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**in Short**

**Banglabandha land port opens today**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Thakurgaon*  
Trade between India and Bangladesh through Phulbari-Banglabandha border begins today. Indian Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee will launch the trading on  
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**1.5kg heroin recovered**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Benapole*  
Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) seized 1.5 kg of heroin worth about Tk 1.5 crore from two drug peddlers at Sadipur border here on Thursday night. Acting on a tip off a team of BGB  
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**ONLINE POLL**  
Do you think Awami League will learn from the municipality polls and fix the problems to retain its popularity?  
Yes (17.16%)  
No (82.05%)  
No Comments (0.79%)  
TOTAL VOTES : 507

**TODAY'S POLL**  
Do you think suspending trading activities of six stockbrokers and their management would stabilize the capital market?  
PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

**PRAYER TIMING** January 22

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5:30	6:05
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	4:15	4:30
Maghrib	5:43	5:47
Esha	7:15	7:45

Source: Islamic Foundation



**TOWARDS AN ENLIGHTENED NATION**

Thousands of school goers, who gathered at Ramna Park in the capital yesterday, were much elated when they received the awards for this year's Book Reading Competition. Biswa Sahitya Kendra has been arranging the event for the past 14 years with a mission to build an enlightened nation. Youngsters of the country have responded well over the period. "We will read books, we will build an enlightened nation," chanted hundreds of schoolchildren at yesterday's programme. **More on page 3.**

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



**AS Mahmud's 7th death anniversary today**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Today is the 7th death anniversary of Abu Sayeed Mahmud, founding managing director of Mediaworld, the owning company of The Daily Star, and the founder chairman of Ekushey TV. He passed away in London on January 22, 2004 after being in a coma for several days in the wake of a stroke on November 6 the year before. He was one of the architects of The Daily Star, and it was his untiring zeal and commitment to free media that set the course for the subsequent success of this paper. His initial leadership was crucial for its reputation and growth. As the chairman of ETV -- Bangladesh's first terrestrial private television channel that went on air on April 14, 2000 -- AS Mahmud was its principal inspiration and organiser.  
**SEE PAGE 19 COL 5**

**LAND ACQUISITION TROUBLE**  
**3 power projects delay for a month**

SHARIEF KHAN  
Three large private electricity generation projects awarded to local power company Summit has delayed for a month due to the firm's reservations about possession of land for the schemes. Summit Industrial and Mercantile Corporation won the power projects with the total capacity of 1,017 megawatt in Bibiyana and Meghnaghat and was expected to initial a set of four agreements for each of these projects last month. But the land for these projects have not been acquired completely by the government and therefore it could not sign any of these agreements on power purchase, land lease, gas purchase and implementation. The authorities have been urging Summit to sign at least one or two of these agreements as finalisation of any of these agreements actually takes a few months to complete. Summit says that the private land being acquired by the government had not been completely handed over because the land owners were demanding much higher  
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**Burglary at MP's house**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
A burglary took place at the flat of a woman lawmaker in the city's Tikatuli under Sutrapur Police Station early yesterday. Rowshan Jahan Sathi, a ruling party lawmaker from the reserved seat, and her family members were not at the flat during the incident, police said. Quoting family members, Nazrul Islam, officer-in-charge of the police station, said two tolas of gold ornaments and Tk 3,000 were stolen from the house.  
**SEE PAGE 19 COL 2**

**NARSINGDI ROAD CRASH**  
**No speed control at 'black spots'**

M RAHMAN, back from Narsingdi  
Just a central reservation at the spot on Dhaka-Sylhet Highway would have forced the truck to stay in its side of the road and not come cover and crush the police van, killing 10 policemen. The accident happened on January 15 in Ghashirdia in Shibpur of Narsingdi. Locals claimed accidents occur there almost every week due to the blind curve of the road. Accident Research Institute (ARI) of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology sources said the Narsingdi accident spot is one of the 219 black spots where every year hundreds of people die due to engineering and design faults. The office of Narsingdi Superintendent of Police  
**SEE PAGE 19 COL 7**

**Invest more in women empowerment**

Speakers at AUW discussion urge nations  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Nations should invest more to educate and empower women, as they can contribute to economic growth and help reduce poverty, international experts said. The observations came at a discussion styled "Making Economic Progress" on the sideline of the symposium "Imagining Another Future for Asia: Ideas and Pathways for Change" at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka yesterday. Chittagong-based Asian University for Women (AUW) organised the three-day  
**SEE PAGE 7 COL 3**

**Oil spill near coast of Mumbai**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *New Delhi*  
Around a mile-long oil spill has been sighted some 80km off the Mumbai coast, India's state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) said yesterday. "A leakage has been detected at ONGC's Mumbai-Uran Trunk (MUT) oil pipeline [which pumps crude oil from the Mumbai High offshore fields] at 0845 hours," ONGC said in a statement. Production at ONGC's Mumbai High, the biggest oilfield in India, and Bassein oilfield was immediately stopped and the pipeline closed. Output was resumed after three hours and  
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**Mr. Md. Ahsan Kabir Khan, Managing Director (Current Charge) of Prime Finance & Investment Limited**

Mr. Md. Ahsan Kabir Khan, Deputy Managing Director assumed the Current Charge of Managing Director of Prime Finance & Investment Limited upon expiry of the tenure of service of previous Managing Director, Mr. Md. Akter Hossain Sannamat on 14 January 2011.

Mr. Ahsan Kabir Khan did his Masters in Management from Dhaka University. He is also an MBA, having long experience and expertise in the field of Leasing, Finance and Merchant Banking in various reputed organizations. He has to his credit foreign training in the field of Finance, Marketing and Capital Market in UK, China, Malaysia, Turkey, Thailand and India.

Mr. Khan is representing on the Board of various Companies of the Prime Financial Group. He is a life member of Bangladesh China People's Friendship Association and also engaged in various social activities.

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