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EXPORTS BUOYANT

Soared 41pc to \$10.26b in July-Dec last year

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COOKING UP A STORM

Alastair Cook becomes the highest scorer in a tour of Australia since 1928-29

PAGE 17

KEEP ROCKING

Mila spellbinds her fans with lively performance

PAGE 11

Mega trial opens

Court accepts carnage charges against BDR mutineers; more than 800 accused produced; 72 denied bail

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and SHARIFUL ISLAM

A trial court yesterday took into cognisance charges of the country's largest ever killing case in connection with the BDR carnage at Pilkhna in February 2009.

As many as 801 of total 824 accused were hauled before the Court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge, Dhaka amid tight security. Apart from the prosecution, several hundred defence lawyers gathered in the courtroom and complained of not receiving

any copy of necessary case documents including the charge sheet.

In terms of the number of accused this is the largest ever criminal case in which every single defence counsel demanded certified copy of all case documents. To meet this huge demand the authorities concerned need to make around 1.6 crore copies of all documents, the judge said in the courtroom.

"We have to keep in mind that this kind of case is the first in the world," said the

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PHOTO ON PAGE 20

Long, futile wait to see close ones

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and SHARIFUL ISLAM

At her 60, Dana Bibi underwent a bus journey in the night chill all the way from Baniachang in Sylhet to the capital just to have a glimpse of her son who is being tried in the BDR carnage case.

During the journey the mother passed a restless time thinking of spending a few moments with her beloved son Kawsar Ahmed Bulbul.

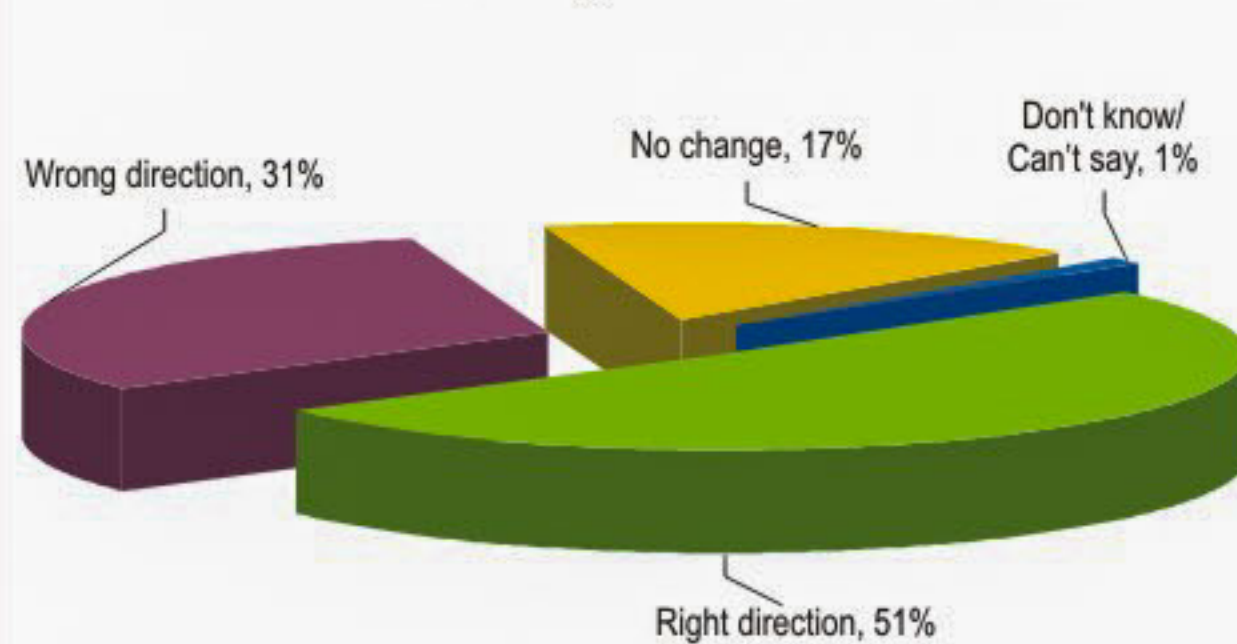
Her anxiety escalated when she finally reached Bakshi Bazar where the

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Majority confidence still there, popularity declining

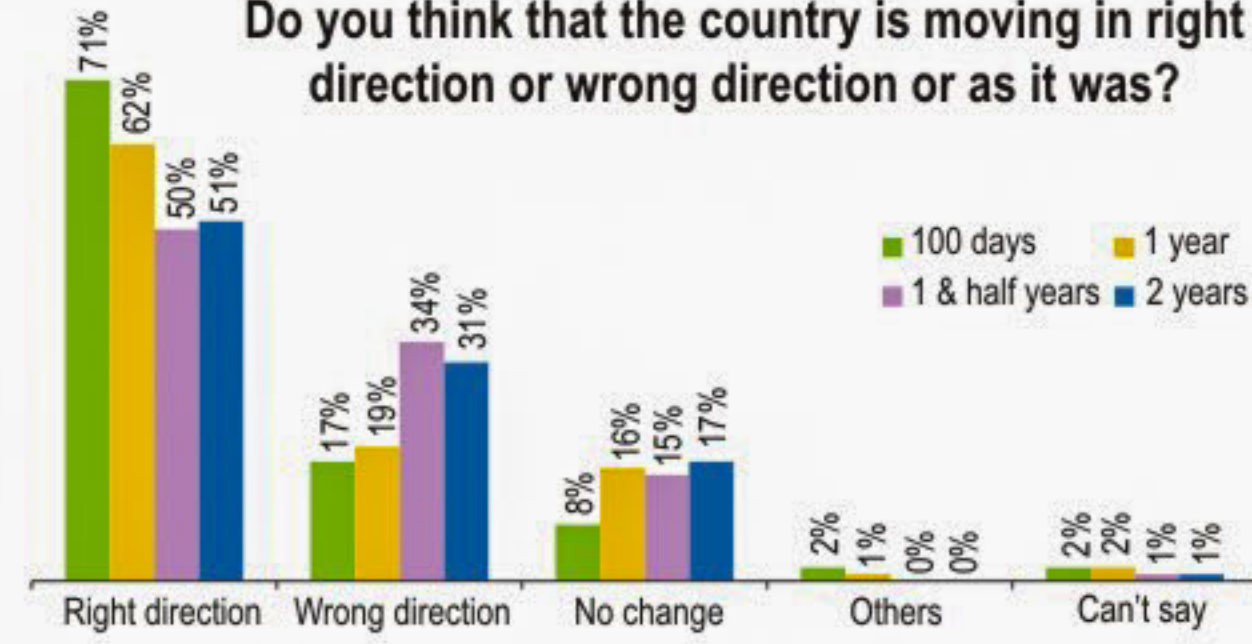
Shows The Daily Star-Nielsen opinion survey on gov't performance in 2 years

Do you think that the country is moving in right direction or wrong direction or as it was?



Comparison of 4 surveys

Do you think that the country is moving in right direction or wrong direction or as it was?



Stock fall sparks angry protests

SARWAR A CHOWDHURY

The slumping stockmarket prompted several hundred investors to take to the Motijheel street yesterday for more than one and a half hours, the third time in last one month.

In the previous two

SEE PAGE 7 COL 5
MORE IN STAR BUSINESS

ATTACK ON PABNA GOVT OFFICIALS

All 31 accused freed

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

A Pabna court yesterday cleared 31 ruling party men of vandalising examination centres and torching government vehicles in Pabna on September 17 last year.

Pabna Speedy Trial Tribunal acquitted the 31 Awami, Jubo and Chhatra League men of the charges for lack of witnesses and evidence, said a court official preferring anonymity.

The accused, who were produced before the court at about 10:00am, include Pabna district BCL unit president Ahmed Sharif Dablu and its ex-president Mostafizur Rahman, Jubo League district unit organising secretary Jahir Hassan Rubel and Pabna district AL leader Habibur Rahman Swapan.

More than a hundred ruling party men attacked two examination centres during

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



PM addresses nation today

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will address the nation at 7:30pm today marking the completion of two years of the Awami League-led grand alliance government.

She is expected to highlight the successes and the government initiatives during the period, her Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad told The Daily Star.

The speech will be recorded at 11:00am, to be aired by Bangladesh Television, Bangladesh Betar and all other private television channels.

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HEAD OFFICE:
G4S Plc
The Manor, Manor Royal
Crawley, West Sussex RH10 9UN
The United Kingdom
Tel 1: +44-0208-7707000
Tel 2: +44-0208-7222000
Web: www.g4s.com

COUNTRY OFFICE:
G4S Security Services Bangladesh (P) Ltd
Dhaka House
22 Pragati Sarani
Block J, Baridhara, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh
Tel: +88-02-9887316-8/8819033, Fax: +88-02-8810859
Email: info@bd.g4s.com
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