

## FLEXIBLE PHONE

Canadian researchers have created a smartphone that can be bent and folded

PAGE - IT &amp; Telecom



## REMINISCING TAGORE

Shah Husain Imam writes on the joint celebration of the poet's 150th birth anniversary

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## 'SAINT' PUTIN

A new sect worships the Russian premier as reincarnation of St Paul

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Verdict  
hailed  
But strict watch  
stressed

HASAN JAHID TUSHER and  
RIZANUZZAMAN LASKAR

Members of civil society, rights activists, Islamic scholars and academicians yesterday lauded the Supreme Court judgment that declared fatwa legal prohibiting its use in punishing anyone.

Stressing its strict implementation to contain abuse, they hoped misuse of fatwa will reduce if the government specifies the eligibility of the persons to be allowed to give fatwa (religious edict).

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## Fatwa legal, not to be imposed

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it legal.

According to former caretaker government adviser Sultana Kamal, "It's an extremely positive verdict."

But women's rights activist Maleka Begum said: "Regardless of what the full judgment says, the first part, which terms fatwa legal, will undoubtedly have a negative impact."

"Following this verdict, I hope Imams and other Islamic professionals who normally give fatwa will be more aware, and the torture in its name will scale down significantly," hoped Abdulllah Maruf, one of the five Islamic scholars who requested the SC to cancel a High

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## SC VERDICT HIGHLIGHTS

- **No form of punishment allowed**
- **No violation of law covering rights, dignity, reputation**
- **Only qualified person can issue fatwa**

## CNG price up by 50pc

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The price of compressed natural gas (CNG) has been raised by about 50 percent, a week after a hike in the prices of other fuel oil like diesel and octane.

The new rate -- Tk 25 per cubic metre up from Tk 16.75 -- was effective from midnight Thursday following a decision by Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC).

This CNG price hike is first by the Awami League-led alliance government came to power after winning the general election in December 2008. It came amid shortage of the natural gas and its growing use by private cars, buses and three-wheeler auto-rickshaws.

The hike was also the first since April 25, 2008 when per cubic metre CNG price was set at Tk 16.75 from Tk 8.50.



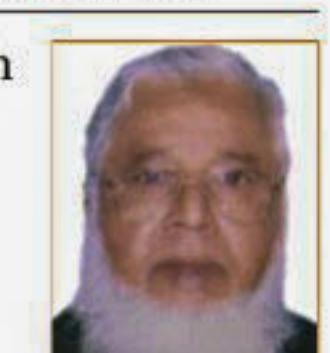
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CJ-hopeful  
Nayeem  
quits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman, a senior judge of the Supreme Court Appellate Division, resigned yesterday apparently in protest against his being passed over twice for promotion to chief justice.

Justice Nayeem submitted the resignation letter to the president through the SC registrar's office yesterday morning, SC sources said. He has not mentioned any specific reason for his resignation.



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Pass rate  
down in  
Dakhil

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Though the Madrasa Education Board achieved 83.23 percent pass rate in this year's Dakhil examination, it is 3.47 percentage points lower than the previous year.

Of the 2,37,524 examinees, some 1,97,699 students passed the Dakhil exams and of them 12,756 students obtained GPA-5 that helped the board to secure second place after Dhaka in the tally of GPA-5 achievers in the country.

Some 9,010 male

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Number of  
all-pass  
school falls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite the record growth in percentage of pass in this year's SSC and equivalent examinations, the number of institutions securing 100 percent pass rate under ten education boards came down to 2,017 this year from 2,927 last year.

However, the number of institutions with zero percent pass rate has decreased to 28 this year from 49 last year.

Of the successful institutions, 256 are in Dhaka, 76 in Rajshahi, 112 in Comilla, 150 in Jhansi, 48

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## 82pc pass SSC

Record result reflects positive trend in quality of overall education

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With 82.16 percent success rate and more students achieving the highest grade, this year's results of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations have broken all records.

The combined pass rate of all the 10 education boards, including, Dakhil examinations under Madrasa Board and SSC vocational examinations under Technical Education Board, is 82.31 percent, 2.33 point higher than that of last year.

Some 62,788 students under eight education boards have scored the highest GPA-5 (grade point average) this year which was 62,134 last year. The number of top graders in all 10 boards, however, reduced to 76,749 from last year's 82,961.

Only 76 examinees secured the highest grade when the grading system was introduced in 2001.

Although the number of schools with zero pass came down to 28 from last year's 49, the number of schools with cent percent pass has dropped significantly to 2,017 from last year's 2,927.

Educationalists, education board officials and teachers believe this success in the country's one of the largest public examinations is the outcome of students and teachers' effort and the guardians' care.

They observed that introduction of

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PHOTO: RASHED SHUMAN

Faces of jubilant students at Rajuk Uttara Model School and College after the school topped the SSC exams twice on the trot yesterday.

## SSC Results 2011

Boards	Pass Rate 2011	Pass Rate 2010	GPA-5 2011	GPA-5 2010
Dhaka	84.63	77.99	24,290	21,142
Rajshahi	80.32	85.61	9,937	10,568
Comilla	85.85	81.03	5,981	5,863
Jessore	84.04	79.18	7,373	7,399
Chittagong	78.27	72.31	4,819	5,800
Barisal	78.30	74.64	2,755	2,751
Sylhet	81.23	78.42	2,148	1,977
Dinajpur	77.48	71.70	5,485	6,634
Grand Total	82.16	78.19	62,788	62,134

## Prof Yunus resigns

DMD to take over Grameen Bank as MD; the Nobel hero says his step is to prevent disruption in its activities, protect entire GB family from being subjected to difficulty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Muhammad Yunus has stepped down as the managing director of Grameen Bank in order to prevent undue disruption in the activities of the microfinance institution, the Nobel laureate said yesterday.



"I am today relinquishing the post of managing director of Grameen Bank on the basis that Deputy Managing Director Nurjahan

to prevent undue disruption in the activities of Grameen Bank and to ensure that

Begum would hold charge until a managing director is appointed in accordance with the procedures under section-14 of the Grameen Bank ordinance," the microcredit pioneer said in a press statement yesterday.

"I am taking this step without prejudice to the legal issues raised before the Supreme Court, and in order to prevent undue disruption in the activities of Grameen Bank and to ensure that

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## Mega power deals signed with Summit

1,017MW to be added to national grid in 3 yrs; Spanish company to generate another 150MW in 2 yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday inked three mega power deals with local company Summit Power to generate 1,017 megawatt of power within next three years.

The two sides entered a set of contracts for the Bibiyana phase 1 and 2 gas-fired power projects (341MW each) and Meghnaghat dual fuel 335MW power project.

The three plants are expected to add 664MW within next two years and the rest by May 2014 to the national grid.

Acting Secretary of Power Development Board (PDB) Sekender Ali and Faisal Karim Khan of Summit Group

signed the deals on behalf of the respective sides at Bidyut Bhawan in Dhaka.

"This is a dream come true, certainly of mine as well as of the nation... As this dream of generating an additional 1017MW comes true by 2013, there will be no shortage of electricity in Bangladesh," said Muhammed Aziz Khan, chairman of Summit Group.

He termed the implementation of these projects by Summit-GE consortium an epitome of public private partnership as well as of international cooperation.

During a 22-year period, the government would purchase Tk 37,000 crore worth of electricity from these plants,

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