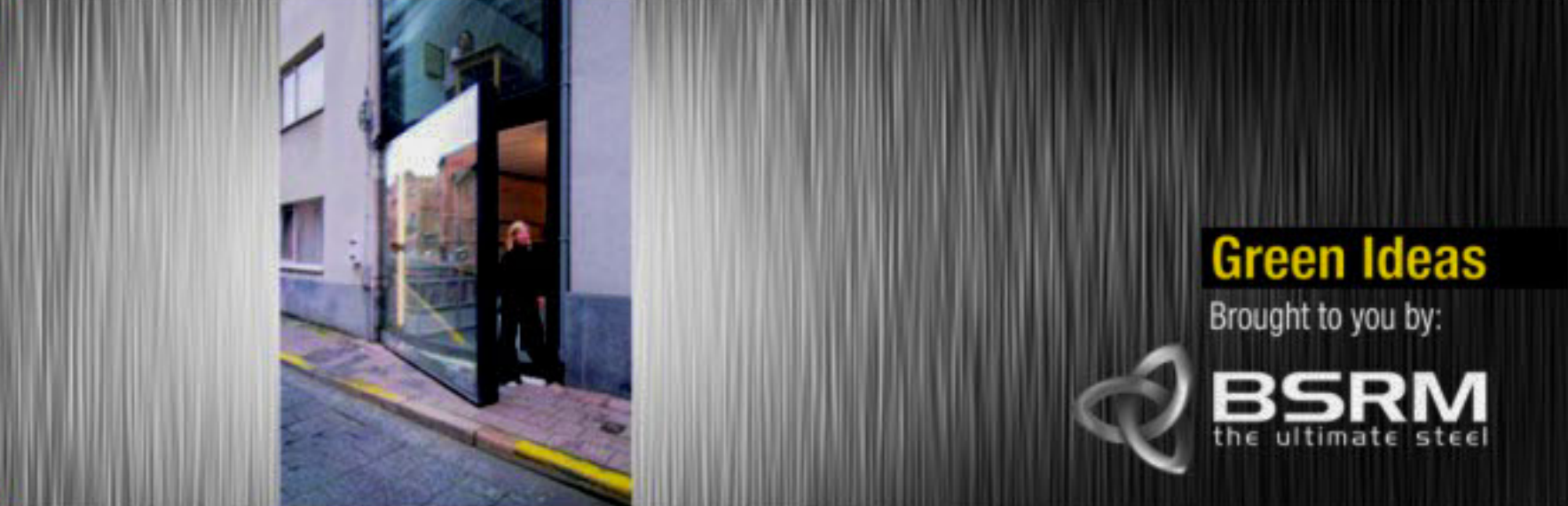


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**Biswa Ijtema begins for 3 more days**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The second phase of the Biswa Ijtema, one of the largest gatherings of the Muslims, began yesterday on the bank of Turag river in Tongi.

Lakhs of devotees from home and abroad joined the three-day congregation to seek blessings of Allah. People from over 100 countries have been attending the Ijtema this year.

Tens of thousands of devotees attended yesterday's Juma prayers led by Md Jubayer, Pesh Imam of Kakrail mosque. The number of devotees is expected to rise to join the Akheri Munajat -- the concluding prayer --

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

**By-polls free, fair**

Say observers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

By-elections to Habiganj-1 and Brahmanbaria-3 constituencies were free and fair except for "a few stray incidents," said poll observers yesterday.

Election Working Group (EWG), a 31-member coalition of civil society organisations, National Election Observation Council (Neoc) and Democracywatch

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

**BGB rescues 16 victims**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) rescued 16 people yesterday while they were allegedly being trafficked to India through Boroachra border.

They are Monju Ara Begum, 21, Probhati Begum, 19, Muslima Rahman, 22, Unus Ali 30, Mukul Biswas 20, Joy Adhikari, 24, Bish Kontho 22, Shahidullah 32, Johur

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

**Health services in bad shape**

*More than 100 top posts remain vacant for months, hampering health directorate's work*

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) fails to function properly, as there are no permanent officers in more than 100 top executive posts while many remain vacant for months.

The post of the director general (DG) and two additional directors general (ADG) are currently held by the director

and officers of current charge on a temporary basis. Two other posts of ADGs lie vacant for seven months.

The DGHS is responsible for formulating and implementing health policies and ensuring health services to the people across the country.

It also controls and monitors the quality of private hospitals, clinics and medical

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

**HABIGANJ BY-POLLS CANDIDATE**

**Wrong choice causes defeat for AL**

NAJMUL ALAM NOBIN, from Habiganj

Selection of wrong candidate, internal feud and losing a significant portion of vote bank led to Awami League's defeat in the Habiganj-1 constituency for the first time in the last four parliamentary elections, observe locals and leaders of both AL and BNP.

Rising prices of essentials and deterioration of law and order also contributed to AL's defeat in the constituency where its late leader Dewan Farid Gazi defeated BNP candidate Sheikh Sujat Mia by a wide

margin of over 72 thousand votes in the last parliamentary polls.

People are annoyed with the ruling party due to price spirals and worsening law and order, said Sakhawat Hasan Jibon, assistant organising secretary of central unit BNP.

"AL didn't groom any alternative leadership and there had been internal feuds in the party which favoured our candidate," he added.

"The ruling party also lost some of its minority votes. In a remarkable turnaround, we obtained more than 15

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

**PM pledges politics of welfare**

BSS, London

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said she is doing politics for the betterment of people and to bring changes in their fate.

"I am doing politics for the welfare of people, not for my personal gain. I want to do something to change the fate of the common people," she said while addressing a seminar at a hotel here on Thursday evening.

Hasina said she would not hesitate to make any sacrifice to bring smile on the face of country's

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

**Fire at DEPZ warehouse**

*4 people sick from suffocation*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire gutted the warehouse of a garment factory at Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) of Ashulia yesterday leaving four people sick from suffocation.

The inferno broke out around 9:00am on the first floor of the three-storey Grameen Knitwear that has been making the World Cup jersey for the Bangladesh cricket team.

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Preparations are underway for the annual Amar Ekushey Bô Mela-2011 on Bangla Academy premises yesterday. The largest book fair of the country will start on February 1.

PHOTO: STAR



Artistes of Mathal, a Rajshahi-based organisation, perform traditional Gambhira at a programme titled *Matir Pinjira* marking the 20th anniversary of The Daily Star in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: ZAHEDUL I KHAN

**Journalist, wife hacked to death in city house**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An elderly journalist and his wife were found dead with throats slit at their Naya Paltan residence in the capital yesterday.

Farhad Khan, 60, senior assistant editor of the daily Janata, his wife and Rahima, 55,

His younger brother, Abdus Samad Khan said a neighbour of the victims told him around 2:00pm over the phone that



Farhad Khan



Rahima Khanam

Farhad's apartment was locked from outside but mobile phones were ringing inside the house.

Samad ran to the spot and found some relatives and other people gathering at the door. They called police.

"Police broke open the door around 5:30pm. We found the bodies with throats slit and lying in a pool of blood on floor," said Samad.

He added Farhad was wrapped with mosquito net while Rahima with a white cloth.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

**ONLINE POLL**

Do you think the government should reconsider the proposed amendments to the Anti-Corruption Commission law that makes government consent a must for filing graft charges against government officials?

Yes (80.00%)  
No (19.71%)  
No Comments (0.29%)

TOTAL VOTES : 340

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think the pro-BNP lawyers' demonstration against the Chief Justice on the court premises is acceptable?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

**PRAYER TIMING** January 29

Fajr	5-35	6-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-46	5-50
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

**Massive unrest in Egypt**

*Authorities struggle to crush anti-regime protests; internet, phones down as demonstration surge through the country over corruption, oppression*

AFP, Cairo

Riot police in Egyptian cities fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse thousands of anti-regime protesters who flooded out of Friday prayers demanding an end to decades of corruption and oppression yesterday.

Police were deployed in strength around the most populous Arab nation that has been rocked by protests since Tuesday, firing warning shots and using water cannon in a bid to quash the rising tide of popular

anger. A protester was killed yesterday in the Egyptian canal city of Suez during clashes with police in which trucks were torched and a police station overrun, witnesses said.

Police used rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse crowds, witnesses said, naming the man who died as Hamada Labib al-Sayyed, a 30-year-old driver.

Protesters torched eight police trucks and set fire to the police station in the Al-Arbain area, forcing police to flee the area and allowing

protesters to seize weapons. The clashes come as mass anti-government rallies demanding the ouster of President Hosni Mubarak gained momentum throughout the country.

Meanwhile, protesters set fire to the governorate building in the centre of Alexandria, an AFP correspondent said, as anti-government demonstrations swept the country for a fourth day running.

Smoke billowed over the governorate in the northern port city

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স্বাধীনতার ৪০ বছর

বাংলাদেশ গ্রুপ থিয়েটার ফেডারেশান এর ৩০ বছর

The Daily Star এর ২০ বছর

**জিয়েত নাট্য উৎসব ২০১১**

২৫-৩১ জানুয়ারি ২০১১

অংশগ্রহণকারী দল ও নাটক

তারিখ	জাতীয় নাট্যশালা প্রতিদিন সন্ধ্যা ৭:০০মি:	এক্সপেরিমেন্টাল হল প্রতিদিন সন্ধ্যা ৬:৩০মি:	স্টুডিও থিয়েটার হল প্রতিদিন সন্ধ্যা ৬:৪৫মি:
আজ (২৯/০১/২০১১)	দেশ নাটক প্রাকৃত পুরাঙ্গনা	সময় ভাষের মানুষ	দৃশ্যপট সক্রেটিসের জবানবন্দী
৩০/০১/২০১১	পদাতিক নাট্য সংসদ-বাংলাদেশ জলবালিকা	ঢাকা থিয়েটার বিনোদিনী	থিয়েটার আর্ট ইউনিট মঞ্জ সমাচার
৩১/০১/২০১১	লোক নাট্যদল (সিদ্ধেশ্বরী) মাঝ রাতের মানুষেরা	থিয়েটার (বেইলী রোড) মোজাক ফকিরের মা	সংলাপ গ্রুপ থিয়েটার বদনাম

টিকেট : বিকাল ৪টা থেকে হল কাউন্টারে

বাংলাদেশ গ্রুপ থিয়েটার ফেডারেশান - The Daily Star