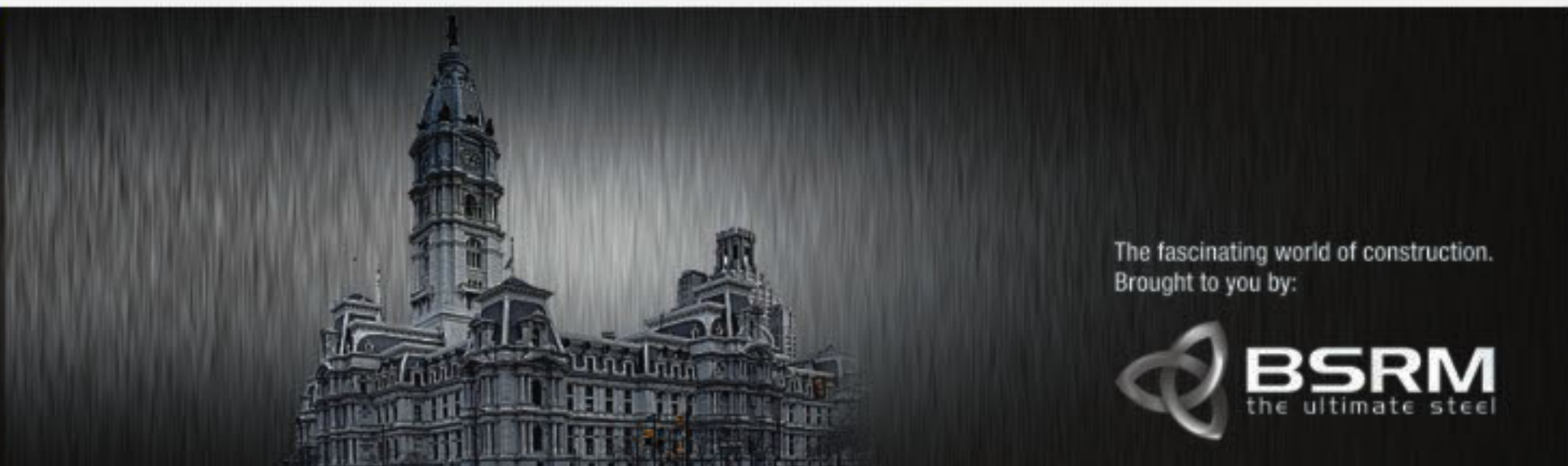


Did you know?

Philadelphia's City Hall, completed in 1901, still holds claim as the world's tallest load-bearing masonry structure at 548ft.



The fascinating world of construction. Brought to you by:



**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 865483

Amazingly Attractive Offer During February

# 'BCL men kill unit president'

## Rab arrests 6 for Feb 12 murder in cantonment area

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was Chhatra League activists who killed their Cantonment unit President AKM Faruk Hossain on February 12 over internal feud.

Six arrestees said this in primary interrogation by the Rapid Action Battalion.

Rab-4 members arrested them yesterday in connection with the killing and recovered a firearm and 13 bullets.

The six are Mainul Islam, 32, Mohammad Sumon, 22, Ali Akbar, 20, Zahid Hossain, 22, Mohan Mia, 24, and Abul Hasnat, 28. They are residents of Manikdi, Cantonment.

Earlier, Detective Branch of police arrested three persons in this connection and took them on a five-day remand last week.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



# PM for liberal society

## Hands over Ekushey Padak 2010

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged people of all strata to help build Bangladesh as a knowledge-based, liberal and non-communal country free from prejudices being imbued with the spirit of the great language movement.

She also called upon the country's artists, poets,

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina along with distinguished personalities, who received the prestigious Ekushey Padak 2010, poses for a photograph at the city's Osmani Auditorium yesterday.

# Bagerhat SP closed for land grabbing

A CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

Bagerhat Superintendent of Police Mizanur Rahman was closed yesterday for his alleged attempt to grab farmers' land in Gopalganj-Bagerhat border area.

Mizanur had been asked to report to the police headquarters in Dhaka yesterday, Public Relations Officer of police Quamrul Ahsan told The Daily Star.

Besides, the authority concerned directed Mizanur to hand over the charge to the additional superintendent of police.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

# Rice prices remain high despite OMS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The open market sales (OMS) of rice have not yet contributed in lowering rice prices due to inadequate supply of rice in the areas where mostly the low-income people live.

In the wake of rising rice prices, the Department of Food on January 20 started selling rice at Tk 22 a kilogram under the OMS programme in the capital and later extended the service to Narayanganj, Gazipur and Narsingdi.

The prices of coarse rice varieties are still the same--between Tk 26 and Tk 28 a kg-- as it was a month ago while prices of medium and fine varieties, which ranged between Tk 32 to Tk 44 a kg a month ago, has now jumped to Tk 36 and

Tk 46 a kg.

Under the programme, the government allocated two tons of rice to each dealer and five tons to those who are vending rice in trucks. Initially, they faced weak response from people, which prompted the government to cut off the allocation by one ton.

"Now that more people know about the programme, the OMS shops are full with them," said a food ministry official.

Abdul Baset, a rice dealer of Jatrabari in the city, said he sells a ton of rice between 12:00 noon and 1:00pm.

"Although it was difficult to sell two tons of rice at the beginning, a lot of people are now returning empty-handed everyday," he said,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

# Trader shot, robbed of Tk 4 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A businessman was shot several times and robbed of Tk 4 lakh in the capital's Shyamoli yesterday afternoon.

The victim is Monsur Ahmed Rudra, 35, an employee of Jonny Traders in Paikpara in Mirpur, which is a distributor for Shah Cement Company.

Witnesses said a gang of six arrived at Link Road on three motorbikes around 2:30pm.

Nurul Huda, a Rakib Brothers employee, said

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

# 41 die in Morocco minaret collapse

AFP, Meknes

The collapse of a historic minaret in the central Moroccan city of Meknes has killed at least 41 people, injuring 76 others, an official said yesterday updating the casualty toll.

Rescuers were searching the rubble for other possible victims after the minaret of the Bab Berdiyenne mosque in Meknes' old quarter came crashing down on worshippers gathered for Friday prayers, the official said.

The 18-century mosque was packed at the time of the accident and officials have warned the toll could continue to mount.

Many locals blamed the disaster on heavy rains that have lashed the north African country in recent days.

Television pictures showed hundreds of residents scrambling to clear the debris in a desperate search for survivors.

Rescuers initially struggled to sift through debris because the mosque was located in the cramped and bustling Old City and surrounded by high walls ringing the historic neighbourhood.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

**OnlinePoll** ✓

Would you support if BNP forges an anti-government movement?

Yes (29.2%)  
 No (70.1%)  
 No Comments (0.7%)

**Total votes: 2528**

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you support the environment ministry's move to relax the rules to allow ship breakers to import toxic ships?

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

# THAI DIPLOMAT'S DEATH Probe finds trucker at fault

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The three-member probe body, formed to investigate into the road accident that had killed a Thai diplomat, submitted their report to the Tangail Deputy

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



A gang using gas cutter broke in the strong room of Agrani Bank, Mehediabagh branch in Chittagong in the early hours of yesterday. Run out of gas, they failed to open the main locker. The photo was taken yesterday

PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

# Tk 94 lakh burgled from Janata Bank

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Burglars made away with Tk 94 lakh from Janata Bank Faridpur Corporate Branch early yesterday morning.

Sources said the robbers entered breaking a ground-floor window of the bank, which is only 150 yards from the Faridpur Police Station.

Police picked up Paresh Chandra Das, night watchman of the bank, for interrogation yesterday afternoon.

Shah Md Asadullah, manager of the branch, said Tk 94 lakh is missing. Senior officials of Janata Bank head office in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Prayer Timing		
February 21		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-20	5-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-03	6-07
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

**অমর একুশে** | আমরা তোমাদের ভুলবো না...

ক উ প খ স

**“ওরা আমার মুখের ভাষা কইড়া নিতে চায়”**

অদ্য উল্লাসের প্রধান সোপান মাতৃভাষা। এ ভাষাতেই প্রকাশ ঘটে শিশুর বর্ণমালার খেলা। ওরা কেড়ে নিতে পারেনি আমাদের ভাষাকে। ভাষা শহীদদের আত্মত্যাগের বিনিময়ে অর্জিত হয়েছে একটি স্বাধীন বাংলা ভাষার। ভাষা আন্দোলনের ঐতিহাসিক শহীদ দিবসের কালজয়ী এই গান বেজে উঠে ধনীতে, শিরায় শিরায়, জাতিসত্তার উচ্চারণে।

আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবসে সকল ভাষা শহীদদের প্রতি

**শুষ্কের শব্দাঙ্কলি**

দি প্রিমিয়ার ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

প্রধান কার্যালয় :  
ইকবাল সেন্টার, ৪২ কামাল আতাতুর্ক এভিনিউ, বনানী, ঢাকা-১২১৩  
ফোন : ৯৮৮৭৫৮১-৪, ৮৮১১৪১৭, ফ্যাক্স : ৮৮১৫৩৯৩

**প্রিমিয়ার ব্যাংক**  
সে বা ই প্র থ ম

**SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT**

**The Daily Star 19th Anniversary THREE-PART SUPPLEMENT**

**Coming out in a series**

On February 23, 24 and 25, 2010 **The Daily Star** will publish a 3-part 19th Anniversary Supplement. The central theme will be "A Testing Year". This Special Supplement will come out in three parts on the following dates.

**Part 1: Politics and Governance - 23 February, 80 pages**  
**Part 2: Economy and Climate Change - 24 February, 80 pages**  
**Part 3: Policies and Institutions - 25 February, 80 pages**

**The eminent writers of Part 1 are :**

Rehman Sobhan, Dr. Kamal Hossain, Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Dr. Syed Anwar Husain, Enam A Chaudhury, Muzaffer Ahmad, Nasim Firdaus, Sultana Kamal, Mahmuda Husain, Tofail Ahmed, Dr. Sarkar Ali Akkas, Rounaq Jahan, Shaheen Anam, Dr. Badiul Alam Majumdar, Dr. Saadat Husain, Farid Hossain, Sadrul Hasan Mazumder, Sanjida Sobhan, Mahbub Husain Khan, Shakhawat Liton, Iftekharuzzaman, Mohammad Badrul Ahsan, Syed Munir Khasru, ASM Shahjahan, Ershad Kamol, Dr. Charisma Choudhury, Salma A. Shafi

**The advertisers in Part 1 are :**

Grameen Phone, Banglalink, AKTEL, SK+F, Bank Asia, SCB, Transcom Electronics Ltd., Apollo Hospitals Dhaka, Brac Bank Ltd., Akij Cement, Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd., DBBL, Transcraft Limited, The Dhaka Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd, Summit Group, Mutual Trust Bank Ltd., Eastern Bank Ltd., Mercantile Bank Ltd., Qatar Airways, Transcom Group, Commercial Bank of Ceylon, Eastern Housing Limited, Singer Bangladesh Ltd., Dhaka Regency, Ashiyon Lands Development Ltd., Bangla Perfumes, Asset Developments, Transcom Distribution Co. Ltd., Rangs Limited, Abdul Monem Ltd., DBH, Biman Bangladesh Airlines, Pubali Bank Ltd., IUB, Horlics, Latif Real Estate Ltd., Sitak Industries (Pvt) Ltd., PRAN-RFL Group, AIUB, City Bank, Sheltech, Ahang, ICB Islamic Bank, First Security Islami Bank Ltd., Otobi, Berger Paints Bd. Ltd., Khoninoor Chemicals, BSRM, Assurance Developments Ltd., Al-Arafa Islami Bank Ltd., Noverties (Bangladesh) Ltd., Belhasa Accom JV Ltd, Square Group, Opsonin Pharma

**Please Note : Writers' and Advertisers' Names of Part 2 and 3 will be published on Monday & Wednesday.**

**Make sure you get your copy FREE with the newspaper.**