



RELENTLESS RESEARCH, ENDLESS INNOVATION – JUST FOR YOU

So build your home with your hard-earned money by using BSRM

BSRM building a safer nation



MATARBARI POWER PLANT
Cox's Bazar

PROUD CONSTRUCTION PARTNER

SHAH CEMENT

Thousands left homeless

10,000 evicted from Bhasantek slum since Tuesday

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Barely a day after his birth, he found himself in the midst of rumbling bulldozers destroying the little world around him. The next day, the baby, who was yet to be named, and his mother Tanjila Begum, 24, were homeless.

They were among the roughly 10,000 people evicted from the capital's Bhasantek slum during a drive by the National Housing Authority (NHA) launched on Tuesday.

Tanjila's husband, Iqbal Hossain, is a fish seller. With two children and a wife to support, he was desperately looking for a new home at different places of the city.

The family spent yesterday under the open sky in the heart of the capital of a country which boasts of development in all spheres. They have been surviving on chira, muri and biscuits.

"A new house isn't that easy. The rent is too high," he said while talking to The Daily Star near the slum.

For his shanty, he had to pay Tk 2,500 as rent per month whereas most available units outside the slum are charging around Tk 10-15,000.

Tanjila and her sister Rashida, 22 – also a resident in the area – claimed that the NHA drive did not follow the procedures.

"We were not given any legal notice. There was a verbal announcement a week ago but the man we rented the house from said nothing would happen as there was an injunction [order]," Rashida said.

Tanjila said they were not even given the time to save their valuables.

Tanjila, who lived in the slum for five years, said they worked hard and saved money over the years to buy a few things, including their furniture, a 14-inch colour television and a small refrigerator.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2



A distraught woman sitting on the scattered shards and rubble of what was her home at Bhasantek slum. Below, residents of the slum in tears after their homes and shops have been bulldozed by the National Housing Authority yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



3 more 'drug dealers' killed in 'shootouts'

STAR REPORT

Three alleged drug peddlers were killed in three separate "gunfights" with law enforcers and Border Guard Bangladesh members yesterday.

The dead are Mehedi Hasan, 32, Zafar Alam, 26, and Ibadat Hossain Babu, 26.

Mehedi was killed in the capital's Shyamoli area while Zafar was killed in Cox's Bazar and Babu in Jashore.

Mohammad Mohiuddin Faruqi, company commander of Rab-2 camp in Mohammadpur, claimed Mehedi was accused in at least 17 drug related cases.

Acting on a tip-off, they set up two checkpoints in Shyamoli and Kalyanpur areas to recover drugs. Tracing the peddlers, they approached to interrogate but the criminals opened fire, forcing the law enforcers to retaliate, he added.

At one stage of the

SEE PAGE 13 COL 3



PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 21

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-20 12-45 4-30 6-03 7-30
JAMAAT 5-55 1-15 4-45 6-07 8-00
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Khaleda skips hearing on Niko charge-framing

Officials say she didn't wake up, her lawyer cites illness

JNU CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia did not appear before the Special Judge Court-9 for hearing on charge framing in the Niko graft case yesterday.

The authorities of Dhaka Old Central Jail said she could not be produced before the court as she "did not wake up from sleep", but Khaleda's lawyer Masud Ahmed Talukder said she skipped the hearing as she was feeling sick.

BNP standing committee member Moudud Ahmed, another accused in the case, told the court that "a healthy person does not sleep till 12:00 noon. Khaleda Zia was sick so she was asleep."

At that time, Anti-Corruption Commission Public Prosecutor Mosharraf Hossain Kajol promised that Khaleda would get treatment according to the jail code.

Judge Sheikh Hafizur Rahman of the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Saudi backs India's anti-terror fight

Crown prince offers help to Modi to end Indo-Pak showdown over Kashmir attack, signs accords on industry, culture

AFP, New Delhi

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Indian leader Narendra Modi yesterday vowed to increase pressure on countries that fuel terrorism.

The promise came as fallout from a suicide bomb attack that India has blamed on Pakistan overshadowed the latest leg of the crown prince's tour aiming to boost his country's image.

Modi did not mention Pakistan -- a key Saudi ally -- as he again blasted the "barbaric attack" in Kashmir last week that left at least 40 paramilitaries dead.

"To tackle this menace effectively, we agreed that there is a need to increase all possible pressure on countries supporting terrorism in any way," Modi said after talks with the crown prince.

"It is extremely important to eliminate the terror infrastructure and stop support to terrorists and their supporters."

Prince Mohammed, who arrived in Delhi from Pakistan where he had offered to help the neighbours ease tensions, responded that "terrorism and extremism is a common concern for India and Saudi Arabia".

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



'IS teen' not a Bangladeshi citizen: Dhaka

She terms revocation of UK citizenship unjust

AGENCIES

The radicalised IS teenager Shamima Begum is not a Bangladeshi citizen and there is no question of allowing her to enter the country Bangladesh, the foreign ministry said yesterday.

"She [Shamima] never visited Bangladesh in the past despite her parental lineage. So, there's no question of her being allowed to enter Bangladesh," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

Bangladesh expressed deep concern as Shamima has been erroneously identified as a holder of dual citizenship shared with Bangladesh alongside her birthplace, the UK, UNB reports.

"Bangladesh asserts that Shamima Begum is not a Bangladeshi citizen. She's a



Shamima

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

DIGITAL SECURITY ACT 5 journos sued, 1 of them held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A reporter of the Bangla daily Jugantor was arrested in Keraniganj on Tuesday, hours after a case was filed against him and four other reporters of the newspaper under the controversial Digital Security Act.

Abu Zafar is the Keraniganj correspondent of the newspaper.

The other accused are Nawabganj correspondent Azharul Islam, Ashulia correspondent Mehedi Hasan Mithu, Dhamrai correspondent Shamim Khan and Gopalganj correspondent SM Humayun Kabir.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

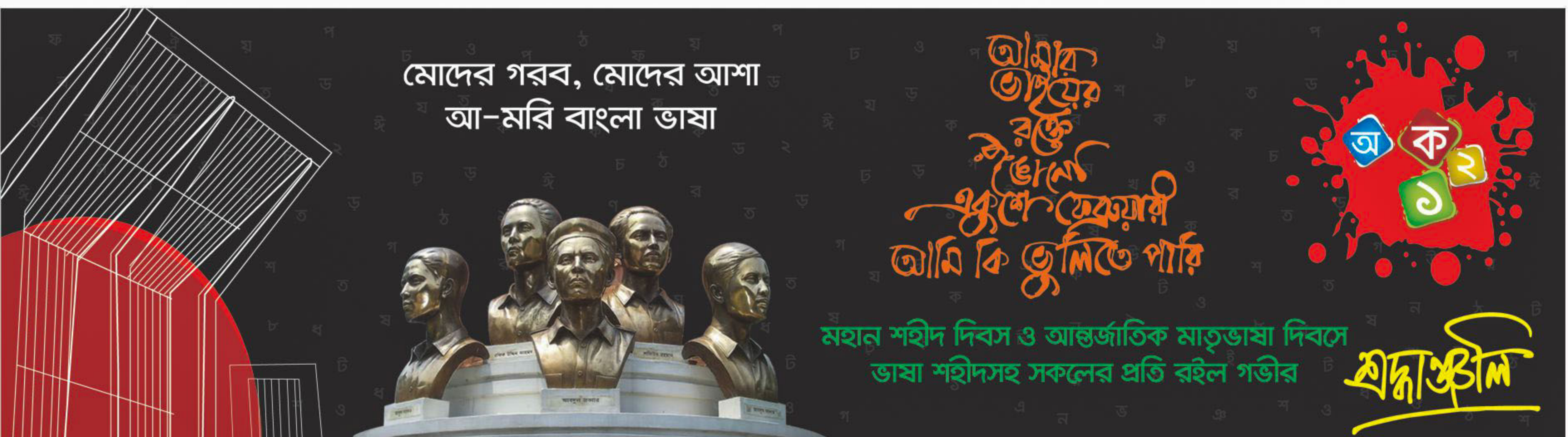


United Hospital

Call 10666 9852466

24/7 Appointment Desk

For Appointment, Emergency & Ambulance



মোদের গরব, মোদের আশা
আ-মরি বাংলা ভাষা

আমরা ভাষার রক্তে সঞ্চারিত
শুদ্ধতা জেতার
আমি কি ভুলিতে পারি

মহান শহীদ দিবস ও আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবসে
ভাষা শহীদসহ সকলের প্রতি রইল গভীর শ্রদ্ধাঞ্জলি



সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
উদ্ভাবনী ব্যাংকিং এ আপনার বিশ্বস্ত সঙ্গী
www.sonali.com.bd

জনতা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
উন্নয়নে আপনার বিশ্বস্ত অংশীদার
www.jb.com.bd

অগ্রণী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
দেশ ও জাতির সেবার প্রতিশ্রুতিবদ্ধ
www.agranibank.org

রূপালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
উত্তম সেবার নিশ্চয়তা
www.rupalibank.org