



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

Your Right to Know

24 PAGES PLUS

STAR CAMPUS PRICE : Tk 10.00



**"CASTLES IN THE AIR"**  
Post-mortem of the government's success claims in three-year diplomacy  
PAGE 14

**"DESIRE THE FLYING BUTTER"**  
Shakira will sing in the Indo-Bangla film directed by Enamul Karim Nirjhar  
PAGE 10

**GETTING CLOSE TO ISRAEL**  
Pervez Musharraf says Pakistan will lose nothing by trying this  
PAGE 6

Comilla polls show govt neutrality  
Says PM  
BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the Comilla City Corporation election was a complete manifestation of the government's neutrality. Saying that all elections under the present political government were fully free and fair, she said, "We  
SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

## Groundwater loss puts city at risk

Study says Dhaka subsiding 14mm a year

PINAKI ROY

Dhaka is sinking over half an inch a year on average because of excessive extraction of groundwater and inadequate recharging of the vacuum it creates below the surface, a recent study has found.

Prof Syed Humayun Akhter, a geology teacher at Dhaka University, conducted

the study by analysing data from global positioning system (GPS) at the DU Earth Observatory Centre.

Examining the city's vertical velocity in 2004-2008, he found that the land mass here is going down quite faster now.

"When we extract groundwater, the empty spaces in the sponge like  
SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

PRESIDENT'S TALKS  
Khaleda may lead BNP delegation  
RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

Khaleda Zia might lead the BNP delegation at President Zillur Rahman's dialogue over the formation of a new election commission.

A decision to this effect will be finalised after BNP's two-day road march to Chittagong ends  
SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

## Sustained growth in agriculture sector

Better food management helped tackle price spiral

REAZ AHMAD

The government's policy support for the farm sector along with better management of public food distribution system (PFDS) helped the country achieve a sustained growth in agriculture sector over the last three years.

Taking office right after the 2007-'08 period of high volatility of global food prices, the AL-led grand alliance govern-  
SEE PAGE 7 COL 1



3 YEARS OF GOVERNMENT

ment put food security high on its agenda. And soon it was manifested in various steps the government took.

The steps include price cut of non-urea fertilisers, providing free irrigation during the Aman season and rebate on electricity charges for farmers, increased supply of quality cereal seeds in the market through  
SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

## Roadmap for ICT in healthcare imperative

The Daily Star leadership colloquium concludes with call to grab the opportunity, make Bangladesh a global example

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh may lose a big opportunity to make its mark in the world in ICT-based healthcare if it fails to formulate an effective policy and implement it in partnership with the private sector, experts said yesterday.

They were speaking at the concluding session of The Daily Star Leadership Colloquium on ICT in Healthcare: Strategic Roadmap for  
SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

Bangladesh yesterday. Experts from home and abroad attended it and made a number of recommendations.

The speakers said Bangladesh had many opportunities in the past to show excellence in many sectors but it couldn't cash in on them for lack of timely steps.

They suggested formulating a policy and roadmap with a vision in  
COLLOQUIUM SPECIAL-PAGE 9

### COLLOQUIUM RECOMMENDATIONS

- Bring about a change in health care approach
- Form a working group on ICT in health
- Adopt a holistic policy for using ICT in health care
- Employ an integrated system for smooth exchange of data
- Train the frontline health workers dealing with the stakeholders
- Forge public-private partnerships for the sector's growth
- Ensure coordination to cut out repetition of work
- Encourage development of low-cost technologies at home

## BNP's road march to Ctg starts today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is set to announce fresh agitation programmes, including mass processions across the country, from a rally in Chittagong tomorrow, ending a two-day road march.

The main opposition party's road march towards the port city starts this morning from the BNP headquarters in the capital's Naya Paltan.

According to the schedule, Khaleda will address the rally at the Polo Ground in the port city tomorrow afternoon.  
SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

### NEWS ANALYSIS

## Offending lawmaker, outraged citizens

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

Kamal Ahmed Majumder, member of parliament and an influential cog in the wheel of the ruling Awami League, on Tuesday struck television journalist Aparna Singha on the hand. That act, apart from causing her pain, was also an unpardonable assault on one individual by another.

Besides, in a society, in any society for that matter, you  
SEE PAGE 7 COL 1



### Gratitude

**Samson H Chowdhury**, Chairman, Square Group, passed away on 5th January 2012. Our family members are receiving condolence messages from friends, well-wishers and relatives from both home and abroad. We are deeply grateful to each one of them for standing beside us at this moment of our bereavement. On behalf of all our family members and entire Square Group, we thank you for your kindness.

Mrs. Anita Chowdhury and family members



A void that can never be filled.

Samson H. Chowdhury, 1926 - 2012

Visionary, entrepreneurial, ethical, humane, patriotic and inspirational. An iconic leader and a legendary Bangladeshi, he will serve as a role model for future generations. On behalf of Apex Adelchi Footwear Ltd. and Syed Manzur Elahi Enterprises, we convey our deepest condolences to his family. May his soul rest in eternal peace.



## We Deeply Mourn

The Board of Directors and the employees of Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited are deeply grieved at the sad demise of

**Mr. Samson H Chowdhury**  
Chairman of SQUARE GROUP

on 5th January, 2012. Late Mr. Chowdhury was a great human being, a business leader and was an icon in Bangladesh in the industrial field. His death has spread a pall of gloom over the business community and his departure is a great loss to the nation.

We express our heart-felt condolences and sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and pray to the Almighty Allah for the salvation of the departed soul.

