



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE



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CIA arms for rebels sold to black market

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BET Awards 2016 stages a series of tributes to the iconic singer-musician

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Ensure better civic services

PMO asks chiefs of 27 utility agencies to coordinate with city corporations for faster delivery of services

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN and HELEMUL ALAM

The government has asked chiefs of all utility service providers in Dhaka to attend general meetings of the two city corporations and implement meeting decisions to improve civic amenities.

The chiefs were also asked to inform the city corporations on progress made in the implementation of those decisions, according to a circular issued yesterday by the Prime Minister's Office.

The government has taken the decision to bring dynamism in the work of the utility service providers and to comply with a provision of the Local Government (City Corporation) Act, 2009, the circular said.

As per section 49 (15) of the law, at least the chiefs of 27 utility service providers, including water, gas, electricity suppliers, are supposed to attend the meetings of the city corporations.

But in most cases, the service providers send junior-level officials to the meeting. They do not respect the meeting decisions as they were not obligated to, alleged officials of the city corporations.

Both city corporations welcomed the government's decision yesterday.

"We were looking for a coordinated authority and the latest move [government's decision] will ensure coordination among the organisations providing utility services," Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sayeed Khokon told The Daily Star.

He said they did not have any authority to impose a decision on the utility service providers. The government decision has now empowered

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Primary, junior exams as earlier

Cabinet now decides both exams to be held this year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Just a week ago the primary and mass education minister had announced that the Primary Education Completion (PEC) exams in class-V would be scrapped from this year.

Mostafizur Rahman also said there would be only one public examination at the end of class-VIII and that the cabinet would abolish the PEC test.

His announcement brought relief for about 30 lakh fifth graders and their guardians who were in utter confusion over holding of the PEC exams this year.

Educationists had welcomed the announcement as they viewed that the test put "extra pressure" on kids, with most of the guardians getting into an unhealthy competition for ensuring their children get highest grades. The test also created a boom in coaching centres.

But the cabinet yesterday rejected the primary education ministry's

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MESSI BOWS OUT

Chile hands Argentina fourth final heartbreak in Copa America, prompts Argentine captain to draw curtain on his international career

AFP, East Rutherford

Lionel Messi sensationally announced his international retirement leaving Argentinian football in turmoil after a traumatic penalty shootout 4-2 defeat to Chile in the Copa America Centenario final on Sunday.

Messi blazed a penalty over the bar in the shoot-out before Lucas Biglia missed to leave Chile's Francisco Silva with the task of stroking home the winning spot-kick at the MetLife Stadium.

It was a carbon copy of last year's Copa America final, also

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Over? Not so soon, please

SYED ASHFAQUL HAQUE

So near, yet so far. An old story got replayed in the Copa America Centenario final.

Lionel Messi, the greatest player of his generation, perhaps football's best ever, stopped once again one shot away from the Cup.

The No. 10 grabbed his shirt, clenched his teeth and hid his face with his hands moments after sending the penalty wide of the crossbar. A dazed, pained look on his bearded face said it all: that missed spot-kick possibly cost Argentina the cup.

Messi, the record five-time Fifa Player-of-the-Year, winner of

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Truck crushes 3 on a motorbike

A CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Three leaders of district tank-lorry owners' association on a motorbike were crushed to death by a stone-laden truck while trying to get away from highway police in Sarail upazila of Brahmanbaria yesterday.

The dead were Brahmanbaria District Tank-Lorry Association

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Illegally occupied

128 houses taken by govt employees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Government officials and employees have illegally occupied 128 houses across the country, Housing and Public Works Minister Mosharraf Hossain told parliament yesterday.

In scripted answers to lawmakers' queries, he also said these public servants have been occupying the houses by filing

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