



BANKS LOG HEFTY PROFIT

Booming stockmarket and an uptick in external trade have pushed up the private banks' operating profit by 57 percent.

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N KOREA'S OLIVE BRANCH

In a New Year message, North Korea has urged an end to confrontation with rival South Korea.

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TO STAY SINGLE NO MORE

Chances are I might tie the knot this year --

Monalisa

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Never neglect workers

Says PM, opens trade fair

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the owners of different industries not to neglect workers and assured that her government would remove all barriers to flourishing of trade and business.

"I would like to request you to look after your workers at your industrial units," she said inaugurating a month long 16th Dhaka International Trade Fair (DITF) organised for showcasing and marketing domestic products of



Hours before the World Cup's tickets go on sale, cricket enthusiasts crowd the entrance to the City Bank branch on Panthapath in the capital. The photo was taken at 12:30am today.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

All they want a ticket

Hundreds of cricket-lovers throng outlets hours before sale of World Cup tickets starts

SAKEB TAHSIN SUBHAN

A new year imbues people with hopes and dreams. And 2011, for any sports enthusiast in Bangladesh, holds only one dream, one hope: to secure tickets for the cricket World Cup.

All the hype surrounding the New Year is focused exclusively on the showpiece event slated to begin on February 19 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

The frenzy that has been whipped up by the tickets going on sale today was evident as early as

yesterday morning. Thousands lined the streets in front of the designated ticket outlets for the prized piece of paper that will allow them to be a part of arguably the biggest global event held in these shores.

Among all this hope and expectation however a dark cloud lingers, one that the organisers will hope does not descend into an unabated downpour of hostility, which looks very much on the cards with the procession for tickets growing with the ticking of the clock.

With only about 100,000 tickets on offer for public for the six games

to be played at Mirpur and a modest 29,000 for the two games at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong, the demand is expected to overwhelm the supply.

Across the country, the fifty outlets of City Bank and thirty of Agrani Bank can only sell 480 tickets per day, and two tickets per person. This means that of the thousands queuing up at each branch, only

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Only 5 for Jamaat

Undisclosed document shows BNP finalises seat-sharing list for municipal polls

RAKIB HASNET SUMON and NAJMUL ALAM NOBIN

The main opposition BNP has finalised a list of mayoral candidates for the municipality polls leaving five municipalities for its major ally Jamaat-e-Islami.

BNP leaders had prepared the list that The Daily Star obtained from the BNP headquarters yesterday.

Jamaat has fielded candidates in at least 38 municipalities where BNP-backed candidates will also stand.

BNP-backed candidates will have to face challenge from the party's rebel candidates in almost half of the 262 municipalities, where polls will be held on January 12, 13, 17 and 18.

BNP has lent its support to Jamaat-backed candidates in Sundarganj in Gaibandha, Gangni in Meherpur, Cox's Bazar sadar, Maheshkhali and Teknaf.

Fakhrul Islam Mishu and Rabiul Islam with Jamaat's support will contest the polls in Sundarganj and Gangni while the names of the other three candidates in Cox's Bazar were yet to be known.

Acting Jamaat Secretary General ATM Azharul Islam told The Daily Star over the phone that there was no question of seeking support from any party in the municipality polls.

Local party leaders and activists will select the candidates, he said.

Nearly 40-45 party leaders have applied for candidacy for the post of mayor in the upcoming polls, said the Jamaat leader.

The two parties will support their own candidates in

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WAR CRIMES TRIAL

Jamaat fails to find backing

RASHIDUL HASAN

Panic spread among the rank and file of the Jamaat-e-Islami after the arrest of Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, who had close contact with the Islamist party.

The arrest of Salauddin, a member of national standing committee of BNP and a war crimes suspect, came as a 'double blow' for Jamaat which failed to gain support from most of its allies on the war crimes trial issue, party insiders said.

The party is searching for a way to face the situation, which they consider as the worst since its political revival during the rule of late president Ziaur Rahman, they added.



Ershad sees disaster

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman HM Ershad said yesterday the country's politics is heading towards a disaster.

"Not much time is left in hand. I appeal to the leadership of all parties in the

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প্রথম দেখা...

সীমাহীন কোঁতুহল, ভালোলাগা থেকে ঘোরাঘুরি বেলা-অবেলার আড্ডা আর গল্প-গানে জমে ওঠে ভালোবাসা আমাদের কাছে আসা!

এমনই ছিলো মিথিলা-তাহসানের কাছে আসার গল্প। এবার বলুন আপনি, পৃথিবীকে জানিয়ে দিন আপনার গল্প। আসছে ড্যালেকটাইন ডে উপলক্ষে শুরু হচ্ছে 'Closeup - কাছে আসার গল্প' প্রতিযোগিতা।

২০ জানুয়ারি ২০১১ এর মধ্যে লিখে পাঠান আপনার ভালোবাসার গল্প। নির্বাচিত সেরা ৩ গল্প নিয়ে নির্মিত হবে ভালোবাসা দিবসে ৩ নাটিকা। থাকছে আরো সারপ্রাইজ।

গল্প পাঠানোর ঠিকানা: জিপিও বক্স ৪০৩৪
অথবা closeupstory@adcommad.com

শর্তাবলী:

- লেখা পরিচ্ছন্ন হতে হবে
- সাদা কাগজের একপিঠে লিখে পাঠাবেন এবং খামের ওপর প্রতিযোগিতার নাম, আপনার নাম, ঠিকানা এবং প্রাপ্তকর ঠিকানা লিখে পাঠাবেন
- গল্পের সাথে ব্যক্তিগত মোবাইল নম্বর উল্লেখ করতে হবে
- গল্পে অশ্লীলতা বর্জনীয়
- গল্প ১০০০ শব্দের মধ্যে হতে হবে
- যেকোনো প্রয়োজনে গল্পকাবের সঙ্গে কর্তৃপক্ষ যোগাযোগ করতে পারবেন
- গল্প নির্বাচনে বিচারকদের রায়ই চূড়ান্ত
- নির্বাচিত বিজয়ীর গল্পে নাট্যনির্মাণের স্ক্রিপ্ট তৈরি ও নির্দেশনা প্রদানে পূর্ণ স্বাধীনতা থাকবে
- ইউনিভার্সিটির বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড, অ্যাডকম, মাইডলস্টার, এনটিভি ও রেডিও স্ক্রুটি'র সাথে সংশ্লিষ্ট কেউ এই প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন না।

মিডিয়া পার্টনার:

বেডিস পার্টনার: