

**Did you know?**  
The New South China Mall in Dongguan, China has the highest gross leasable area of any mall in the world. It can room over 1,500 stores in approximately 7.1 million square feet of leasable space.



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**TOXIC PARACETAMOL**  
Court orders action against cop for not giving report

**COURT CORRESPONDENT**  
A Dhaka court yesterday directed Brahmanbaria district superintendent of police to take action against its sadar police officer-in-charge for not submitting any report on execution of arrest warrants issued for three absconding officials of Rid Pharma Ltd. Judge Mohammad Abdul Majid of the Drug Court passed the order after Special Public Prosecutor Mahmud Hossain Jahangir had appealed for taking stringent action against the OC for his negligence in submitting the report. The court also directed the

**Season change strikes children**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pediatric departments in city hospitals have become so crowded as a result of seasonal illnesses that in some cases three patients are being forced to share a single bed. The Pediatric Medicine Department at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) currently has triple the number of patients than it has beds. There are 114 children aged 12 years or below who are receiving treatment in 30 beds in two wards. Health experts said that the flux in temperatures owing to hot days and cool nights are difficult for young children to cope with, and as a result they are contracting bronchiolitis, pneumonia and other respiratory illnesses. Children are more vulnerable to these infections because their immune system is weaker. But it is the malnourished children who are suffering most, said experts. A DMCH doctor told The Daily Star that half the children in the hospital are suffering from cold-related diseases and have severe breathing problems, fever and cough. He also said that the bed shortage, which has worsened in the last two weeks, was less acute during winter.



A rise in the number of child patients suffering from respiratory infections is forcing Dhaka Medical College and Hospital to accommodate more than one baby in a single bed. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon. PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

**2 schoolgirls killed in road crashes**

**STAR REPORT**  
Two girls on their way to school were killed in separate road accidents in Dinajpur and Jessore yesterday morning. The deceased were identified as Sharmin Akhter, 12, daughter of Osman Ali of Bhadgaon under Kaharol upazila of Dinajpur and Saleha Khatun, 5, daughter of Saiful Islam of Dhalda under Sharsha upazila in Jessore. In Dinajpur, Sharmin, a class-III student of Bhadgaon

**Jamuna mall demolition resumes**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) yesterday resumed knocking down of the top four unauthorised floors of Jamuna Future Park Shopping Complex in the city. Meanwhile, the High Court yesterday rejected a writ petition till the disposal of an appeal submitted by Jamuna Builders Ltd to Rajuk's appellate

**OnlinePoll**  
Do you think introduction of Agri-input Assistance Card and Cash Assistance programme will benefit the farmers?  
Yes (66.7%)  
No (30.7%)  
No Comments (2.6%)  
Total votes: 1041  
TODAY'S POLL  
Do you think Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal should immediately get rid of the corrupt, non-students and Chhatra Shibir men as demanded by its grassroots-level leaders?  
Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

**World leaders warned of food security risks**

*Farm sector faces setback in investments*

**REAZ AHMAD, from Rome**  
Experts have urged the world's political leadership to move away fast from a "false sense of complacency" about food security when the agriculture sector suffered a setback in investments. In 1979, aid to agriculture was 18 percent of the global official development assistance that declined to 4.3 percent in 2008 when the world saw one of the worst food crises in recent history. Domestically, government investment in

**অমর একুশে**  
Good sale of poetry books  
DU CORRESPONDENT

Books of poems seemed to have outnumbered books of other genres at the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela and drew a large number of visitors' attention. As many as 469 new poetry books arrived at the fair in last 18 days. Along with noted poets, new poets are also receiving good response from readers.

**AILA-HIT EMBANKMENTS**  
Govt may call in army for repair

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The government is considering deploying the army to repair the embankments in Cyclone Aila-hit areas if the Water Development Board fails to do so by the end of the dry season. Since the cyclone struck the southern coastal areas nine months ago, 2.5 lakh people in Khulna and Satkhira have been living in makeshift homes on embankments. Speaking during a programme, "Rights-based disaster management in light of Aila," Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzaque said, "If the WDB [Water Development Board] cannot say within a week whether it can complete the

**Prayer Timing**  
February 19

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-20	5-55
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-03	6-07
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

**দুনিয়া কাপানো ৩০ মিনিট**

21st February '52. 3:20 to 3:50  
Bullets in the afternoon procession.  
In those 30 minutes the everlasting history of the Language Movement was engraved in the heart of the world.

**The power of staying close can create history in just 30 minutes**

Let's unite and create the power of closeness once again in this 21st February, at exactly 3 in the afternoon, near Amtala Gate\*. Let's join the 1952's great activists Abdul Matin, Ahmad Rafique, Anisuzzaman, Dr. Sayeed Haydar, Dr. Shorfuddin Ahmad, Mortuja Bashir, Rowshon Ara Bachchu, Dr. Halima Khatun and many others and remind the world of the power of staying close.

\*Currently Dhaka Medical College Emergency Gate