



THE KANCHPUR-MEGHNA-GUMTI BRIDGES ARE BEING BUILT WITH HIGHLY DUCTILE GRADE 420 BSRM ULTIMA BARS



HIGHEST SELLING CEMENT for more than 12 years

SHAH CEMENT

Tasty fruit, hefty profit

Rangamati orange grower inspires many in his village

ANVIL CHAKMA, Rangamati

Madhusudan Talukder started planting orange saplings on two acres of land in Rangamati's Naniarchar upazila in 2007. By 2014, half of his 700 trees yielded fruits ready for sale.

Despite losing 200 trees, Madhusudan is now the proud owner of an orange orchard and an inspiration to many in Daane Sabekkhong Namakarbari village.

The 45-year-old owns 500 trees and enjoys plenty of profit.

During a recent visit, this correspondent found trees full of ripe oranges at Madhusudan's orchard. The oranges are large in size, taste sweet and weigh 300-400 gram each, drawing plenty of customers. One pair is sold at Tk 50 in the local market.

"Last year I sold oranges worth more than Tk 600,000. This year I have already earned Tk 500,000, and looking forward to earning around Tk 300,000 more by the end of December," Madhusudan told this correspondent.

Starting the work with only Tk 50,000, Madhusudan earned Tk 20-25 lakh over the last six years.

Many others who followed suit in the village are enjoying profits now. Kirti Moy Chakma, 32, Shanti Ranjan Chakma, 38, and Moharaj Chakma, 42 are some of them.

Kirti Moy Chakma said, "I was inspired by Madhusudan. I sold some oranges from my orchard this year."

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Madhusudan Talukder at his orange orchard in Rangamati's Naniarchar upazila recently. Following in his footsteps, many in Daane Sabekkhong Namakarbari village have become solvent.

PHOTO: ANVIL CHAKMA

The taste of freedom

Shahidul Alam writes how he feels upon release from jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As his 107 days in prison came to an end on Tuesday, globally acclaimed



journalist Shahidul Alam found delight in the city's traffic and even the incessant horns that surrounded it -- something that speaks volumes of the joy he felt as he tasted freedom from captivity.

"Never thought Dhaka traffic, winter smog, and the incessant honking of horns could be so attractive," he wrote in a post on the Facebook page -- FreeShahidul -- on Wednesday.

He added that he was out but remembered the friends who were still in Keraniganj Jail and the stories they shared.

"I miss the sparrows that befriended me, but find myself wrapped in your

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TIB calls for climate fund transparency

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Picking competent climate negotiators and maintaining transparency in spending funds are the key to realising global climate fund for the country.

Transparency International Bangladesh said yesterday.

"There is an inadequacy in professional and technical skills of those sent for global climate negotiations," said TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman.

Speaking at a press conference in the capital, he said Bangladeshi negotiators need better skills to be able to establish the country's position and realise compensations pledged for climate damage it was faced with.

Sometimes, knowledgeable negotiators who gain better skills and competence in the negotiation process are removed for some other business, the

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'The window is almost closed'

Warns UN as new report says greenhouse gas levels in atmosphere hit new high



AFP, Geneva

The levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, the main driver of climate change, have hit a new record high, the UN said yesterday, warning that the time to act was running out.

Ahead of the COP 24 climate summit in Poland next month, top United Nations officials are again trying to raise the pressure on governments to meet the pledge of limiting warming to the less than two degrees Celsius, enshrined in the 2015 Paris accord.

"Without rapid cuts in CO2 and other greenhouse gases, climate change will have increasingly destructive and irreversible impacts on life on Earth,"

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Good news from KL

Bangladeshi migrants to come under social protection in Malaysia

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladeshi migrants in Malaysia will soon get medical and disability benefits as the Southeast Asian country has decided to bring foreign workers under its Social Security Organisation.

The Malaysian government's Social Security Organisation (Socso) will provide social protection to foreign workers from January 1 next year, according to a statement issued by the country's Human Resources Minister M Kulasegaran on Wednesday.

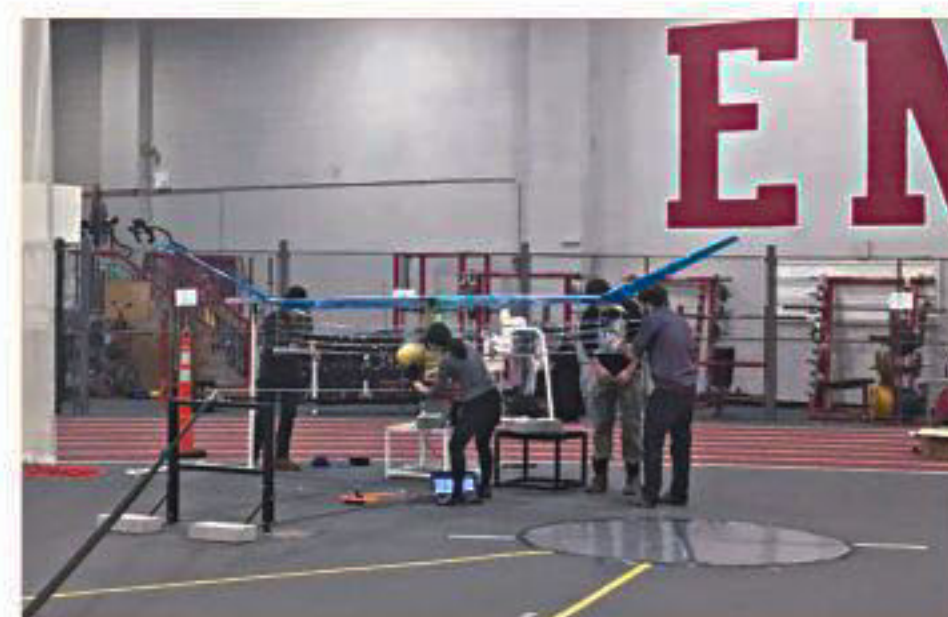
The comprehensive insurance will include medical benefit, temporary disablement benefit, permanent disablement benefit, constant-attendance allowance, dependants' benefit and rehabilitation, as well as RM 6,500 for repatriation.

Foreign workers would not be covered by the invalidity pension scheme of the country, Kulasegaran said.

Adrian Pereira, executive director of North South Initiative, a rights body based in Kuala Lumpur, told The Daily Star, "If

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Silent plane makes 'historic' flight



AFP, Paris

The blue glowing jets of science fiction spacecraft came a step closer to reality on Wednesday as US physicists unveiled the world's first solid-state aeroplane powered in flight by supercharged air molecules.

More than a century on from the Wright brothers' first artificial flight, scientists hailed the "historic" test of the new technology, which could eventually slash greenhouse-gas emissions from aviation.

Ever since Orville and Wilbur Wright's momentous glide in the winter of 1903, aircraft have been driven by propellers or jets that must burn fuel to create the thrust and lift needed for sustained flight.

A team of experts from the Massachusetts

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Charges to be framed against Mainul Jan 10

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dibrugarh

A Rangpur court yesterday set January 10 for framing charges against barrister Mainul Hosein in a case filed under the Digital Security Act for defaming journalist Masuda Bhatti.

Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Arifa Yasmin Mukta pronounced the date during a hearing, in absence of Mainul.

Public Prosecutor Abdul Maleque said no lawyer appeared on behalf of Mainul yesterday.

Earlier on October 22,

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PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 23
Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-05 12-30 3-45 5-21 7-00
JAMAAT 5-40 1-15 4-00 5-24 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A flock of pied avocets in flight in Khanpur Char of the Padma river in Rajshahi. The photo of the migratory birds was taken on November 13.



Flocks of monochrome

MOSTAFA SHABUI, Bogura

With the arrival of winter, the shallow waters and narrowing width of the mighty Padma becomes host to a number of animals in search of the nutrition it provides.

Most recently, the distinctly black and white Pied Avocet, who visits Bangladesh just before winter begins in full-throttle, was seen flying over the Padma and in search of food on the wetlands in Khanpur Char in Rajshahi.

The Pied Avocet is an Old World species of shorebirds. Scientifically,

COURTESY: ALI ASHRAF BHUIYAN

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SRI LANKA MASS GRAVES More than 230 skeletons found

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

More than 230 skeletons have been unearthed in a mass grave found earlier this year in northern Sri Lanka.

Archaeologists began excavating the grave in a former war zone in the town of Mannar in August.

They also found ceramic pottery, porcelain, metal objects and some jewellery worn by the victims.

"According to my experience this is the largest mass grave ever excavated," in Sri Lanka, Professor Raj Somadeva, a senior lecturer in archaeology at the University of Kelaniya, who is leading the investigators at the site, told the BBC.

"The bones are scattered and [it's] very difficult to trace the stature of the bodies," he added. "And some bones were missing... it's chaotic."

Sri Lanka's 26-year civil war between government troops and Tamil rebels killed at least 100,000 and saw at least 20,000 disappear, according to human rights groups.

Both the military and the Tamil Tigers military group are accused of killing civilians. The government has repeatedly denied its forces were responsible for civilian deaths or disappearances.

It remains unclear who the victims were or how they were killed. Several mass graves have been discovered since Sri Lanka's civil war ended in 2009.

The town of Mannar is dominated by ethnic minority Tamils and community leaders says hundreds of people from the region went missing during the decades-long conflict between Sri Lankan security forces and Tamil Tiger rebels.

While Mannar town remained mostly under army control during the civil war, Tamil Tiger rebels dominated its

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