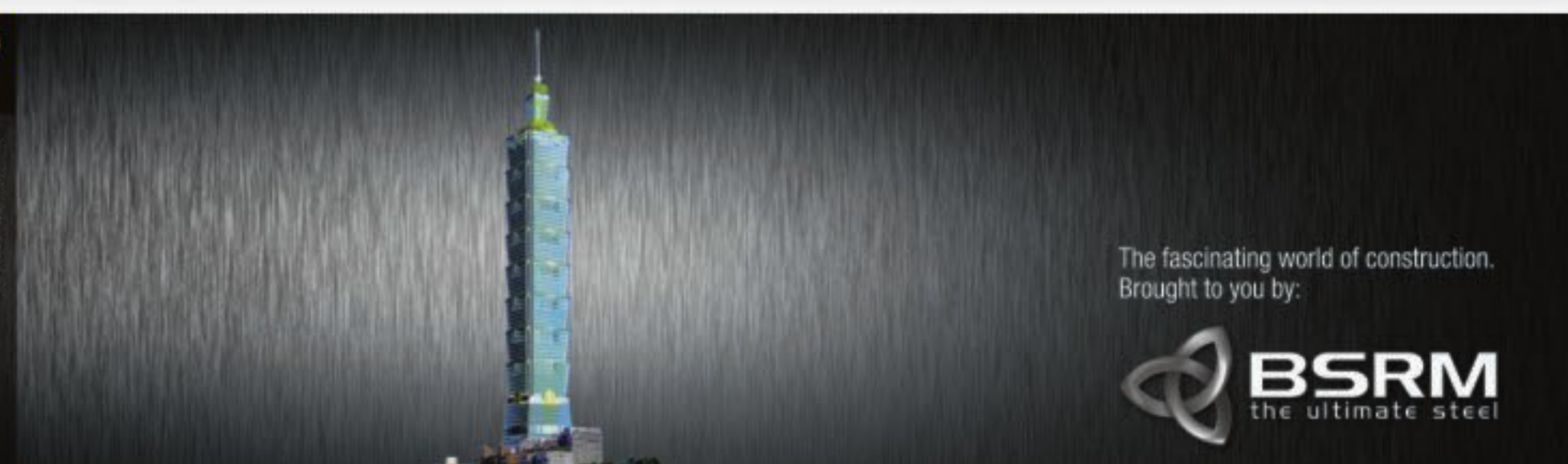


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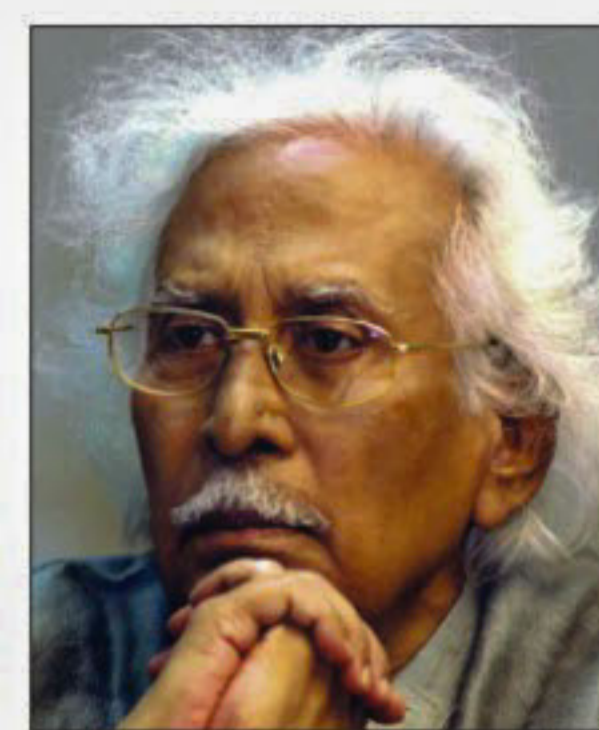


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KG Mustafa passes away

DU CORRESPONDENT

Veteran journalist, Language Movement hero and diplomat KG Mustafa passed away at a hospital in the capital yesterday.

He was 82, and he left behind wife and three sons.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Finance Minister AMA Muhith, and Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad in separate

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Dhaka banks on Beijing boost

87 delegates to accompany PM during 5-day visit; aid for dev projects, connectivity, trade to top agenda

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Economic and financial assistance for infrastructure development, trade deficit and regional connectivity will dominate Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's talks with her Chinese counterpart during her 5-day official visit beginning March 17.

Highly placed sources said officials are busy fine-tuning the programme schedules to make this high profile visit, after the India visit in January, a complete success.

Dhaka is pinning high hopes on opening up a new chapter in Sino-Bangla bilateral relations to minimise the yawning trade imbalance. This

will be Sheikh Hasina's second visit as prime minister since she visited China in September 1996.

The prime minister is scheduled to reach Beijing on Wednesday afternoon at the invitation of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao.

Hasina will lead an 87-member delegation, comprised of her family members, party policymakers, ministers, MPs, journalists, eminent citizens.

As per the schedule, Hasina will hold bilateral talks with her counterpart Wen Jiabao on March 18 when the two countries are expected to sign four deals, including construction of a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Tamim bats to save Tigers

BISHWAJIT ROY from Ctg

Local boy Tamim Iqbal showed resistance in the face of a daunting task but it was not good enough for Bangladesh to be anywhere near safety on the second day of the first Test at the Zahur

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

BIRD FLU

Drive to cull 1 lakh fowls begins

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

District Livestock Department yesterday started a drive to cull over one lakh poultry birds and destroy two lakh of eggs at Yakubpur branch of Kazi Breeders Limited here to stop the spread of bird flu virus.

Officials of the department said they will cull about 117,626 parent chickens and destroy about 210,000 eggs.

District Livestock Officer (DLO) Mosaddequr Rahman told The Daily Star that the drive would continue for two or three days.

Addressing a press conference at the company's office at Tamanna Villa of the town, Managing Director of the farm

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

OnlinePoll

Do you think the government's programme to make the country beggar free in five years is feasible?

- Yes (62.2%)
- No (36.4%)
- No Comments (1.4%)

Total votes: 882

TODAY'S POLL

Do you support the government's decision to bar persons under the age of 18 from buying SIM or RUM cards?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Ashraf asks Khaleda to prove Joy allegations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary and LGRD Minister Syed Ashraful Islam has demanded that BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia disclose evidence of the allegations brought against the son of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina within a week.

In parliament recently, Faruk accused Sajeb Wajed Joy of being involved with illegal VOIP businesses.

Ashraf said, "If you fail to prove the allegations, the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Drug barons left out of police list

KAILASH SARKAR

The latest list made by police includes only some 200 drug-peddlers from the capital's Tejgaon and Mohammadpur, but spares the kingpins behind the illicit narcotics business, according to sources.

Sources said the listed people, including 160 women, are engaged in drug trade either as the pushers or carriers. Most of them get a commission on the sales while some work as day labourers.

Deputy Commissioner Syed Manjurul Kabir of Tejgaon division said, "If we stop the sellers and carriers, their godfathers will be unable to continue the business."

Kabir said the listed persons are engaged in the trade at some 20 spots in the capital. Six of the spots -- Agargaon slum, Geneva

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Sahara asks to get godfathers

UNB, Dhaka

Home Minister Sahara Khatun yesterday directed the law enforcement agencies to arrest the godfathers of drug peddlers as the government opted for a countrywide anti-drug crackdown following a reported pervasive spread of narcotic drugs.

She specifically instructed the police, RAB and border-force BDR to remain alert and act on urgent basis to stop

SEE PAGE 2 COL 8

One shot dead in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gunmen killed a person and injured another in the city's Sutrapur area last night.

The deceased was identified as Abul Hossain Swapan, 40.

The injured, Mohammad Nasir, 30, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with gunshot wound in the leg.

Swapan's family said he had a motor parts shop in Dholaikhal, and was murdered by local goons.

Abdul Hanif, officer-in-charge of Sutrapur Police Station, told The Daily Star that Swapan and Nasir were involved in organised crime. They came under the attack following an internal feud.

Police recovered Swapan's body from Lalchand Mukim Lane at around 10:00pm and sent it to the DMCH.

They found a pistol and a bullet in his possession.

Congratulations!

Mr. Wasim Rahman, Managing Director, receiving National Export Trophy - Gold for the year 2007-2008 on behalf of MBM Garments Ltd.

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