

BSRM www.bsr.com
Earthquakes Don't Kill People. Buildings Do! Build Safe!
BSRM Ultima
 Designed for Superior Safety

HIGHEST SELLING 12 years
CEMENT for more than years
SHAH CEMENT

OPENING OF HOTEL INTERCON Design hiccup causes delay, raises cost

SARWAR A CHOWDHURY

After the renovation work of the state-run Ruposhi Bangla Hotel started in March last year, a big problem arose. Architects found it difficult to continue the work as planned.

The original design of the 11-storey building remains traceless for long. So after the decision for renovation, the authorities carried out a survey and prepared a rough design based on certain common assumptions. The guesswork, however, turned out to be flawed during the demolition of the structure.

"It was only at that time [demolition] that it was established that some of the designs [by the architects] did not match the onsite conditions and hence some re-design was required," said James P McDonald, general manager of InterContinental Dhaka, the new operator of the five-star hotel.

The hotel was supposed to reopen this month as InterContinental Dhaka. But because of the delay, it would now take at least six more months and cost an additional \$20 million (Tk 160 crore).

McDonald expects the renovation will be complete in the first quarter of 2017.

The building was constructed by an American firm in 1966.

A host of problems arose when the previous rooms and other structures were demolished.



The renovation work of Ruposhi Bangla Hotel, formerly known as Sheraton Hotel, is underway. The re-opening of the hotel is likely to be delayed by several more months due to some complexities over its designs. The photo was taken recently.

The chair that Bangabandhu never sat on DU puts it on display after 41 years

MAHDI AL MUHTASIM

The stage was all set. Dhaka University made all preparation to hold its convocation on the morning of August 15, 1975, where the country's President Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was scheduled to attend.

They also brought a special chair for the Father of the Nation. But before dawn broke, Bangabandhu along with most of his family members were brutally murdered by a band of disgruntled army officers.

The DU authorities abandoned the convocation. The historic chair remained unused and uncared for at a room of the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC).

After 41 years, the chair was put on display at TSC yesterday at a programme organised to mark the National Mourning Day. DU Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique

SHELLING FROM YEMEN 2 Bangladeshi workers hurt in Saudi Arabia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six expatriate workers including two Bangladeshis were injured as shells fired from Yemen hit a water plant in the southwestern Saudi city of Najran on Sunday afternoon, reported Saudi Press Agency.

Among the injured are three Indians and a Nepali, said the report, quoting a spokesman of the

Police detain suspect in NY double murder

Advocacy group announces \$10,000 reward for info that would lead to arrest of killer

STAR REPORT

New York City police yesterday detained a possible suspect in the murder of a Bangladeshi imam and his assistant.

The detainee was being questioned by police. However, he has not been charged, reports NBC citing unnamed sources.

Alauddin Akonjee, 55, imam of Al-Furqan Jame Mosque in Ozone Park, and his assistant Tara Uddin, 64, were shot dead by a gunman on Saturday when they left prayers at the mosque.

Alauddin of Habiganj had left for the USA six years ago to stay with four of his sons living there. Tara Uddin of Sylhet along with his wife and children went to the USA four and a half years back to settle there.

The killing of the two sowed fear and sadness in the Bangladeshi community in Ozone Park, a diverse and largely working-class area that is home to a growing number of Muslims of Bangladeshi descent.

On Sunday, police searched for the gun-



Alauddin Akonjee

man and released a sketch of the male suspect with dark hair, a beard and glasses. Law enforcers described him as having a medium complexion and appeared to be in his 30s or 40s. The NBC reported the man being questioned matched the description.

Cops were yet to establish a motive and said there was no evidence the men were targeted because of their faith, but nothing was being ruled out.

"While we do not yet know the motivation for the murders of Maulana Akonjee and Tara Uddin, we do know that our Muslim communities are in the perpetual crosshairs of bigotry," New York Mayor Bill de Blasio said in a statement.

"Rest assured that our NYPD will bring this killer to justice," he added.

According to a report of New York Times, Akonjee was carrying \$1,000 with him at the time of the attack, but the money was not taken.

Verdict given ignoring red eyes

CJ on Bangabandhu murder case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Observing that the judiciary has always played its due role during moments of crisis in the country, Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha yesterday said the trial court had given its judgment in the Bangabandhu murder case ignoring the red eyes of the then government, which had tried to block the trial.

"The then government had issued the indemnity ordinance to protect the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and also awarded them. The way for the trial of the case opened through cancellation of the ordinance. At the initial stage, there was no witness in the case. Kazi Golam Rasul, the then district judge, had given the judgment in the case overcoming many hurdles and ignoring their red eyes," he said.

The chief justice made the comments at a voluntary blood donation programme on the Supreme Court Auditorium premises on the occasion of the National

Olympic medal, love come together



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Love is in the air in Rio, which has left one athlete with another event to celebrate alongside her well-earned medal.

Chinese diver He Zi had won silver for the women's three metre springboard on Sunday, but after being awarded her medal she then received a proposal from boyfriend and fellow diver Qin Xai.

Qin got down on one knee while clasping a velvet box on Sunday as girlfriend He stepped off the medal podium. She clasped her hand over her mouth when Qin opened the box and nodded to him, before he slipped the ring on her finger.

He then gave her a red rose encased in glass and the crowd

SIBL
 Social Islami Bank Limited
 Social Islami Bank Limited
 Social Islami Bank Limited
PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 16
 Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
 AZAN 4-25 12-45 4-45 6-38 8-00
 JAMAAT 5-00 1-15 5-00 6-41 8-30
 SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Modi terms LBA a major decision

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

As India celebrated 70 years of independence yesterday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi listed the Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) with Bangladesh as one of the examples of his government's ability to take major decisions.

The government does not believe in postponing things and does not hesitate in taking major decisions, he said. In this context, he mentioned the signing of LBA with Bangladesh, grant of One Rank, One Pension to retired armed forces personnel and declassification of files related to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

Setting aside deep reservations within his Bharatiya Janata Party, Modi government had introduced a constitution amendment bill after coming to power in May 2014 to pave the way for implementation of the LBA and exchange of adversely-held enclaves in India and Bangladesh.

He then signed an enabling agreement during his landmark visit to Dhaka on June 6-7, 2015, to help implement the LBA, resolving a 41-year-old boundary issue between the two countries since the signing of the Indira-Mujib pact in 1974.

Modi had invested considerable political capital by addressing the opposition within

JUTE DELIGHT FOR FARMERS

A farmer loading jute into a truck in Manikganj's Shibalay upazila on Sunday. Top right, a man carrying the shiny fibre on a rickshaw van to a market there, while another, bottom right, roaming around the market with his produce to attract wholesalers. Jute growers in the upazila are happy with the good yield and fair price of the golden fibre this year.