



THE SAFEST STEEL IN BANGLADESH TO WITHSTAND CYCLONIC FORCE AND EARTHQUAKES

The only steel that ensures Elongation at maximum force

Do consult a professional engineer if you decide to build a house

BSRM Xtreme
Feel safe with Xtreme Inside



Philips 47" LCD TV (47PFL3605) at Tk. 9,723*

Up to 18 Equal Monthly Instalments available at 0% Interest



TRANSOCOM

DIGITAL

For More Information:
8855366-8, 01712-665463

PHILIPS

A good harvest of corn in the north thanks to clement weather spreads joy among farmers. A farmer's family is seen busy preparing their produce for market in Balashihat of Fulchhari upazila in Gaibandha yesterday.

PHOTO:
FOCUS BANGLA



Jamaat to play safe

Chooses to stay away from agitation against govt

RASHIDUL HASAN

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami is following the strategy of not involving itself in anti-government movement right now to avoid further arrest of its leaders and disaster in the party.

Instead, it is encouraging other Islamist parties, including Fazlul Haq Amini-led Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ), and like-minded Islamic leaders to launch an anti-government movement.

Jamaat leaders especially those who are not well known and holding no posts in the party's top or mid-level are involved in waging anti-government movement under the banner of different Islamic and olama-mashaek organisations.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Community clinics get lifeline at last

Recruitment of 13,500 staff by next month

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

A decade after being founded, community clinics are finally getting fulltime staff to provide primary healthcare to the people in the rural areas.

Recruiting of 13,500 community healthcare providers (CHCP), which began a year ago, is likely to be completed by next month, said Director of Community Clinic Project Makhduma Nargis.

Once the recruitment is done, people in the rural areas won't have to depend on the quacks or bear the pain of travelling 10 to 15 kms for getting basic health services

like immunisation, general drugs and family planning support, she added.

The existing healthcare centres at union level have to provide service to some 30,000 people in some cases, which is too large a number for one centre to handle. Also, people often don't want to travel that far to get treatment.

Against this backdrop, the Awami League government in the late 90s decided to set up 13,500 community clinics -- one for every 6,000 people.

Their service include identification and providing treatment of common

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

11-yr-old girl raped in Narail

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Narail

An 11-year-old student of a Dakhil madrasa was raped in Nondokhol village of Narail sadar upazila yesterday.

The victim alleged Liton Sheikh, 40, and Sahajan Kazi, 41, of the village, waylaid her near a jute field when she was returning home from a shop, about one kilometre from her house. The two then raped her and left her there unconscious.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Arms case against Limon shifted to special tribunal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A Jhalakathi court has transferred the arms case against Limon Hossain, the college student who lost a leg in Rab shooting, to a special tribunal.

The 16-year-old is undergoing treatment at National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Nitor) in Dhaka.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Nusrat Jahan of Jhalakathi court ordered the transfer of the case from her court to the Special Tribunal-1 in Jhalakathi on Thursday, Limon's counsel Nashimul Hasan said.

The tribunal will hear the case on June 9.

The court, however, exempted Limon from physical presence in the court. Nashimul will represent the shooting victim in the tribunal.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



IDB president due Monday

Deal on \$140m loan for Padma bridge likely

UNB, Dhaka

Islamic Development Bank President Dr Ahmad Mohamed Ali will arrive here on Monday morning to witness the signing of an agreement to provide \$140 million for the Padma Multipurpose Bridge Project.

The IDB president will meet Finance Minister AMA Muhith at his secretariat office on Tuesday.

Both of them will be present at a signing ceremony of two loan agreements, including the one for the Padma Bridge.

Under the second deal, the IDB will finance \$14.84m to a water supply and sanitation project in cyclone-prone coastal areas.

Shortly after his arrival, Ali will fly to Sidra-affected Sharankhola upazila in Bagerhat to lay the foundation stone of a school-cum-cyclone shelter to be implemented under an IDB grant of \$130m.

Of the grant amount, \$110m will be spent for constructing some 440

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



The BIWTA signboard says that dumping of sewage, garbage of home and hospitals, polyethylene, industrial waste in the river is prohibited. Close to the signboard laundrymen, left, are seen washing clothes in the murky waters of the Buriganga near Lalbagh in the capital.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

নদীতে
দৈনন্দিন গৃহস্থালি বর্জ্য, পলিথিন ফেলবো না।
হাসপাতাল, ট্যানারী বা শিল্প বর্জ্য ফেলবো না।
সুয়েরেজ সংযোগ দিবো না।

ADB to provide \$23m for transport projects

UNB, Dhaka

The Asian Development Bank has made a pledge of \$23 million to Bangladesh as technical assistance loan for a series of regional transport projects.

Under the proposed Sub-regional Transport Project Preparatory Facility, the loan will facilitate the scheme for cross-border routes identified in Saarc's Regional Multimodal Transport Study, ADB officials have said.

Also, transport corridors -- like Asian Highway Network and Trans-

Asia Rail Network -- linked with the member countries of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (Bimstec) will be targeted.

The facility will cover eight percent of Bangladesh's major roads and 12 percent of its railways.

It is projected to cost \$27.59 million, including taxes and duties, physical and price contingencies, and interest and other charges during implementation.

The loan, which is from ADB's concessional Asian Development Fund, will have a 32-year term,

including a grace period of eight years, with one percent interest rate per annum during the grace period and 1.5 percent per annum thereafter.

The government will provide \$4.59 million for local taxes and duties.

The facility will increase sub-regional trade among South Asian countries, especially through Bangladesh that borders India and Myanmar and is geographically close to Bhutan, Nepal, and Kunming -- the key transport hub in southwest

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

SEX SCANDAL Ex-IMF boss to be freed on bail

AFP, New York

Dominique Strauss-Kahn was set for release on bail yesterday, allowing the once powerful IMF chief to be reunited with his family for the first time since his arrest on sex assault charges.

A New York court ordered him to be released on condition he put up \$1 million cash bail and a \$5 million bond, but a grand jury voted to indict the 62-year-old on all seven sex crime charges related to his alleged attempt to rape a maid at Manhattan's luxury Sofitel hotel on Saturday.

He faces up to 74 years prison if convicted on all charges, which Strauss-Kahn denies.

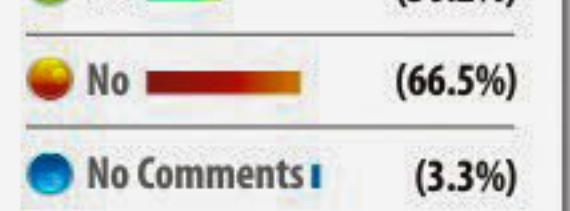
His case will go to trial unless he pleads guilty.

"Under American law, these are extremely serious charges," Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance told

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



ONLINE POLL
Do you agree with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that BNP did not give anything positive to the nation during its tenure?



TOTAL VOTES: 513

TODAY'S POLL

Do you support BNP's mid-term elections demand?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT
www.thedailystar.net

