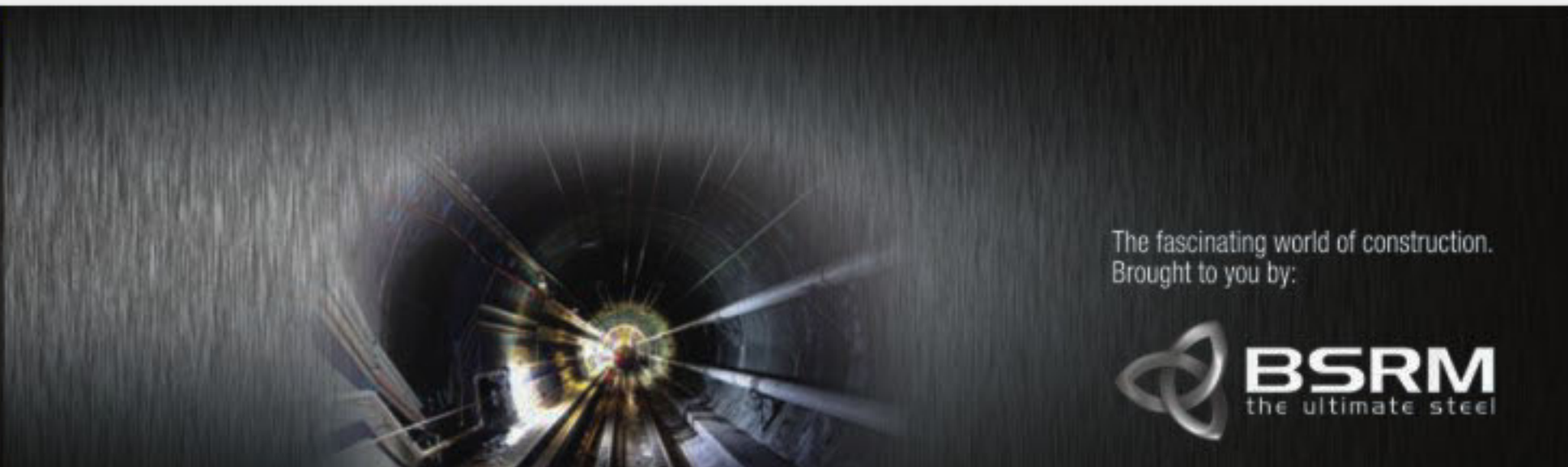


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The Channel Tunnel is a 50.5-kilometre (31.4 mi) undersea rail tunnel linking the UK with mainland Europe. At 37.9 kilometers (23.5 mi), it has the longest undersea portion of any tunnel in the world.



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# Exporters get e-access to buyers

**SAYEDA AKTER**  
From now on, the country's exporters don't have to wait for long to know about the detailed queries from the importers' end, instead they can go to Export Promotion Bureau to contact buyers directly through video conferencing. Exporters have to spend only Tk 30 for an hour video conferencing and Tk 1,000 for annual membership to be in regular contact with their potential buyers, said Ashraf Momtaz, official of the Trade Information Centre of Export Promotion Bureau (EPB). "We have launched this programme as a separate section of our Trade

Information Centre in January, and already received huge response from the exporters," he said. "Now the local exporters will be able to reduce timeline for producing things as per the exact requirement. It will help them save their money and time," he added. He said EPB had completed the entire process of video conferencing system at a minimal cost. It had to buy a number of computers and other necessary equipment including Internet connection with web-cams. Momtaz was describing the new service to the enthusiastic visitors at the three-day Digital Innovation Fair - 2010

that kicked off on Thursday at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Novo Theatre in Dhaka. Despite being a Digital Innovation Fair, which mainly focuses on new ICT innovations and services, it was indeed a fair that aims to accelerate the country's trade and economy. Apart from the EPB initiative, the commerce ministry was displaying the online company registration system. Introduced last year, a total of 12,183 public limited companies, private companies, partnership firms and trade organisations have registered online in 2009, said Ranajit Kumar Roy, assistant

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## CHT VIOLENCE JS body visits affected areas today

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari**  
The parliamentary body on Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) affairs ministry will go to CHT today to get first hand information on the recent violence in Bagaihat and Khagrachhari that left three persons dead. The body cut short its two-day visit to a daylong tour, district administration sources said. The team was scheduled to start its two-day visit in CHT yesterday. According to the revised programme, the committee led by its chairman

# BHOLA-3 BY-ELECTION BNP uncertain about taking part

*Blames AL for deterioration of law and order; will decide after EC declares poll schedule*

**RAKIB HASNET SUMAN**  
The participation of the main opposition BNP in the Bhola-3 by-election has become uncertain due to "slide" in law and order in the constituency over the last couple of weeks. Even BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, who had a plan to visit the area, may change her decision due to the "changed situation" since the seat fell vacant. Both BNP's Maj (ret'd) Hafizuddin Ahmed and Awami League's Maj (ret'd) Jasim Uddin are

blaming each other for the deterioration of law and order in the area. In 2008 election, Maj (ret'd) Jasim of AL secured 96,034 votes while his nearest contestant Hafiz bagged 83,123. BNP Vice-chairman Maj (ret'd) Hafizuddin Ahmed, five times elected lawmaker from the constituency, yesterday told The Daily Star that his party will make a decision on the participation in the by-poll after Election Commission (EC) announces the election schedule.

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People queue up for water at a WASA pump in the city's Mugdapara area yesterday morning. Locals say they have been getting supply of smelly water for last two months. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Rab arrests 10 people

*Recovers beer, Phensidyl*  
**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**  
The Rapid Action Battalion arrested 10 people and recovered 216 cans of beer and nearly 400 bottles of Phensidyl from different areas in Chittagong in the last two days. Acting on a tip off, a team of Rab-7 intercepted a Chittagong-bound bus of S Alam Paribahan in front of Shah Amanat Filling Station at Bhatiari area of Sitakunda Thursday around 10:30pm. They recovered 296 bottles of Phensidyl from a chamber on the right side of the bus where luggage is usually not kept.

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## Teenager stabbed to death

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
A teenager was stabbed to death and another seriously injured near a mosque in the capital's Shantinagar last night over an altercation. A group of five teenagers led by Rocky from Gulbagh attacked Muktar Hossain, 15, and Mohammad Rafiq, 19, from Mothertek when they went to meet Shakil at Shantinagar at about 9:00pm, said police. Muktar died on the spot. Rafiq was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition. Mojibor Rahman, officer-in-charge of Paltan Police Station, said Muktar and Rocky got involved in an altercation four days ago.



Gono Bhaban—official residence of the prime minister. Sheikh Hasina has moved here after living in state guesthouse Jamuna for a little over a year. PHOTO: STAR

## 3 powerful aftershocks jolt central Chile

**AFP, Concepcion**  
Three strong aftershocks shook central Chile early yesterday, sending panicked residents rushing out of their homes and leveling more buildings in an area already hard hit by last week's monster earthquake. A first magnitude 6.2 quake jolted people awake at 6:20 am (0920 GMT), just six days after a historic 8.8-quake and ensuing tsunami waves killed over 800 people and left some two million homeless, Chile's emergency management agency Onemi said. It was followed by a 6.8-magnitude tremor -- the most powerful of more than 200 to rattle Chile since Saturday's huge quake and a 6.9-magnitude temblor that struck 87 minutes later -- and

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# Invasion was 'right decision'

*British PM Brown tells Iraq probe*

**AFP, London**  
British Prime Minister Gordon Brown defended his role in the 2003 Iraq war yesterday, telling a public inquiry it was "the right decision" and rejecting claims he withheld funding from the armed forces. Brown said that while he had not been closely involved in political decisions on conflict, he was fully informed and had done everything required of him in his role as finance minister under former premier Tony Blair. "This is the gravest decision of all to make," he told the Chilcot inquiry into Britain's role in the conflict, but added: "It was the right decision and it was for the right reasons." Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was a "serial violator of international law" and taking action when he failed to comply with United Nations resolutions on his weapons programme was a crucial "test" of the international community, he said. Brown's appearance before the inquiry is a political wild card just weeks ahead of a general election expected on May 6. The war, which led to 179 British soldiers losing their lives, remains



Gordon Brown

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## UZ chairmen threaten tough movement

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Upazila chairmen and vice-chairmen will go for tough movements if the government does not meet their demands. Leaders of Bangladesh Upazila Chairman and Vice-chairman Oikya Parishad yesterday at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity announced a course of action as part of their programme including formation of human chain to realise their 10-point demand. Their demands include formation of strong local government commission by enacting a law and a provision of separate budgets for upazila parishads. The leaders also condemned the attack on Chairman of Biswanath upazila of Sylhet Mohibur Rahman, also co-convenor of the parishad.

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## Dialogue with Pakistan only way forward

*Says Manmohan in parliament*  
**INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, New Delhi**  
Ruling out any third party mediation in bilateral issues between India and Pakistan, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh yesterday said dialogue was the only way forward with Islamabad but there could be no meaningful discussion till an end to terror from Pakistani soil. Manmohan Singh also said that the government's decision to hold foreign-secretary level talks last was a "calculated" one and stressed that India's "policy towards Pakistan is consistent, cautious and realistic." The prime minister denied that he had sought any mediation by Saudi Arabia, and underlined that all problems with Pakistan could be

# Suicide attack kills 12 at Pak market

**AFP, Peshawar**  
A suicide bomber rammed a car full of explosives into a convoy of Shias in a Peshawar market yesterday, killing 12 people including women and children in Pakistan's latest sectarian attack. The bomb sparked a large fire in the town of Tul, part of the northwestern district of Hangu, which is known for sectarian violence and lies near the lawless tribal belt, dubbed a "headquarters" for al-Qaeda by Washington. In addition to the dead, more than two dozen other people were wounded in the blast, which occurred near a petrol station in the wider area of Kohat told AFP. The convoy was under security escort as the Pakistani army has started protecting Shia vehicles following sectarian tensions. Kohat commissioner Khalid Khan told AFP the dead included two women and two children and that 25 people were injured. "The target was a Shia convoy. This is sectarian violence," he said. Police said a curfew had been slapped on the market area. Local lawmaker Mufti Janan Ahmed agreed the bombing was sectarian in nature.

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**OnlinePoll** ✓  
Do you think power tariff rise is justifiable considering the current global energy market & power board's financial condition?  
 Yes (49.2%)  
 No (44.9%)  
 No Comments (5.9%)  
**Total votes: 828**  
**TODAY'S POLL**  
 Do you think the government's decision to form eight committees to reduce frequent labour unrest in the country's readymade garment factories will be effective?  
 Please cast your vote at [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

**Prayer Timing**

March 6		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-15	5-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-05	6-10
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

The Daily Star Coming out tomorrow - Star Campus

## Linking Young Minds Together

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**Drishty Berger**  
Star Campus  
Brainstorming 2010  
Business Case-Solving Competition