Nuruzzaman Ahmed and State Minister for ICT Division Zunaid Ahmed Palak, according to the officials.

The lawmakers include RAM Obaidul Muktedir Chowdhury (Brahmanbaria-3), Hashibur Rahman Swapon (Sirajganj-6), Ayesha Ferdous (Noakhali-6), Abdur Rouf (Kushtia-4), Afzal Hossain (Kishoreganj-5), Momotaz Begum (Manikganj-2), Didarul Alam (Chittagong-4), Nazmul

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

RELATED STORIES ON PAGE 4, 10

**Two subs by next year**

PM tells navy

BSS, Chittagong

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said two submarines would be inducted in Bangladesh Navy by the middle of the next year to turn it into a three-dimensional force.

"Two submarines would be added to Bangladesh Navy by the middle of the next year as a process to this end has been finalized," she told the President Parade at the parade ground of Bangladesh Naval Academy in Chittagong.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

**MARTYR REMARK**  
**Legal notice served on Khaleda**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday sent a legal notice to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, asking her to apologize to the nation for her comment questioning the number of martyrs in the country's Liberation War.

In the notice, Momtazuddin Ahmed Mehedi, former secretary of Supreme Court Bar Association, also demanded that the BNP chief withdraw her statement within seven days.

At a programme on December 21, Khaleda, in her first public address in more than a year, said, "There are controversies over how many were

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



The memorial at Bhaina intersection in Magura has a list of martyrs from upazilas of the district. A signboard in front of it says the municipality mayor prohibits pasting of posters on it. But it clearly went in vain. The photo was taken on the Victory Day.

PHOTO: TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

**RUSSIA RAIDS**

**'200 civilians killed in Syria'**

BBC ONLINE

At least 200 civilians were killed in Russian air strikes in Syria from 30 September to 29 November, an Amnesty International report says.

Quoting witnesses, the human rights group accuses Russia of using cluster bombs in urban areas, and says such attacks could constitute war crimes. Moscow insists it is targeting only the positions of "terrorist" groups.

Amnesty said in its report it is also researching concerns about the US-led coalition air strikes in Syria.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



**SIBL**  
Social Islami Bank Limited  
উদ্বোধন সেমিনার

**PRAYER TIMING**

DECEMBER 24

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-20 12-45 3-45 5-22 7-00

JAMAAT 5-55 1-15 4-00 5-25 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Today is the 42<sup>nd</sup> Death Anniversary of Begum Firdaus Rizvi



We request all relatives, friends and well-wishers to remember her in their prayers and to pray for eternal peace of her soul

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
**পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর**  
পরিবেশ ভবন, ই/১৬, আগারগাঁও  
শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭।  
www.doe.gov.bd

০২/০৯/১৪২২ বঙ্গাব্দ  
তারিখঃ ২৩/১২/২০১৫ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ

**গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি**

নির্মল বায়ু সুষ্ট জীবনের পূর্বশর্ত। শুধু মানুষ নয় বরং অন্যান্য জীবজন্তু, উদ্ভিদ, পানি ও মাটির ক্ষেত্রেও তা প্রয়োজন। দেশের অর্থনৈতিক প্রবৃদ্ধি, জীবন যাত্রার মানোন্নয়ন, শিল্পায়ন ইত্যাদি কারণে দেশের উন্নয়ন কর্মকাণ্ডের প্রসার ঘটতেছে। একই সাথে বায়ুর দূষণের সঙ্খ্যা ও প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়নের সঙ্খ্যা ক্রমাগত বৃদ্ধি পাচ্ছে। ফলে বায়ুর গুণগতমানের অবনতি ঘটছে। আবার শীত মৌসুমে স্কল বৃষ্টিপাত ও শুকনো আবহাওয়ার কারণে স্বাভাবিকভাবে বায়ু দূষণ বৃদ্ধি পায়। পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তরের সার্বক্ষণিক বায়ুমান পরিবীক্ষণ স্টেশন থেকে প্রাপ্ত তথ্যে বড় কয়েকটি শহরে বায়ুর মান প্রত্যাশিত মাত্রার উপরে বিরাজ করছে। বায়ুর গুণগতমান রক্ষার্থে সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে নিম্নরূপ পরামর্শ মেনে চলার জন্য বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ জানানো হলো:

- ইট তৈরির অদক্ষ পদ্ধতি ব্যবহার না করে পরিবেশবান্ধব জ্বালানি সাশ্রয়ী আধুনিক প্রযুক্তি ব্যবহার করুন;
- যানবাহনের দূষণ হ্রাসের জন্য গাড়ি নিয়মিত মেইনটেন্যান্স, ফিটনেস পরীক্ষা ও গাড়িতে ভেজালমুক্ত লুব্রিকেন্ট ব্যবহার করুন;
- যানজট সৃষ্টি হয়ে যাতে অধিক ধোঁয়া নির্গত না হয় সেজন্য ট্রাফিক আইন মেনে চলুন;
- নির্মাণকাজের সময় চারপাশ ঢেকে রাখুন ও নিয়মিত পানি ছিটিয়ে বায়ুদূষণ রোধ করুন;
- নির্মাণ সামগ্রী ঢেকে পরিবহন করুন;
- রাস্তা খোঁড়া ও এধরণের কার্যক্রমে শুরু থেকে শেষ পর্যন্ত নির্ধারিত স্থানটি যতদূর সম্ভব ঢেকে রাখুন ও নিয়মিত পানি ছিটিয়ে বায়ুদূষণ রোধ করুন;
- স্টীল, রি-রোলিং মিল ও সিমেন্ট কারখানা সহ বায়ু দূষণকারী শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহে ডাস্ট কালেক্টরসহ বন্ধকনা নিয়ন্ত্রণমূলক যন্ত্রপাতিসমূহ নিয়মিত রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ ও চালু রাখুন;
- ধূলাবালি কমাতে বাড়ির চারপাশে সবুজায়ন করুন।

বায়ু দূষণ রোধ করি - বাসযোগ্য ভবিষ্যৎ গড়ি

মোঃ রইছউল আলম মল্লিক  
মহাপরিচালক  
পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর