



PADMA BRIDGE RAIL LINK PROJECT IS BEING BUILT WITH BSRM

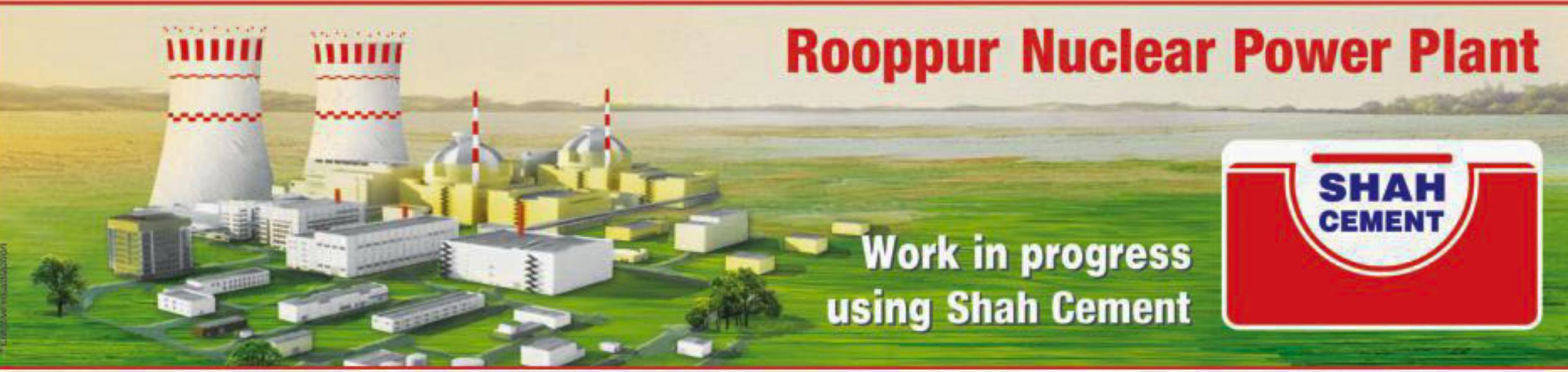
COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT

 **BSRM**
building a safer nation

Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant



Work in progress using Shah Cement



Invest in Bangladesh

PM urges businesspeople in UAE, says mutual efforts can drive bilateral trade further

UNB, Abu Dhabi

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged UAE investors to invest in various sectors in Bangladesh to boost bilateral trade.

"The mutual trade between Bangladesh and UAE is steadily growing. I believe, with our mutual efforts, the bilateral trade may be further diversified and enhanced," she said.

The premier was addressing a dinner reception, arranged in her honour by the Bangladesh embassy in Abu Dhabi, at Shangri-La Hotel on Sunday.

UAE entrepreneurs and noted businesspeople joined the function.

Hasina said there was a huge potential of mutual trade and investment, along with opportunities for mutual collaborative engagements, between Bangladesh and UAE.

"We have identified many potential sectors for beneficial collaboration between Bangladesh and UAE both in public and private sectors."

She said the UAE may import Bangladeshi products like pharmaceuticals, jute and jute goods, ceramic, leather, food items, plastic goods, knitwear, frozen food, textile and home textile, agricultural products and engineering products at competitive prices.



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'GUNFIGHTS' WITH POLICE
PBCP leader shot dead in Jhenidah

'Robber' killed in Chattogram

STAR REPORT

A regional leader of outlawed Jonojuddho, a faction of Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP), and an alleged robber were killed in "gunfights" with law enforcers in Jhenidah and Chattogram yesterday.

In Jhenidah, the dead Badsha Sheikh, 50, of Harinakunda upazila, was an accused in seven murder and two arms cases, said police.

On information that some activists of the faction gathered at a Mahogany orchard in Jorapukuria village, police raided the area around 2:00am, said Ashaduzzaman, officer-in-charge (OC) of Harinakunda Police Station.

As soon as the law enforcers reached there, the PBCP men started firing

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Caught in cycle of miseries

Sanitation workers remain underpaid, suffer from lack of access to physical, financial, social and human capital, says global report

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

While Bangladesh has made good progress in the sanitation sector, sanitation workers are still leading a dehumanising life, as most of them have to work manually and without safety gears.

The status of the sanitation workers was portrayed in a global report published that said low income, financial stress, informality and social stigma were part of the poor situation.

"They [sanitation workers] have not seen progress in their livelihoods, as shown by the lack of access to physical, financial, social, and human capital. They face discrimination when seeking loans or alternative occupations. Many times, their children do not approve of their parents' occupation, which is another reason for them to contemplate alternative livelihoods," said the report, titled "Health, Safety and Dignity of Sanitation Workers -- An Initial Assessment".

The report, published last week by the World Health Organisation (WHO), said both in Bangladesh and India sanitation work is perceived to belong to the Dalit caste.

This stigma compounds the social ostracising and limitations on social mobility that workers face and often results in intergenerational



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FR TOWER CASE
3 accused get bail from SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday granted bail to three men accused of forging the design of 23-storey FR Tower.

The bail cleared the way for land owner Syed Hossain Imam Faruque, former Rajuk inspector Aurangzeb Siddique Nannu, and former Rajuk deputy director Shawkat Ali to walk out of jail.

The apex court also stayed the High Court orders that halted the lower court orders which granted bail to the trio in the forgery case and directed the accused to surrender before the lower court concerned within seven days.

A devastating fire in the 23-storey FR Tower in the capital's Banani left at least 25 people dead and 73 injured in March this year.

Yesterday, a four-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain passed the orders after hearing three separate petitions filed by the three accused.

Their lawyer AM Aminuddin told The Daily Star that there was no legal bar to his clients' release from jail following the SC orders.

A Dhaka court on November 17 sent the three accused to jail after they

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New Mars rover to search for signs of life



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

On some sunny day next summer, in front of a crowd at Kennedy Space Centre, a rocket carrying Nasa's next, best hope at finding life on Mars will launch into the sky.

Seven months later, the car-size Mars 2020 rover will touch down near Jezero Crater, a dried-up lake in Mars' northern hemisphere. With its six wheels and suite of high-tech instruments, it will scour the surrounding rocks for evidence that alien microbes once lived on the Red Planet.

Decades of surveying Mars with orbiting probes, landers and rovers has revealed the planet once harboured a thick atmosphere and water on its surface. Researchers have even discovered traces of complex organic molecules - possible building blocks for living cells.

Now, two new studies offer a tantalising suggestion that Mars 2020 could find even stronger

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INDO-BANGLA BORDER
BSF kills two Bangladeshis

A CORRESPONDENT, Sherpur

Two Bangladeshi youths were shot dead by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) in Babelakona border of Sherpur yesterday.

The dead - Ukl Miah, 25, a college student, and Khokon Miah, 25, a businessman, were friends. They both hailed from Sreebandhi upazila in the district, police said.

While roaming around the areas of Ukl's father-in-law's home at Babelakona, the youths might have crossed the border and stepped into Indian soil,



PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 19

| | | | | |
|-------------|-------|------|---------|------|
| Fazr | Zohr | Asr | Maghrib | Esha |
| AZAN 5-05 | 12-45 | 3-45 | 5-21 | 7-00 |
| JAMAAT 5-40 | 1-15 | 4-00 | 5-24 | |

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SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Mother, son murdered in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police recovered the bodies of a mother and her son at their home in Daulatpur upazila in Kushtia yesterday.

The deceased were Sanowara Khatun, 49, and Rajiul Islam Raj, 10, of Sonakandi village in the upazila, said police.

Seeing the front door open, neighbours entered their house in the morning and found Sanowara dead on the bed and Raj on the floor, said SM Arifur Rahman, officer-in-charge (OC) of Daulatpur Police Station.

He said they might have been choked to death with pillows in the early hours of the day.

Police recovered the corpses around 10:30am and sent those to Kushtia General Hospital morgue for autopsies, said the OC.

Jamirul Islam, chairman of Refayatpur union parishad, told The Daily Star that Sanowara's husband left her around nine years ago. "Since

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Riot police (R) make arrests as protesters (L) attempt to find safe passage out of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University campus in Hung Hom district of Hong Kong yesterday.

HK protest intensifies

Police swoop on anti-govt protesters trying to flee univ

REUTERS, Hong Kong

Hong Kong police laid siege to a university yesterday, firing rubber bullets and tear gas to pin back anti-government protesters armed with petrol bombs and other weapons and stop them from fleeing amid fears of a bloody crackdown.

Dozens, choking on the tear gas, tried to leave the Polytechnic University by breaking through police lines after a night of mayhem in the Chinese-ruled city in which roads were blocked, a bridge set on fire and a police officer was shot by a bow and arrow.

Many protesters, dressed in regular clothes and without gas masks, made runs for it, dodging tear gas canisters and sponge grenades, only to be forced back inside.

Some were arrested, tackled to the ground, as others scrambled and tripped over barricades and fences as police pointed guns at them and threw punches.

"The police might not storm the campus but it seems like they are trying to catch people as they attempt to run," Democratic lawmaker Hui Chi-fung told Reuters.

"It's not optimistic now. They might all be arrested on campus. Lawmakers and school management are trying to liaise with the police but failed."

Police said officers had been deployed "on the periphery" of the campus for a week, appealing to "rioters" to leave.

"All our warnings were ignored," they said in a statement. "Our message was loud and clear, the violence has escalated to rioting."

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