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PM for export diversification

Hands export trophies to 45 businessmen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called on the business community to diversify export items and explore new markets for the country.

"Do not depend on a few products or markets.... Standards of the products must be maintained," Hasina said while addressing an export awards ceremony at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital.

She stressed the need for exporting quality products to brighten the image of the country.

The prime minister later handed the National Export Trophy for 2009-10 to 45 exporters for their extraordinary performance.

Bangladesh has much potential in the export sector and businessmen have the ability to diversify the export basket with a view to finding new markets, Hasina said in her speech as the chief guest.

She asked exporters to expand the market for jute and jute goods, ships, pharmaceuticals, leather and leather goods, agricultural products and information and communications technology items.

Jute is the highest export item after readymade garments, the prime minister noted.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

Repair work of loose sleepers of the rail line at the culvert construction site in Hatirheel halts a train, *inset*, yesterday. The train stretched so long that it actually stopped over the level crossing on Tongi Diversion Road, causing a huge traffic jam.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Asia's mega ICT event begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka is hosting Asia's prestigious information and communication technology (ICT) event "eAsia 2011" from today with the slogan "Realising Digital Nation" at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

The three-day-long mega event will feature a

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

14 YEARS OF CHT ACCORD

Indigenous people want full implementation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indigenous leader Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, also popular as Santu Larma, yesterday warned of a stronger movement from January if their demands, especially the implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord 1997, are not met.

The government has breached its promise to the indigenous people by not taking any initiative to implement the treaty, he said in a press conference organised by Parbatya



Santu Larma

Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) at Sundarban Hotel in the capital to mark the 14th anniversary of the accord signing.

Larma, president of PCJSS, put forward a 19-point demand to protect the rights of indigenous people, establish good governance and peace in the hills.

He threatened of an even tougher movement by the end of March if the demands are not fulfilled by then.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Govt reluctant to implement CHT accord

Says rights body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The indigenous people of Chittagong Hill Tracts have been facing fear, discrimination and insecurity as the government is reluctant to implement the CHT peace accord and not acting to stem the violence in the region, observed a rights body.

A prevailing culture of impunity in the region casts a negative impact on the human rights of both

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

Foreign vessel charged with oil slick in Bay

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Ctg

Fuel oil reportedly from a clinker-laden foreign vessel anchored at the outer anchorage of Chittagong Port spread around one square kilometre of the bay yesterday, officials said.

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) sprayed chemicals to clean up the oil slick and also sent letters to the master and the local agent of the Mauritius-flagged vessel about taking action.

Quoting several crew of different vessels anchored at 'A' anchorage, an on-duty staff of the port's radio control room said they came to know around 10:00am that MV

SEE PAGE 6 COL 7

Road crash kills six of a family

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Six members of a family including three children were killed and four others injured when a microbus was squeezed between two lorries on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Nabiganj upazila of Habiganj yesterday morning.

The deceased were identified as Enamul Haq, 35, a businessman, his wife Parvin Akhter, 30, son

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Electricity tariff still 'tolerable'

Claims PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government was forced to increase the price of electricity to "adjust" to the price hike of fuel and other commodities across the world, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said in parliament.

She, however, claimed the government had kept power prices at a "tolerable level" upon talks with consumers and other stakeholders.

Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

TIPAIMUKH BNP's day-long hartal today in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The week-long agitation programme of BNP protesting the Indian government's attempt to construct the Tipaimukh dam would end through observing a day-long hartal in Sylhet today.

Sylhet district and city

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

PRAYER TIMING December 1		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-15	5-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-19	5-22
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Britain faces biggest-ever strike over pension

AFP, London

Two million public sector workers in Britain went on strike yesterday over changes to their pensions in the biggest walkout for decades, closing thousands of schools and disrupting transport.

Three-quarters of schools were estimated closed during the 24-hour strike, hospitals were operating with skeleton staff and local authorities were paralysed.

Striking workers picketed public sector buildings in central London and more than 1,000 demonstrations were expected to take place across Britain in scenes reminiscent of the 1970s.

Fears of long delays at London's Heathrow airport failed to materialise yesterday morning as two-thirds of immigration officials turned up for work.

The strike is the biggest test so far of Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition government, which sparked the unions' fury by making public sector workers pay more into their pensions and work longer.

Anger rose further on Tuesday when finance minister George Osborne targeted the pay of teachers, nurses and soldiers and revealed plans to cut an extra 300,000 public sector jobs as he slashed Britain's

growth forecasts.

On Wednesday, Osborne said the strike would only harm the economy, and called for unions to return to the negotiating table.

"The strike is not going to achieve anything, it's not going to change anything," the Chancellor of the Exchequer told BBC TV.

But Brendan Barber, general secretary of the Trades Union Congress (TUC), said the public sector was "under attack" from the government and the strike was fully justified.

"There comes a time when people really have to stand up and make a stand," he told ITV.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

The greatest light show on Earth

BBC ONLINE

The strange, beautiful coloured lights that circle the Earth's polar regions are a source of fascination for many.

But as the Aurora Borealis, or Northern Lights, dance in the frozen skies over Alaska, scientists' trigger fingers are poised to launch rockets.

Could our planet be under attack from the unearthly forces that cast a mysterious glow across the poles, disrupting life as we know it?

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

NARSINGDI MAYOR KILLING Suspect Faruque confesses to his involvement

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

Hazi Faruque, a suspect in Narsingdi municipality mayor Lokman Hossain murder case, yesterday confessed to his involvement in the sensational killing.


Faruque made his confession in a detailed statement before Narsingdi Senior Judicial Magistrate Shihabul Islam.

His confessions came at the end of ten days in remand. Meanwhile, three other suspects in the case were placed on different terms of remand after they were produced before a Narsingdi court yesterday.

The court placed Kazi Alam, who was arrested on Monday, on an eight-day remand while Mahfuzur

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The Daily Star

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ONLINE POLL

Do you think bringing in Suranjit Sengupta and Obaidul Quader into cabinet without removing the controversial ministers will bring any qualitative change to it?

☒ Yes (7.2%)

☒ No (91.5%)

☐ No Comments (1.3%)

TOTAL VOTES: 609

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with LGRD Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam that there was no political motive behind dividing the capital city into two?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT [facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews)

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This Friday, read about the plight of jute farmers who have been left in the lurch after a sudden drop in the demand for the fibre in the international market. Other stories: An exclusive interview of journalist Shahriar Kabir, how opposition MPs are performing and much more...



The Golden Moose?

Angry and ill-treated farmers have put up and the hope of a good harvest in poverty

Facing the