



Bundles of bamboos tied together like rafts are accumulated on the Juri River for transportation to places after they were collected from the forest. Sagarnal in Moulvibazar's Juri upazila is one of the spots where bamboos are stored like this. On Sunday night, heavy downpours washed away hundreds of the bamboo bundles, causing losses to lessee Mamunur Rashid. Mamun said he had leased 3,279 acres of the local forest for one year paying Tk 6 crore, and was supposed to collect more than 40 lakh bamboos during the period. In the last seven months, he cut 17 lakh of the plants and kept them at Sagarnal point. Asked about the estimated loss, he said it may amount to several lakhs of taka. The photo was taken on Monday afternoon.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

It was 'an accident'

Says CD lodged over shots fired from gun of MP's son at Barisal airport
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Two passengers of a US-Bangla Airlines flight suffered "minor injuries" from a bullet "accidentally" fired from the pistol of a lawmaker's son in Barisal Airport on Monday.

Police filed a general diary over the "accident", but made no mention of any injuries.

The incident happened a few minutes before Awami League lawmaker Abul Hasanat's son Moin Abdullah was about to board the Barisal-Dhaka flight at 3:30pm.

In front of the airlines' boarding counter, Moin was unloading his pistol when a bullet was fired accidentally, bounced off the floor, and hit the two passengers, said Kamrul Islam, public relations

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gets emotional while reminiscing about her family members. PHOTO: BSS

I don't care about conspiracies: PM

AGENCIES

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reiterated her determination to take the country to its desired goal, saying that she does not care about any conspiracies to this end, reports BSS.

"I have been observing conspiracies since my childhood ... I don't care. I believe that as long as the almighty Allah, the people and the blessings of my parents remain with me, we could reach our desired goal," she said.

The prime minister said this when leaders of Bangladesh Awami League and its associate bodies came to Gono Bhaban to greet her on the occasion of her homecoming day.

On May 17 in 1981, Hasina returned home after six years

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Confusion over KSA \$1b fund to build 560 mosques

RASHIDIUL HASAN

The government has no knowledge on international media reports that Saudi Arabia has backtracked on providing \$1 billion to build over 500 mosques in Bangladesh.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council on April 25 approved a project for construction of 560 model mosques and Islamic cultural centres in every district and upazila involving over Tk 9,062.41 crore.

"Of the total money the Saudi government will give Tk 8,169.79 crore, while Tk 892.62 crore will come from the government's exchequer and the project will be implemented from April 2017 to December 2019," Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal had said at a post-meeting briefing.

"These modern mosques and cultural centres will have library and other facilities such as Quranic teaching, education of children, and training of Hajj passengers and Imams," added the planning minister.

The planning minister's announcement of the Saudi commitment was widely reported in local and foreign media.

However, foreign media including Fox News Channel and The Washington Times published news last week that Saudi Arabia is pushing back against reports that it will fund a \$1 billion project to build 560 mosques in Bangladesh.

Quoting Dr Awwad Alawwad, minister of culture and information of Saudi Arabia, the reports said Saudi Arabia had rejected claims by Bangladesh that it agreed to provide \$1 billion to build over 500 mosques in Bangladesh, saying such a major commitment would require a formal bilateral agreement.

"This is simply not true," said Dr Awwad. "Saudi Arabia has never committed such funding for the mosque-building project," according to the Fox News Channel report.

"Any commitment by the Saudi government of this nature would only be considered after receiving an official request from the host country's government. When such an agreement is finalized there would definitely be an official announcement by both countries," added Dr Awwad Alawwad.

Asked about the alleged denial by the

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Rampal plant will produce 3.8cr tonnes of ash in 60yrs

Reveals a study of US researcher

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Once operational, the Rampal coal-fired power plant would generate about 3.80 crore tonnes of ash in 60 years, damaging the biodiversity of the Sundarbans.

The ash may spread all over the Sundarbans and its adjacent areas during floods and cyclones, dealing a blow to aquatic life including fish in the mangrove forest.

These are the findings of a study conducted on probable pollution from ash of the power plant by US researcher Dennis Lemly. The findings were disclosed at a seminar organised by National Committee for the Protection of the Sundarbans at Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the capital yesterday. Dennis joined the seminar from the US through Skype.

The committee chairperson Sultana Kamal said the power plant would leave a detrimental effect in the long run.

Prof Badrul Imam and Prof M Abul Bashar of Dhaka University, among others, spoke at the seminar moderated by green activist and member secretary of the committee Abdul Matin.

India's state-owned National Thermal Power Corporation and Bangladesh Power Development Board are constructing the 1,320 megawatt plant on 1,834 acres of land, which is 14km north of Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest, also a Unesco world heritage site.

Green groups have been opposing the power plant in Rampal of Bagerhat. The UN too urged Bangladesh to halt its construction near the Sundarbans, which acts as a natural barrier against cyclones.

The government, however, has been going ahead with the project, saying it was using the best technologies available to prevent any possible damage.

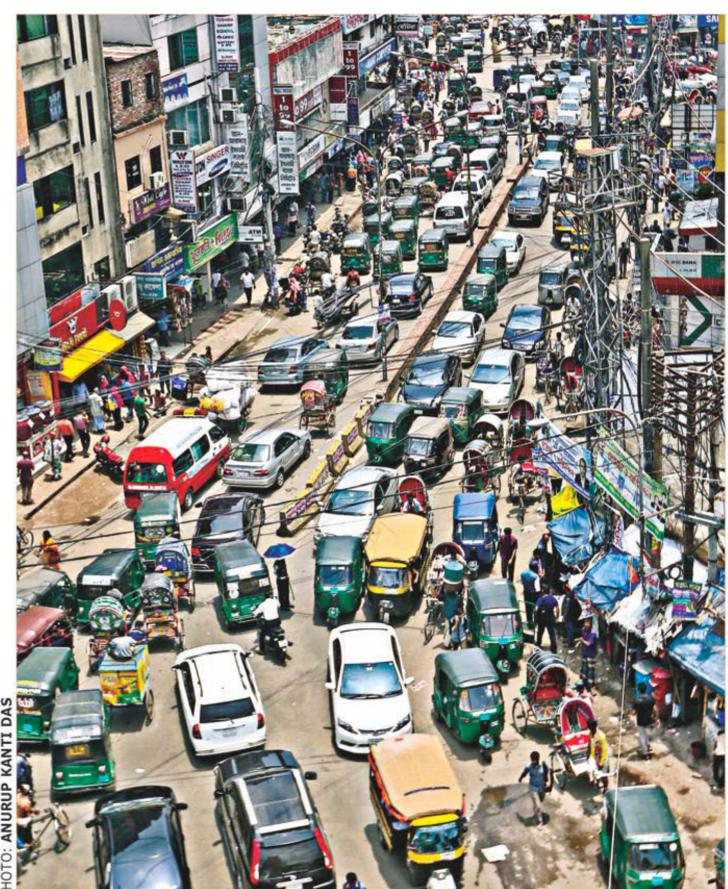


PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

An aerial view of vehicles almost choking a thoroughfare in Chittagong city's Chawk Bazar area. Traffic jams like this have become commonplace in the port city these days, which many blame on, among others, a lack of wide roads, an increase in vehicle numbers, and illegal parking. The photo was taken yesterday.



Mr. Iftekharul Islam, Vice Chairman of Uttara Bank Limited & Managing Director of Aftab Group handed over cheques of Taka Four crore to Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as donation to the 'Prime Minister's Education Assistance Trust' and 'Jatir Janak Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Trust' on Monday (15-05-2017) on behalf of the Bank.

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We deeply mourn the sad demise of Mr. Farooq Ahmed Chowdhury, Chairman of Delta Brac Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DBH). He breathed his last on Wednesday, 17th of May, 2017.
(Inna lillani wa inna ilaihi raji'un)

His significant contribution in the development of Bangladesh economy was exemplary. Green Delta Family salutes his role as a business icon of the country. May the Almighty take the departed soul to his heavenly abode and give his bereaved family strength and courage to bear this irreparable loss

- Green Delta Insurance Family



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