


Payra Bridge has been built by
Country's No.1 Steel Expert BSRM





MATARBARI POWER PLANT
Cox's Bazar

PROUD CONSTRUCTION PARTNER



BIWTA making ‘eco park’ filling Turag

TARUN SARKAR

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) has taken initiatives to set up multiple eco-parks by filling the Turag in the capital.

Around one and a half kilometres stretch of the river, between Gabtoli and Sinnirtek areas, would be affected once the projects are implemented.

Such initiatives of the government body that is responsible for the development and maintenance of waterways, BIWTA, have sparked criticism.

According to sources, BIWTA has conducted frequent drives to evict illegal structures but has never taken measures to excavate the riverbanks. As a result, the syndicates occupy and rebuild structures on the riverbanks again.

However, the authorities never attempted to build structures occupying riverbanks themselves before, the sources added.

Contacted, BIWTA Executive Engineer Motiul Islam, who is also the deputy chief director of the Circular Waterway Project, said that construction projects were already undergoing in Borobazar, Jahanabad, Diabari and Sinnirtek areas.

“The government could not find a better place anywhere else to build the eco-parks. Thus, these places have been selected.”

During a recent visit, this correspondent found signboards in Borobazar, Jahanabad, Diabari and Sinnirtek areas inscribing that eco-parks would be constructed there.

Meanwhile, BIWTA has already started filling the Turag

SEE PAGE 12 COL 3



Right next to a pile of garbage and abandoned vehicles, the BIWTA authorities have put up a signboard for the proposed eco park on the Turag near the Gabtoli-Mirpur Road in the capital. The pillar with the red paint marks the edge of the river. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Bangabandhu Bridge toll goes up on Friday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The increased toll rate for Bangabandhu Bridge and Mukterpur Bridge in Munshiganj will be effective from early Friday.

Bangladesh Bridge Authority yesterday issued a circular in this regard and BBA's Executive Director Abu Bakr Siddique, also the secretary of bridge division, confirmed it to The Daily Star.

The new rate will come into effect three days after the bridges division abruptly cancelled its plan to start taking the increased toll from early yesterday.

Through a circular on November 2, the government had raised the toll rates for two of the biggest bridges of the country by 10 to 50 percent.

At Bangabandhu Bridge, the rates for passenger vehicles like cars and buses rose by 10 to 25 percent while it went up by 14 to 18 percent for trucks. At Mukterpur Bridge in Munshiganj, the rates have been hiked by 25 to 50 percent and 20 to 33 percent respectively.

Moreover, the authorities have also for the first time fixed toll rates for three-axle trucks.

The November 2 circular had stated that the new rate would come into force immediately but officials said the time was taken to update necessary software and complete preparatory work.

But on November 15, the BBA issued a circular saying that the new rates will come into action from the early hour of Wednesday. Hours after the issuance of the circular, the authority cancelled the plan showing “technical problem” as reason.

After the announcement

SEE PAGE 12 COL 6



PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 18

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	7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Monster incarnate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After his five-year-old daughter Fahima caught him being intimate with a woman who was not her mother, 25-year-old Amir Hossain took inhuman measures to silence the little girl forever.

Instigated by the woman, Laily Akter, Amir on November 6 planned to kill his only child.

He took his daughter Fahima to a deserted riverbank in Cumilla's Debidwar the next day, Rab officials said.

“He had a knife with him and initially stabbed the child; several others joined him. He then strangled her to ensure she was dead.”

The Rapid Action Battalion disclosed the information yesterday after a Rab-11 team arrested Amir and four others, including Laily, from Dhaka and Cumilla as Fahima's body was found in a sack on November 14.

“To avoid arrest, Amir even filed a general diary when the child remained missing and a case after the body was recovered,” Khandaker Al Moin, Rab's Legal and Media wing director, told a press briefing at the Rab media centre in Dhaka yesterday.

Amir was the mastermind behind the

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Indira rejects Thant's proposal

NOVEMBER 18, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

INDIRA'S REPLY TO THANT

Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi turned down U Thant's proposal that he help relieve tensions between India and Pakistan. She urged him to concentrate instead on ending the “civil war” in East Pakistan.

In a 1,000-word letter to the United Nations secretary general on November 17, 1971, and presented in the Indian parliament today, Indira Gandhi accused the international community of trying to save the military regime of President Yahya Khan.

“The root of the problem is the fate of the 75 million people of East Bengal and their inalienable rights,” Indira Gandhi wrote in response to identical letters Thant sent to her and President Yahya Khan on October 20.

“This is what must be kept in mind instead of the present attempt to save the military regime. To sidetrack this main problem and to convert it into an Indo-Pakistan dispute can only aggravate tensions.”

Justifying India's massing of troops along her borders, Indira Gandhi charged that “Pakistan is seriously preparing to launch a large-scale armed conflict with India and we have to therefore take all necessary defence measures.”

THREAT TO UN AID IN PAKISTAN

The head of the United Nations' relief operation in East Pakistan warned today that active opposition from “any quarter” would compel the aid programme to cease.

The warning, by Assistant Secretary General Paul Marc Henry,

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1



Speech-impaired teen raped

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police yesterday arrested a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver on charge of raping a teenager, who cannot speak, after abducting her from Sylhet Sadar upazila on Tuesday evening.

The arrestee Budu Miah alias Mokku Miah, 32, is a resident of Ghopal area in Sylhet Sadar upazila.

According to the case statement, the victim and her brother hired the auto-rickshaw from Temukhi area for going to Gobindaganj area in Sunamganj's Chhatak upazila on Tuesday afternoon.

After they reached Jangail area, the accused halted the auto-rickshaw and requested the victim's brother to push the vehicle as it is having some engine troubles. When the brother got off the vehicle, its driver abducted the 17-year-old girl and raped her after taking her elsewhere, the

SEE PAGE 12 COL 6

Science says grannies are good for you



AFP, Washington

Scientists say they have proven what many people fortunate enough to grow up with theirs have known all along: Grandmothers have strong nurturing instincts and are hard-wired to care deeply about their grandchildren.

A new study published in the Royal Society B on Tuesday is the first to provide a neural snapshot of the cherished intergenerational bond.

Using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), researchers at Emory University in the southern US state of Georgia scanned the brains

SEE PAGE 12 COL 3

Smog worsens in New Delhi, Lahore

Schools, colleges, coal-fired power plants shut in the Indian capital

AGENCIES

India's capital has shut schools, colleges and coal plants as it battles dangerous levels of air pollution in the region that yesterday left residents of Lahore in neighbouring Pakistan choking on acrid smog.

Air quality has worsened across northern India and adjacent parts of Pakistan in recent years, as industrial pollutants, smoke from seasonal crop burn-off, and colder winter temperatures coalesce into toxic smog.

Delhi is consistently ranked the world's worst capital for air quality, with levels of pollutants last week reaching more than 30 times the maximum limit recommended by the World Health Organization.

The city on Tuesday ordered the closure until the end of the month of

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1



A truck plying the Bayezid Link Road in Chattogram city. This stretch of the road had lately been shut for vehicles after a landslide, but the authorities concerned have opened it up again without taking any protective measures, posing risk to commuters' lives.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Arms Control Dialogue Biden, Xi agree to move forward

Says White House; US, China to ease restrictions on each other's journalists

AFP, Washington

US President Joe Biden and China's Xi Jinping agreed during their virtual summit to work on organising talks between the nuclear-armed nations on arms control, a senior White House official said Tuesday.

Biden and Xi met via teleconference for more than three hours late Monday (early Tuesday in Beijing) in a bid to ease tensions between the world's top two economies and major geopolitical rivals.

“President Biden did raise with President Xi the need for a strategic stability set of conversations,” National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan told a conference, using an expression employed in diplomatic circles to indicate arms control.

“The two leaders agreed that we would look to begin to carry forward discussions,” he added, in comments made at the Brookings Institution think tank in Washington.

Sullivan, a top aide to Biden, had been asked about Beijing's increasing military might.

The Pentagon recently confirmed that China in August carried out a test of a nuclear-capable hypersonic missile that would be difficult to defend against, and has said that

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

