



"MY HOME IS AS GREAT AS THE PADMA BRIDGE TO ME"

Whether for your home or the Pillars of Padma Bridge
We forge steels with the same expertise

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT

BSRM
building a safer nation



MATARBARI POWER PLANT
Cox's Bazar

PROUD CONSTRUCTION PARTNER

SHAH CEMENT

Biman's Dhaka-Tokyo flight to resume in Dec

Japan to provide skills training to Bangladeshi workers to recruit them

PORIMOL PALMA and RASHIDUL HASAN

The Biman Bangladesh Airlines is going to resume direct flights from Dhaka to Tokyo from December this year. Biman suspended its Dhaka-Tokyo route in 2006, deeming it not commercially viable. Now, given the increased business ties and tourist movement between the two countries, Biman has decided to resume it, Biman officials said.

"Biman now has 15 aircraft, including three brand new Boeing 787 Dreamliners. It is capable of operating direct flights on this route. Also, movement of tourists between the two countries has increased significantly," Tasmin Akter, the public relations manager of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The issue was also discussed during a bilateral meeting between Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen and his Japanese counterpart Taro Kono at the state guesthouse Meghna on Tuesday night.

"Minister Kono appreciated the decision to operate direct flights on the Dhaka-Tokyo route. Both ministers were happy and appreciated the decision," said Japanese Foreign Ministry's Deputy Press Secretary Jun Saito at Tuesday's press briefing in Hotel Sonargaon.

The decision comes at a time when the two countries have seen a rapid increase in bilateral trade, which is

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



People cross a makeshift draw bridge over the Dafar-ara canal in Alokdia Vatchala area of Bagerhat. The approach road for the leaning concrete bridge was washed away in 2008, months after it was constructed. The bridge also started leaning around the same time.

PHOTO: PARTHA CHAKRABORTY

6 die while cleaning septic tank

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Six people died while cleaning a septic tank inside the Joypurhat's Akkelpur upazila yesterday.

The victims first lost consciousness inside the septic tank and later died, said Kiran Kumar Roy, officer-in-charge of Akkelpur Police Station.

One of the six men got inside the septic tank of a residential building around 9:00am to clean it up. He lost his consciousness as soon as he entered the tank. Five others entered the tank to rescue the first person but met the same fate, said police quoting witnesses.

A unit of the upazila fire service rushed to the spot on information that six men fell unconscious inside the septic tank, OC Kiran said, adding that the rescuers found them and sent them to Akkelpur Upazila Health Complex.

On-duty doctors at the health complex declared all six of them dead, he further added.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Toxic gas kills 3 shipbreaking workers in Ctg

MOSTAFA YOUSUF

Three workers died and three others injured after inhaling toxic gas at a shipbreaking yard in Chattogram's Sitakunda upazila yesterday.

The dead are Russel Matobbor, 25, Nantu Hossain, 24, of Pirojpur, and Sobidul, 30, of Faridpur, said Proddut Ghosh, sub-inspector of Sitakunda Police Station.

They died in MT Atlas, a crude oil tanker weighing around 27,450 tonnes, at MAK Corporation shipbreaking yard around 12:45pm.

The police official said the three, along with other workers, were cutting the pipe in the engine room of the ship. They breathed in the toxic gas and died on the spot when it spurted from the pipe.

Tofazzal Hossain, inspector of the Explosives Department in Chattogram, told The Daily Star that they issued a letter to the MAK Corporation shipbreaking yard 15 days ago asking not to cut the pump and engine rooms without cleaning the ship properly.

"Almost all the shipbreaking yard owners don't comply with our

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Blast kills 35 in Afghan bus

27 hurt; most of the victims women, children; govt blames Taliban

REUTERS, Herat

A roadside bomb in Afghanistan yesterday killed at least 35 people travelling on a bus, including children, and injured 27, officials said.

Security has been deteriorating across Afghanistan this year, with the Taliban and Islamic State fighters mounting near-daily attacks on Afghan forces, government employees and civilians.

The blast on the main road linking the provincial capitals of Herat and Kandahar happened in the Ab Khorma area of Farah province, said provincial police spokesman Mohibullah Mohib.

"The bomb was freshly planted by the Taliban insurgents to target Afghan and foreign security forces," he said, adding most of the dead or injured were women and children.

No militant group claimed responsibility. Farah is on the border of Iran.

A Taliban official denied responsibility and said their fighters were not responsible for planting landmines in the area.

"The blast has not been conducted by the Taliban, we are investigating the incident," said spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid.

The blast comes ahead of the resumption of peace talks between US officials and Taliban representatives, who are hoping to strike a deal on a timetable for the withdrawal of foreign forces in exchange for security guarantees by the Taliban.

But despite the talks, violence has been relentless.

Government and aid officials say the number of people being killed and maimed is rising because of new explosives planted by the Taliban, who now control more territory than at any point since their ouster nearly 18 years ago.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

FLOOD-HIT AREAS Waterborne, skin diseases break out

STAR REPORT

With floodwater receding, different types of waterborne and skin diseases are spreading among the affected people, but in many areas victims have not received any government medical aid yet or could not see doctors due to lack of money.

According to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, around 7.6 million flood-hit people of the country are at risk of hunger and disease.

"Floods have left hundreds of thousands stranded in northern and north-eastern parts of the country and damaged more than 600,000 homes," the organisation said in a press release yesterday.

"Families are forced to live in unsanitary conditions and lack

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Zoom in by blinking

Scientists create robotic contact lenses



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists have created a robotic lens that is controlled by small eye movements, including double blinks to zoom in and out.

Most soft robots are controlled manually or pre-programmed but the lenses mimic the natural electric signals in the human eyeball that are active even when the eye itself is closed.

Researchers from the University of California San Diego harnessed this natural charge to control the lens.

They measured the electrical potential of the eye – called the "electro-oculographic signal" – and then made lenses that would respond to that activity.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

ZIA CHARITABLE CASE HC rejects Khaleda's bail plea

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday rejected BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's bail petition in the Zia Charitable Trust corruption case, in which she has been sentenced to seven years' imprisonment by a lower court.

After hearing the arguments on the bail petition, the HC bench of Justice Obaidul Hassan and Justice SM Kuddus Zaman came up with the order

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2



PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 1

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-20	12-45	5-00	6-47	8-15
JAMAAT 4-55	1-15	5-15	6-50	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



BASHUNDHARA CEMENT

SHOULDERING RESPONSIBILITY

Strengthening generations, preparing them to strengthen and support decades on end. Laying the foundation of a prosperous Bangladesh.



BASHUNDHARA CEMENT

BONDING GENERATIONS