

**Did you know?**

The Ericsson Globe is the national indoor arena of Sweden and is currently the largest hemispherical building in the world. Shaped like a large golf ball, it has a diameter of 361ft and an inner height of 279ft.



**PHILIPS**  
Buy specific models of Philips Domestic Appliances. Get attractive discount up to 8%\*

**TRANSKOM**  
DIGITAL  
Your Trusted Electronics Retailer  
For More Information: 8855366-8, 01712 865463

Amazingly Attractive Offer During February

**5,000 buses run in city with illegal ticket booths**  
*Alleges MP in JS*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

None of the public transport companies operating on routes in the capital has Dhaka City Corporation's approval for their ticket counters, alleged a ruling Awami League lawmaker in parliament yesterday.

"The transport companies set [ticket] counters haphazardly causing sufferings to the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

**Dhaka flood protection project to be revived**

Tk 2,500cr scheme taken up in 1999 includes eastern bypass

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said in parliament that the government is going to revive a Tk 2,500 crore project, which was approved in 1999 to protect Dhaka from floods, expand the city and ease traffic congestion.

She said the Water Development Board, Roads and Highways Department, Water Supply and Sewerage Authority, Dhaka City Corporation, Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha, Local Government Engineering and Directorate of Forest and Environment would jointly implement the project.

The WDB would function as the lead agency in the project styled Dhaka coordinated flood control dam cum eastern bypass road multipurpose, said the premier in her scripted answer to lawmakers' queries.

The project covers Tongi Khal in the north, Dhaka-Demra road in the south, Balu River in the east and

Progoti Sarani in the west.

Sheikh Hasina, who was also the prime minister from 1996-2001, said the Executive Committee on National Economic Council on December 4, 1999 approved the project concept paper with an estimated cost of Tk 2,476 crore.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

**Sri Lanka goes for snap polls**

*Dissolves parliament; opposition fears for Fonseka's life*

AFP, AP, Colombo

Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse has called snap parliamentary elections as political tensions mounted yesterday over the arrest of his main rival Sarath Fonseka.

Rajapakse, who was returned to power last month after defeating former army chief Fonseka in a bitter election battle, dissolved parliament from midnight Tuesday, two months early.

A government statement said elections would be held on April 8.

The move came hours after the defence ministry said

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

**SEPARATED TWINS**  
**Moni, Mukta improving**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Moni and Mukta, the conjoined twins, are recovering fast, said the doctors of Dhaka Shishu Hospital where the twins were separated Monday morning.

Director of the hospital Dr AR Khan said their pulse, blood pressures, respiratory system and physical activities are improving.

But Mukta is recovering faster than Moni, he said adding that they are still kept at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) for extra precaution, as the children are prone to infections after such surgery.

The babies are still supported by intravenous fluids. Normal feeding might start from tomorrow if their physical condition improves, he added.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



The newly-constructed oil spill cleaner Bay Cleaner-2 to be handed over to Chittagong Port Authority today.

PHOTO: STAR

**Local-made ship to prevent oil spillage in sea**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

The Chittagong Port Authority today receives an oily waste collection vessel from Western Marine Shipyard Ltd to prevent spillage of wasted oil into the sea from ships, tankers and other vessels.

Commissioned as Bay Cleaner-2, the vessel is first of its kind in the country and will significantly enhance CPA's capacity in safeguarding marine environment as required by the International Maritime Organisation under Surface Ocean Lower Atmosphere Study and Marine Pollution, sources said.

Western Marine authority will hand over the vessel to CPA Chairman Commodore RU Ahmed at a ceremony at its shipyard at Kolagaon under Patia upazila in the Port City.

Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan and Nur-E-Alam Chowdhury, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on shipping ministry, are scheduled to attend the handover ceremony.

At a press conference yesterday, Western marine officials said

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

**2 language heroes honoured**

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangla Academy yesterday -- the tenth day into Amar Ekushey Boi Mela -- honoured two language movement heroes Abdul Matin and Dr Syed Yousuf Hassan for their contributions to the Language Movement in 1952.

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury handed over the souvenir gifts to the awardees at a function at the fair premises.

The fair yesterday drew a relatively good crowd. Visitors in the evening, however, were disturbed by dust while the movement through narrow lanes had become too difficult.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

ZIA'S PROCLAIMING INDEPENDENCE  
**Govt confiscating distorted textbooks**

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The government has already taken steps to confiscate from the market, books containing distorted history of the country's liberation war including about the declaration of independence, in line with a High Court verdict, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said yesterday.

He was talking to The Daily Star after the release of the copy on Tuesday of the HC judgement that had banned publication of any book that would portray late president Ziaur Rahman as the first person to declare the country's independence; and also ordered confiscation of all such already published books from the market.

The education minister said the government also initiated restoration of real history in textbooks for all levels of the education system

by removing the distortions that had been put in place.

"We will confiscate other books as well, if there is any, with false and distorted information regarding the country's liberation war including the claim that Major Ziaur Rahman first declared the independence of the country," he said in his Bangladesh Secretariat office yesterday afternoon.

"We have already distributed among primary and secondary school students of the country new books after removing the distorted and false information," the minister said adding that the young generation will now get the real history including the fact that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman first declared the independence of the republic on March 26, 1971.

In the judgement, the HC on June 21 last

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

**Buet BCL men harass journos**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some unruly Chhatra League leaders and activists of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology unit early yesterday harassed Dhaka University correspondents of three national dailies including The Daily Star.

The Chhatra League leaders and cadres of Suhrawardi Hall obstructed the correspondents from discharging their duties and snatched the professional identity card of DU Correspondent Rakib Ahammed of The Daily Star.

However, after repeated contacts made to Chhatra League central leaders, Suhrawardi Hall unit leader Amit Debnath gave the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

**Govt takes early steps for 2011 textbooks**

*Printing preparations begin*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday started preparations for printing free textbooks for schools for the academic year of 2011 with the view to smoother distribution of those.

Announcing the start of the preparations, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday said his ministry completed the massive task of printing and distributing around 18.68 crore free textbooks to approximately 2.76 crore primary and secondary school students for the current academic year.

"Today we are starting the preparations for printing the textbooks for next year. We are taking this year's experience into consideration, so next year we may distribute the books more smoothly on time," he said.

He also said the ministry asked the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) to start from yesterday the preparations for pur-

chasing papers, inviting tenders, appointing publishers, and all other necessary activities.

The minister was briefing reporters after a meeting of the National Committee for Monitoring Printing and Distribution of Textbooks, in the conference room of the ministry.

Schools that want to get free textbooks must send actual class wise numbers of their students and the subject wise numbers of books they require, along with proofs of their government approvals, to respective upazila education officers by March 1 this year, the minister said.

The upazila education officers will then send the data to respective district education officers by March 7, and the district education officers will send the total requirement of their districts to the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE), Technical

SEE PAGE 7 COL 5

**OnlinePoll** ✓

Considering frequent unrest and road blockades by the garment workers, do you think the government should help in relocation of garment factories outside Dhaka to help ease the traffic congestion?

Yes (91.7%)  
 No (6.5%)  
 No Comments (1.8%)

**Total votes: 945**

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you agree with BNP that a certain intelligence agency is assisting the government to implicate its Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman in the 10-truck arms haul case?

Please cast your vote at [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

---

**Prayer Timing**  
February 11

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-25	6-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	5-57	6-01
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

**Marine turtles in danger**

Hunted regularly; meat sold openly

STAR REPORT

Critically endangered worldwide, marine turtles are regularly hunted and their meat sold openly in village markets around the country's Sundarbans, the largest mangrove forest in the world.

A local market in Bajua adjacent to Dangmari Forest Beat Office is one such place where meat of a marine turtle species -- *lepidochelys olivacea* or *jolpai kochhop* in Bangla -- is sold for Tk 120 a kg.

The forest department takes no interest in stopping the illegal poaching, and selling of turtle meat.

The Centre for Advanced Research in Natural Resources & Management (CARINAM), an NGO working on biodiversity, in a recent survey on the status of critically endangered turtles of Bangladesh, found that fishermen collect the turtles and sell them to wholesalers in local markets like Bajua.

From Bajua local retailers or forias buy the turtles, slaughter them and sell their meat in Bajua, Podderganj, and Digraj weekly markets.

Chief Executive of CARINAM Dr SMA Rashid said the forias buy each marine turtle for Tk 1,000, and sell the meat for Tk 120 a kg.

He witnessed three marine turtles being slaughtered and counted seven dried plastrons or underbelly shells of turtles from previous sales.

The slaughtering and meat sale is done on road sides in front of big crowds.

"Marine turtles are protected under Bangladesh Wildlife

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



This recent photo shows a rare marine turtle being poached for its meat in the Sundarbans. Inset, a turtle that was captured.

PHOTO: COLLECTION

**2 muggers killed**  
*Youth's body recovered*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two alleged muggers were hacked to death in separate attacks, while another body of a youth was recovered by police from city's outskirts South Keraniganj yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Nadim Howlader, 20, and Md Masud, 23. The other dead was known as Biscuit

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

**Top outlaw killed in bomb attack**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A hardened outlawed operative was killed in a bomb attack early yesterday while the body of man was found in Ataikula of Pabna district.

The outlaw of Purbo Banglar Communist Party "Janajudha" faction was

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1