

## WHAT LIBERATION MEANS

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury talks about the true essence of the language movement

READ FORUM

## ISRAEL'S FEAR

Yossi Klein Halevi discusses Egyptian upheaval's effects on Israel

PAGE 15

## WHICH WAY TO GO

Experts advise students on career path

PAGE B8



RAPED GIRL WHIPPED TO DEATH

# Police, post-mortem miss injury marks

EMRAN HOSSAIN, from Shariatpur

Neither the police inquest nor the post-mortem found any injury marks on Hena's body though the national media quoting numerous witnesses reported she had been whipped to death following a fatwa at Chamta village of the district.

The Daily Star studied both the reports which also contradict the confessions made by the two detained local arbitrators before a court that the girl had been lashed in their presence.

The findings of the inquest and



and depressed the 15-year-old girl was when admitted there on January 25.

"For the next three days she could not walk. There were injury marks all over her face. I tried to check her body but the family members did not allow," Archana, the senior nurse, continued.

Fearing social disgrace, Hena's relatives did not disclose the actual cause of her injuries to the doctors.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

the post-mortem have not only surprised the victim's family members but also the doctors and nurses who attended Hena during her six-day stay in hospital.

Contacted, two forensic experts at Suhrawardi Medical College and Hospital in the capital suggested a fresh autopsy as early as possible.

A senior nurse at Shariatpur Sadar Hospital described to this correspondent how traumatised



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

The photo taken during the rainy season shows a large signboard of Nasim City housing project sticking out of the Turag at Nababerbagh of Dhaka, an apparent attempt to grab river land. When compared to yesterday's photo, inset, it is clear how difficult it is for vessels to maneuver there.

# New cloud hovers over inflation pressure

INAM AHMED

It could not have happened at a worse time. After dollar remaining stable against taka for about four years (it hovered around Tk 69 a dollar), it has suddenly got stronger and is selling for above Tk 74. It has every potential to shake the economic stability.

And it would hurt more now because we, just as others around the globe, are witnessing galloping inflation. As a heavily import dependent country, costly greenback would mean importing more inflation in the form of costly goods, fighting which would be a stiff challenge for the policymakers.

To make things worse, many banks are not accepting letters of credit (LC) for import without "at confirmation", which means if you approach a local bank for opening an LC you have to take guar-

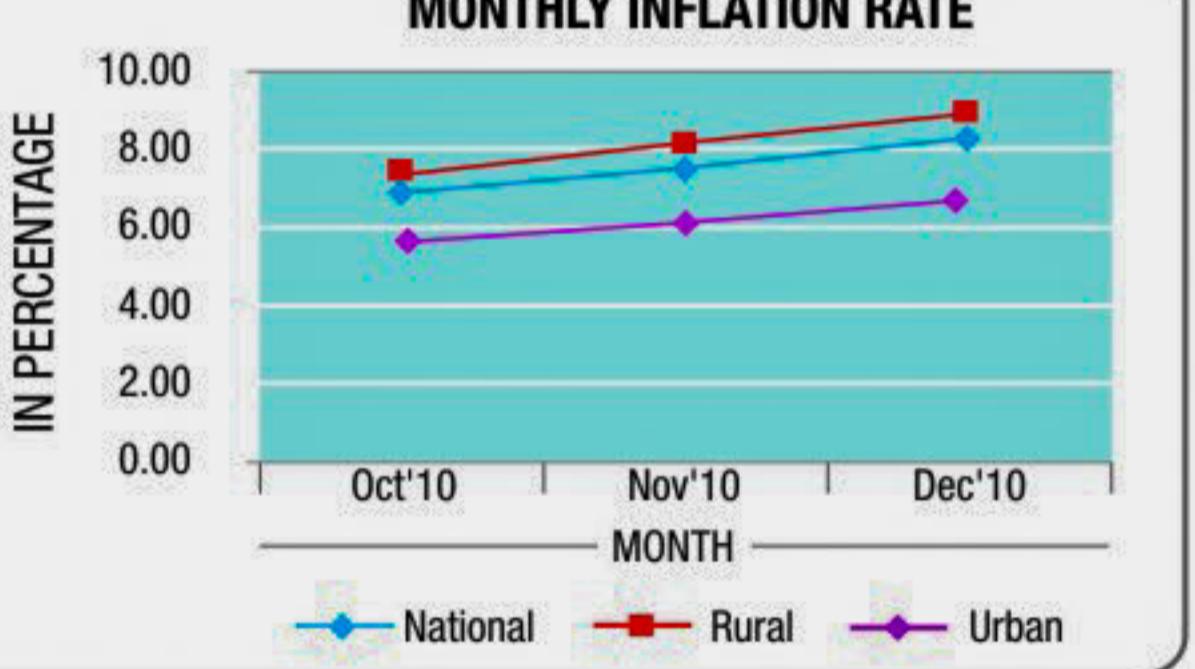
antee from a foreign bank that you will not default on payment. Businessmen have to count an added cost of about 4 percent for this, making their imports costlier in a heated commodity market.

Taka's loss of ground is quite dramatic, and much of it can be attributed to a yawning gap in trade balance (the gap between import and export bills), and narrowing of the surplus in current account balance, which includes foreign aid and remittance flow -- both now waning.

For the last four years, the central bank had been active in the foreign exchange market because otherwise taka would get stronger and dollar would become cheap. In such a case, exporters would have been hurt.

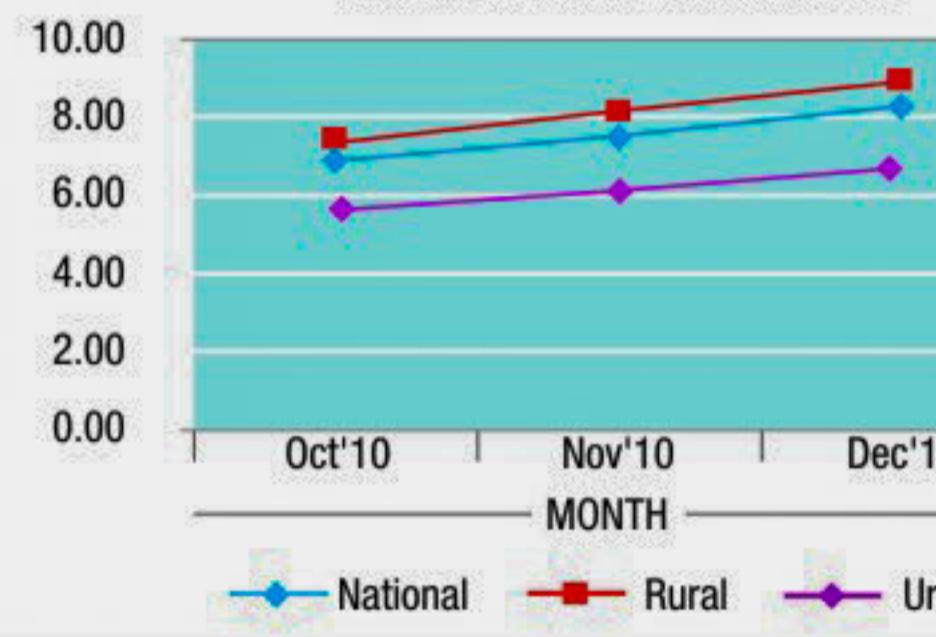
But now, the reverse is visible as dollar is

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



## Rural Food Inflation

Oct 9.14%  
Nov 10.53%  
Dec 11.76%



# Rein back price spike right away

14-party leaders slate govt over pricey essentials, poor municipal polls results

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Leaders of the ruling Awami League-led grand alliance yesterday criticised the government for "failure" to contain price hike of essentials, and urged it to take immediate steps to reduce the prices of rice and other food items since those have gone beyond purchasing capacity of people.

They also called for increasing the subsidy on food and bringing more poor people under government food rationing.

The call was made at a meeting the 14-party combine held at AL President Sheikh Hasina's political office at Dhanmondi in the capital with coordinator of the combine Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury in the chair.

Talking to journalists later, AL General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam said the meeting urged the opposition BNP to withdraw today's hartal so that the government could complete necessary preparations for the ensuing World Cup Cricket in the capital.

"Since the government has met the opposition leader's (Khaleda Zia) demand for cancellation of its plan to build an airport in Arial Beel, and withdrawn the case against her, there is no logic to go for the hartal," said Ashraf, also the LGRD and cooperatives minister.

Addressing the meeting, the leaders said the alliance could not achieve desired results in the recently held municipal polls and parliamentary by-elections due to



Get Bangla in Arabic script  
Opined then Bengali education minister

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

The death of Mohammad Ali Jinnah in September 1948 pushed Pakistan squarely up against a set of new conditions. A fundamental reason behind that was that Jinnah had combined in himself the powers of governor general, president of the constituent assembly and president of the ruling

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

**NOTICE**  
Dear English medium school students, the "Brain Brats" competition is on! Keep your eyes on The Daily Star "Knowledge Corner" on page 2 and join the first online knowledge competition in Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

# Hartal eve sees 10 buses burnt

2 hurt in blast at DU; Khaleda roots for hartal to 'help end public sufferings'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A handmade bomb exploded on Dhaka University campus and at least nine buses were set on fire in the capital on the eve of today's nationwide hartal enforced by the main opposition BNP, police say.

The bomb went off outside TSC injuring two students sitting there. The injured were Ruman Parveen Taslim, student of Central Women's College, and her friend Hasib Ahmed, Shahbagh police say.

The law-enforcers said pro-hartal activists torched at least 10 vehicles in other parts of the city and clashed with police.

The police blamed the violence on the supporters of the dawn-to-dusk hartal and detained several opposition activists for their alleged involvement in attacking the vehicles.

Clashes between hartal supporters and law-enforcers erupted also in Chittagong and Barisal. Some opposition activists were injured when police charged batons on them.

BNP called the hartal in protest against cases filed against its Chairperson Khaleda Zia over clashes erupted for the government's now-cancelled plan to build an international airport on Arial Beel, share market scandal and price hike of essentials.

The government has however decided to relocate the airport, while police said no cases were filed against

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

PHOTOS ON PAGES 5, 20

## WHEN EMERGENCY STRIKES

Just dial  
**10678**

from any corner of the country  
for the best emergency service



sts group  
Apollo Hospitals  
TAKING CARE OF DHAKA

শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন



“বীমা উন্নয়ন ও নিয়ন্ত্রণ কর্তৃপক্ষ”

এর সর্বপ্রথম চেয়ারম্যান হিসেবে এদেশের ব্যবসায়িক এ্যাকচুয়ারী ও বিশিষ্ট বীমা ব্যক্তিগত

জনাব এম. শফিক আহমেদ

এবং তাঁর সহকর্মীদের কোম্পানীর পরিচালনা পর্ষদ ও সকল কর্মকর্তা/

কর্মচারীদের পক্ষ থেকে জানাই আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা ও প্রাণচালনা অভিনন্দন।

আজীবন বিষ্ণুভূতার প্রতীক

প্রগতি লাইফ ইন্সুরেন্স লিমিটেড