

AN ALTERNATIVE WC

Off-beat pictures, quotes and quips from the mega event

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MISSION 2012

US President Barack Obama sets course for a second White House term

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TAGORE FOOTPRINT

A documentary highlights the poet's stay in Bangladesh

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HARTAL AGAINST WOMEN POLICY

Pickets on the rampage

At least 120 buses vandalised, 250 injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The general strike enforced yesterday by Islamic activists ended through violence in the capital and other cities leaving over 250 people, including 16 policemen, injured and 200 detained.

Islamic Ain Bastabayan Sangstha, a group linked to a faction of Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) and led by Fazlul Huq Aminee, called the dawn-to-dusk nationwide strike. The group is campaigning against the government's newly-announced National Women Policy.

Aminee and his supporters insist that the policy has provisions that go against the principles of the holy Quran. The government denies the allegation saying the policy reflects the constitutional provision of ensuring equal rights to women and ending all disparity against them.

Women rights groups have backed the government urging an early implementation of the policy announced on March 8.

The protesters yesterday draped themselves with white clothes symbolising shrouds and carried copies of the holy Quran as they clashed with the law enforcers. Such use of the holy book during a protest provoked indignation of many.

Meanwhile, a major violence took place in Chittagong. Pickets vandalised over 100 buses and set fire to a petrol pump in the port city.

Schools and many shops remained closed in the capital yesterday. Although buses, private cars and other vehicles were seen running in numbers in many parts of

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PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Activists of Islamist groups carry the Quran underneath their outer garments during the hartal yesterday. This was the first time the holy book was used during any demonstration, with a possible intention that the Quran might be desecrated in the event of scuffles with the police who would then be blamed for the desecration. The photo was taken at Shanti Nagar in the capital.

Remittance hits \$1.09b in March

Crisis in ME prompts expatriates to send money home from their savings there

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The country's remittance inflow reached a record \$1.09 billion in a single month amid the Middle East crisis, but overall remittance growth still remains low.

A Bangladesh Bank official said the rise in remittance in March was due to return of many expatriates from the Middle East, while many others have been remitting money home instead of keeping the funds

there, due to a general sense of insecurity.

Last month's inflow was the second record of crossing the billion dollar mark in monthly remittance. In November 2009 it crossed that mark for the first time with remittance of \$1.05 billion.

However, remittance growth in the first nine months of the current fiscal year was lower compared to the corresponding period of the last fiscal year, which is a

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SQ CHY'S LETTER TO UK

Probe goes nowhere

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government committee assigned to probe how detained BNP lawmaker Salauddin Quader Chowdhury could send a letter to the British government from jail has yet to submit a report.

The committee could not do the job though over two weeks have passed since expiry of its time limit.

Contacted, the committee chief on Sunday said he no longer heads it.

The government formed the three-member probe

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CONGO PLANE CRASH

2 Bangladeshi peacekeepers among 26 dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two Bangladeshi peacekeepers along with 24 others were killed in a plane crash at Kinshasa airport in Congo yesterday. Six on-board survived the crash.

An Inter Service Public Relations (ISPR) official confirmed the incident to The Daily Star last night. It identified the deceased

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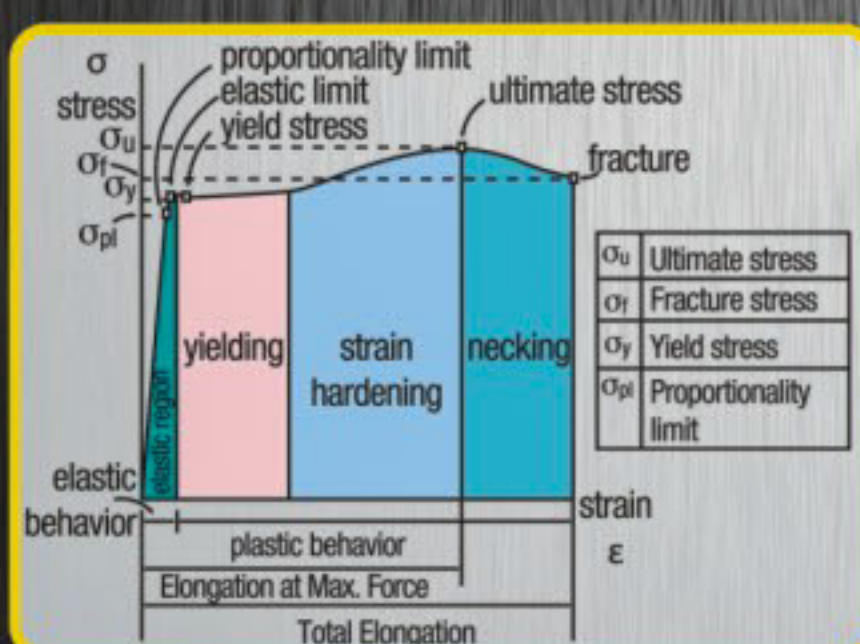
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আমাদের চারপাশে লুকিয়ে থাকা দেখা-অদেখা অগণিত রঙ থেকে যে রঙই আপনার মনকে রাঙায় এলিট পেইন্ট কালারফেস্ট-এর হাজার রঙের উৎসব সেই রঙেই রাঙিয়ে দেবে আপনার চারপাশ! কালারফেস্ট-এর শেইডগুলো এখন পাওয়া যাচ্ছে আপনার কাছের কালারফেস্ট চিহ্নিত দোকানগুলোতে।

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