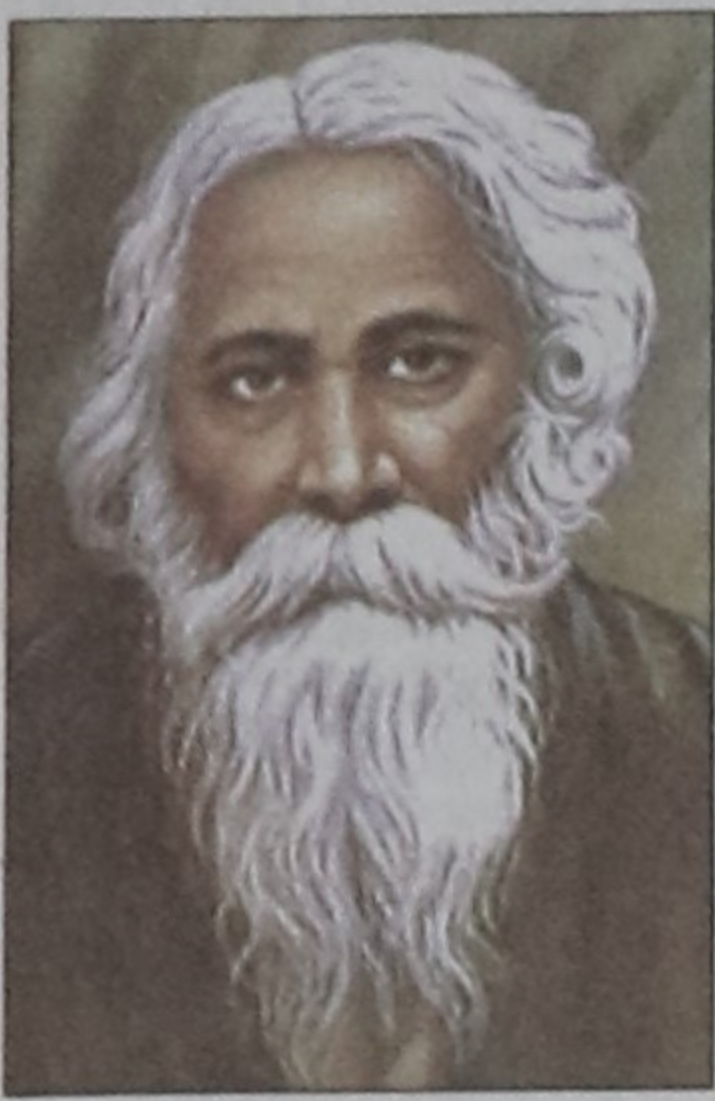


More than
1,40,000 people...we do,
whatever it takes to
connect you
to the world!"
FedEx
Express
Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.
Liaison of Federal Express Corporation
Every Package Matters

TRANSTEC
Refrigerator & Freezer


Sadar Road, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1206



Tagore's birth anniversary today

UNB, Dhaka

The 147th birth anniversary of Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore will be celebrated across the country today.

The government and socio-cultural organisations have taken up extensive programmes to celebrate the great poet's birthday.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed will inaugurate Tagore's

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Businessman shot dead in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unknown gunmen shot dead a manpower businessman near his residence in city's Nikunja area under Khilkhet police station yesterday.

Police arrested a former business partner of the deceased in connection with the murder of Mominul Alam Shimul, 34, who was one of the four owners of Unique Overseas at Kakoli-Banani.

Shimul was a resident of Nikunja-2 and hailed from Haimchar upazila in Chandpur district.

The detained man was identified as Mizanur Rahman, husband of Shimul's sister-in-law.

Police and family members said that the murder followed a business related feud between Shimul and Mizan.

Witnesses said two men on a motorcycle shot at Shimul while he

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Sector commanders calls for unity to try war criminals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Sector Commander Maj Gen (ret'd) KM Safiullah Bir Uttam said yesterday that war criminals of 1971 must be brought to justice because by denying the Liberation War these criminals were denying the sovereignty, liberty and constitution of the country.

"They must be brought to book and be punished," Safiullah demanded.

He was speaking at a view-exchange meeting between the Sector Commanders Forum (SCF) and freedom fighters and general people of greater Rangpur region at the Rangpur town hall yesterday.

At the meet, SCF called on the government again to begin the trial of war criminals for the sake of democracy, and peace and harmony. SCF is touring North Bengal as part of their nationwide campaign to drum up support for trial of all war criminals.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Prayer Timing

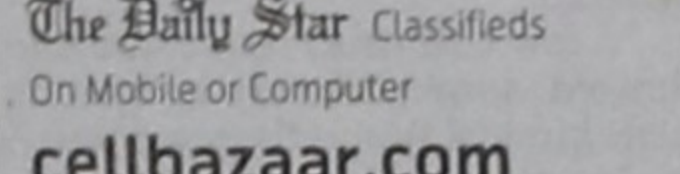
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-34	6-38
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation



The Daily Star Classifieds
On Mobile or Computer
cellbazaar.com

Help: 01713238381-5



The Daily Star Classifieds
On Mobile or Computer
cellbazaar.com

The Daily Star - C-FAS ROUNDTABLE

Pro-active foreign policy sought

Ex-diplomats criticise neglect shown to foreign affairs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former ambassadors of the country yesterday stressed the need for a more proactive foreign policy replacing the existing one, which remains 'reactive' only to developments in other countries.

Criticising the neglect shown to matters of foreign affairs over the years, the former ambassadors urged for putting foreign policy in the centre of governance 'as done in the rest of the world'.

Over 20 former ambassadors, who represented Bangladesh to different countries over the past few decades, underscored the need for bringing changes to the foreign policy apparatus at a roundtable discussion yesterday.

The Daily Star and the Centre for Foreign Affairs Studies (C-FAS) jointly organised the roundtable

titled 'Future Direction of Bangladesh Foreign Policy' in the newspaper's office yesterday.

Pointing out that the country's foreign policy is uncoordinated and sometimes managed by multiple ministries and agencies, the discussants stressed the need for coordination among all branches of government ministries and agencies headed by the foreign ministry, terming the move 'a precondition for an effective foreign policy'.

Promoting the country's national interest in a globalised world will not be possible without an efficient, effective and well-funded foreign policy infrastructure, the former ambassadors noted.

The discussants suggested further discussions on foreign policy matters at different levels of

the society, including in universities, to address the existing disconnect between the people and policies.

The daylong roundtable had three separate sessions with C-FAS Chairman Ashfaqur Rahman delivering the welcome speech.

Stressing the need for crafting a foreign policy which will reflect the people's aspiration while addressing global issues, he asked whether the country's foreign policy has ever thought of reforms in the United Nations or in the regional framework.

Saying that solutions to domestic problems also require global solutions, he added, all should complement each other in facing challenges like terrorism and poverty alleviation.

Former ambassador Harun ur

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



Participants at a roundtable titled "Future Direction of Bangladesh Foreign Policy" organised by The Daily Star and the Centre for Foreign Affairs Studies at The Daily Star conference room yesterday.

Myanmar junta still blocks aid groups

Okays UN aid flight, appoints a minister to oversee visa applications

AFP, AP, Yangon

Aid groups said yesterday they were still awaiting permission to enter Myanmar, where they reported bodies rotting on the ground and desperate cyclone survivors dying from hunger and disease.

Five days after the storm hit, leaving more than 60,000 people dead or missing in one of the

world's worst natural disasters, the full scope of the tragedy was not yet known, with many towns simply washed away.

But international agencies painted a picture of devastation and urgent need, saying millions of people were homeless and without food and water -- while disaster experts waited in limbo, blocked by Myanmar's secretive army rulers.

"One team came across thou-

sands of people killed in one township, with piles of rotting bodies lying on the ground," said Andrew Kirkwood of Save the Children, one of the few foreign aid groups allowed to operate inside Myanmar.

He said staff inside the poor and isolated nation had received reports that survivors of Saturday's cyclone in Pyinkaya, one of the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Obama takes N Carolina, Hillary wins Indiana

AFP, Raleigh, North Carolina

Barack Obama took a big stride towards the Democratic presidential nomination on Tuesday with a thumping victory over Hillary Clinton in North Carolina, while she eked out a wafer-thin win in Indiana.

Well after midnight, hours after they declared the North Carolina

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

ADB to provide \$500m to combat food crisis

AFP, Madrid

The Asian Development Bank will provide 500 million dollars (320 million euros) in immediate assistance to member nations hit hardest by soaring food prices, the head of the bank announced Tuesday.

ADB President Haruhiko Kuroda said the bank would also double lending for agriculture in 2009 to 2.0 billion dollars to combat the crisis, which he has warned puts more than a billion people in the region at risk of malnutrition.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Hearing on polls date writ ends

HC delivers verdict anytime

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court will deliver anytime judgment in a writ about holding the national polls within 90 days of dissolution of the last parliament as its hearing ended yesterday.

Writ petitioner Barrister Masood R Sobhan who himself moved the case told the court the Election Commission should not

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Pro-Khaleda BNP to announce programmes for her release soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The pro-Khaleda faction of BNP yesterday decided to announce agitation programmes in a few days to mount pressure on the government for the release of its chairperson.

A joint meeting of the faction leaders yesterday discussed a number of possible programmes including mass fasting, hunger strike, human chain, silent procession and sit-in.

"We discussed possible

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



PHOTO: STAR

A train crosses the level crossing near Oxygen Intersection in Chittagong city where a shuttle train of Chittagong University rammed a pick-up van of Rapid Action Battalion yesterday. The badly damaged van is seen in the picture.

ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES FBCCI task force to watch prices, suggest actions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

FBCCI, the country's apex trade body, yesterday commissioned a task force comprising representatives from businesses, consumers, ministries concerned and joint forces to monitor price situation at retail and wholesale markets.

The new body will draw up a set of recommendations for the government on ways to control price spiral of essentials.

It will collect, preserve and update information on daily prices of essentials, commodity-wise details of supply and demand, and production.

Besides, it will publish weekly and monthly reports on matters relating to export and import, stocks, market trends and other issues. It will soon launch a website to offer public access to the data.

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) arranged a programme on the occasion yes-

terday afternoon.

Director General of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) Major General Shakil Ahmed was the chief guest at the function held at the FBCCI headquarters in Motijheel.

Addressing the ceremony presided over by FBCCI President Anisul Huq, business leaders demanded that the government bring changes to the present food procurement policy.

They also asked for immediate measures to create a better business climate as, they said, businesses are bound to fare badly in a hostile environment.

Some traders complained that they 'live in constant fear of the government's anti-hoarding drive that often ends up being harassment for the honest businessmen'. They said sometimes stockpiling is necessary for supplying food at the time of scarcity and so 'hoarding' should be defined clearly by the government.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

NO TALKS INVITATION

Left parties to file writ petition against EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gonotantrik Bam Morcha, a platform of 11 left-leaning political parties, is preparing to file a writ petition against the Election Commission (EC) for not yet inviting the parties under it to the electoral reform dialogue.

Leaders of the Morcha yesterday said they have already served a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Firearms looted from police recovered in Natore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

All the five firearms looted from a police patrol team at Taherpur in Rajshahi were recovered from a pond at Munjalgachha of Naldanga upazila in Natore yesterday afternoon.

Police recovered one SMG and four Chinese rifles wrapped with polythene sheets from the pond

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

WANT TO PURCHASE MEMBERSHIP OF DHAKA & CHITTAGONG STOCK EXCHANGES.

We are a fast growing and reputed corporate body involved in financial sector and capital market operation for more than 6 years. As per our expansion plan, we now intend to purchase two (02) membership license of Dhaka and Chittagong Stock Exchange Limited. Honorable members/ interested parties are requested to drop their sale-offers detailing the asking price and other terms & conditions for both the stock exchanges separately within 15 days of the publication of the advertisement to below Box Number:

C/o. The Daily Star, 19, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215 Box No. A-86

The Authority reserved the right to accept or reject any sale-offer. Confidentiality will be maintained strictly.

1ST TIME IN BANGLADESH & SOUTH ASIA

OPENING CEREMONY

8th May, Grand Ball Room, Pan Pacific Shonghaon

INAUGURATED BY:
Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed
Honorable Chief Adviser
Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Programme Schedule

07th May	Common Briefing
08th May	Adjudication test & Opening Ceremony
09th May	Debate Round 0, 1 & 2
10th May	Debate Round 3, 4 & 5
11th May	Debate Round 6, 7 & 8
12th May	Octos & Quarters
13th May	Semi Finals & Finals

MEDIA PARTNER

The Daily Star

RAHIMAFROOZ

BRAC BANK

EVENT SPONSOR

IT SPONSOR

ACCOMMODATION PARTNER

DEBATEVENUE PARTNER

BEVERAGE PARTNER

RADIO PARTNER

15TH ALL ASIAN INTER VARSITY DEBATE CHAMPIONSHIP 2008

HOSTED BY NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY

Prime Bank Limited Platinum Sponsor

South Bank Ltd Gold Sponsor

NCC Bank Ltd Silver Sponsor

CONTACT: 01717064833 01712106927 EMAIL: nsdc@hotmail.com