

Your Right to Know

MINISTERS SACRIFICE

Singapore is slashing ministers' salary by at least a third

PAGE 7

A NEW TREND

Old flats are becoming tempting in local market PAGE B1

CAPTAIN SMASHING

Clarke hits 251 not out to put Australia in an imposing position against India

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Teachers involved in coaching to face music

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to take actions against the teachers involved in coaching business in the capital, said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday.

He said the ministry has formed a fourmember committee to collect information on such teachers and make a list. It has been asked to submit a report within seven working days.

The committee, headed by a joint secretary (secondary) of the education SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

CHARGING EXTRA ADMISSION FEES

Schools warned of stern action

WASIM BIN HABIB

The government yesterday warned nongovernment schools in the capital of stern · action for charging admission fees much · higher than the amount stipulated in the admission policy.

The policy formulated last month fixed the admission fees for the city schools at Tk 5,000 at best. But flouting the rule, almost all these schools are charging Tk 8,000 to Tk 25,000.

Any violation of the first-ever admission policy for non-government schools will be dealt with firmly, Education : Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said at a : closed-door inter-ministerial meeting at : his ministry.

The minister warned the heads of schools of stern action, including stopping monthly pay order (MPO) from the government, cancellation of registration of the institutions and barring those from public examinations like JSC, SSC and HSC, said meeting sources.

"Don't compel us to take action," an official quoted the minister as saying at the meeting attended by high government officials and heads of reputed nongovernment schools in the capital.

The schools, especially Monipur High School and College and Motijheel Ideal School and College, came under severe criticism by the minister for charging extra fees.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Comilla city polls today

Candidates fear chaos, allege use of black money; first polls with full use of EVM

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN, from Comilla

Voters go to the maiden Comilla City Corporation polls today amid fear of chaos and allegations and counter-allegations by candidates regarding distribution of money to influence voters.

Polls open at 8:00am and close at 4:00pm without any break. Voters will cast their ballots through electronic voting machine (EVM) in all 65 centres.

This is for the first time in the country that all voters in an election will use the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2



Electronic voting machines are being dispatched to different polling centres from Comilla Town Hall Auditorium yesterday for today's Comilla City Corporation election.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Three years of an all-powerful PM

SHAKHAWAT LITON

In the first half of her previous term as PM, Sheikh Hasina seemed to be much more sensitive to public sentiments and also careful about maintaining her cabinet's clean image. In so doing, she did not hesitate to take stern actions against two of the then state ministers for their controversial activities.

She compelled then state minister for housing and public works, Afsaruddin Ahmed Khan, to resign on February 18, 1997 for his dubious role in the forceful eviction of a slum from 40 acres of government land in the city's Bhashantek area. On August 10 the same year, Syed Abul Hossain was made to resign from his position as state minister for LGRD after his controversial visit to Singapore without the government's permission, using an ordinary passport instead of his diplomatic passport.

The forcible eviction of the slum and the state minister's Singapore visit gave rise to criticism in political SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations yesterday scathingly criticised ruling Awami League lawmaker Kamal Ahmed Majumder's assault on a female journalist on Tuesday, and demanded punishment for him.

The member of parliament, on the other hand, at a media conference yesterday claimed that he did not assault reporter Aparna Singha of private satellite television channel Rtv.

while his men assaulted videographer Syed Haider, and another reporter Shahin Parvez, when they went to Monipur High School and College in the capital to seek Kamal's comment on the school authority's decision to charge admission fees way beyond the amount fixed by the government.

Kamal is the president of the school's management committee. The videotape of the assault was aired by different television channels.

Kamal Majumder slated for assault on journalists

Kamal was videotaped on Tuesday assaulting Aparna,

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Hasina ready to accept any result in next JS polls

UNB, Dhaka

Hasina yesterday said she was not afraid of facing defeat in the next general elections if people could freely exercise their voting rights.

Prime Minister Sheikh

Addressing high police officials, Hasina said, "To me, democracy comes first. I am ready to accept any result, win or lose, in the next polls if people can cast their votes properly and freely."

The function was held at the International

SEE PAGE 7 COL 3 | She cracked down on the Indian insur-

Connectivity, transit dominated diplomacy

Govt focused on improving ties with India

REZAUL KARIM

Regional connectivity,

transit to India, fight

foreign policy analysts.

climate change negotiations, Dhaka's

diplomacy centred mainly around its

closest neighbour India, according to

her courageous move to warm up Dhaka's

otherwise cold relations with New Delhi.

Hasina braved opposition criticisms in

gents using Bangladesh territory for operations in the northeast, arrested

their top leaders and handed them over to against terrorism and climate change New Delhi. Her foreign policy advisers debate dominated Bangladesh's diploalso went out of the way to mobilise public macy in the past three years of Prime opinion in favour of providing India the Minister Sheikh Hasina's government. road transit facilities New Delhi has been Even though Hasina tried to focus on a asking for since Bangladesh's independgreater role for Bangladesh in the interence in 1971. national arena, especially in the global

Bangladesh has yet to give India fullfledged road transit facilities, but it has already been allowed to tranship goods from West Bengal to Tripura by using both river and land routes. Providing transhipment facilities to India without charging any extra fees has sparked criticisms even

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We've added Beetle Baily

Arts & Entertainment

Enjoy the strips daily in

No ceiling on interest rates

Farm loan, pre-shipment exports exempted

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

The central bank yesterday withdrew the interest rate limit on bank loans, in a move that economists say will increase the cost of borrowing and make imported goods costlier.

In a statement, Bangladesh Bank (BB) said it has withdrawn the ceiling on the interest rate on all types of bank loans, except for pre-shipment exports and farm loans as they are thrust sectors.

Since 2004, exporters have been receiving credit at a maximum interest rate of 7 percent, while the rate on SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

Eyes on two vote banks

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN and PANKAJ KARMAKAR, from Comilla

The role of three local lawmakers and swing of voters in two vote banks will determine who will be elected the first mayor of the Comilla City Corporation.

Although the three MPs were elected on the ruling Awami League ticket, many voters don't believe that they really want to see party-backed candidate Afzal Khan **SEE PAGE 19 COL 4**

Voters want their problems solved

PANKAJ KARMAKAR, from Comilla

Fed up with waterlogging, traffic jams, drug problems, mugging, pollution, land grabbing and the sliding law and order, people of Comilla city hope a new mayor would do something about their problems.

But familiar faces are in the race for Comilla City Corporation polls and most do not have a "clean image", said voters yesterday.

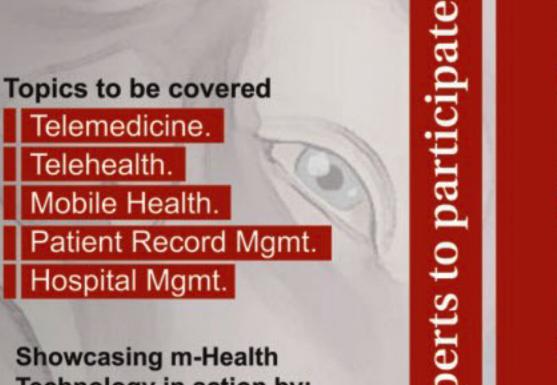
SEE PAGE 19 COL 5



Join the colloquium: Healthcare January 6 & 7, 2012

Venue: The Daily Star Centre, Time: 9:30 am - 4:30 pm Magnificent opportunity for healthcare professionals to learn more.

For Session details visit: www.thedailystar.net/colloquium



Technology in action by: Global Med

LifeSize/ Live Prezence **Dhaka University**

BRAC

Grameen Caledonium

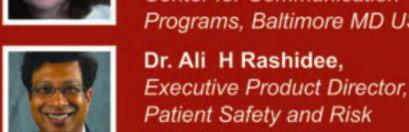
D.Net M Power

Nursing home

experts obal Renowned



Chair, Johns Hopkins Global m-Health Initiative, Kimberly Rook,



Bloomberg School of Public Health Center for Communication Programs, Baltimore MD USA Dr. Ali H Rashidee,

Johns Hopkins University



Mr. Ravi Gupta, Editor, e-Health Magazine, CSDMS, India



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