

**Today's Spelling Bee words from**  
 Topic: Who would you choose as woman of the year 2011?  

 Cchamps21.com

## TROUBLED STEELMAKERS

Sector leaders say many factories cut production as prices of raw materials spiral

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## ROMNEY SCORES BIG

The US presidential hopeful has won a clear victory in the Republican primary election in Florida

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# Businesses warn of slowdown

Muhith plays it down

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Entrepreneurs yesterday warned of slowdown in investment and other economic activities saying none will dare to invest as banks are charging up to 21.5 percent interest on loans while massive depreciation of taka is increasing import costs.

Many are not getting loans on time, even at high interest rates, due to a liquidity shortage in banks, giving rise to a fear of a slowdown in economic growth, said the entrepreneurs at a discussion where they demanded easing of credit flow by cutting interest rates.

They also warned that the government might not be able to meet its revenue collection target of Tk 92,000 crore for the current year if the trend continues.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith however said he is ready to sacrifice a part of the economic growth to ensure overall macroeconomic stability. It is linked to interest rate and inflation, he said.

"Macroeconomic stability is important. The prospect of Bangladesh will be jeopardised unless there is macroeconomic stability," he said, advising businesses not to expect high growth of credit.

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On top of the thick glasses, SSC examinee Tasnim Rahman with poor eyesight uses a magnifying glass to see the letters on the first page of his answer sheet yesterday. A student of Sher-e-Bangla High School in the capital, he was appearing for the SSC at Motijheel Ideal School and College on the very first day of the nationwide public exams.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Pranab may arrive this month

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Indian Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee is expected to pay an official visit to Bangladesh sometime this month to review the current state of bilateral relations especially the US\$1 billion line of credit.

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## BNP out to scuttle war crimes trial

PM threatens litigation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday again issued a note of warning in parliament, saying her government would take "legal action" against those who were trying to impede the trial of crimes against humanity which took place during the

1971 Liberation War.

The premier also urged the people of the country to "mount pressure" on the BNP so that it refrained from assisting the war criminals.

"As the holding of the trial of war criminals is one of the political commitments

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## Road tragedy revisits

Schoolgirl crushed under bus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One more mother has gone through the tragedy of seeing her child die before her very eyes. A bus rolled over the little girl in Mirpur yesterday as mother and child were on the way to the latter's school.

Nine-year-old Sidratul Muntaha Paloma was the brightest student in class-II of the Ibrahimpur branch of Monipur High School and College. She was the only child of Khaled Azam Khan Shimul, an office assistant of

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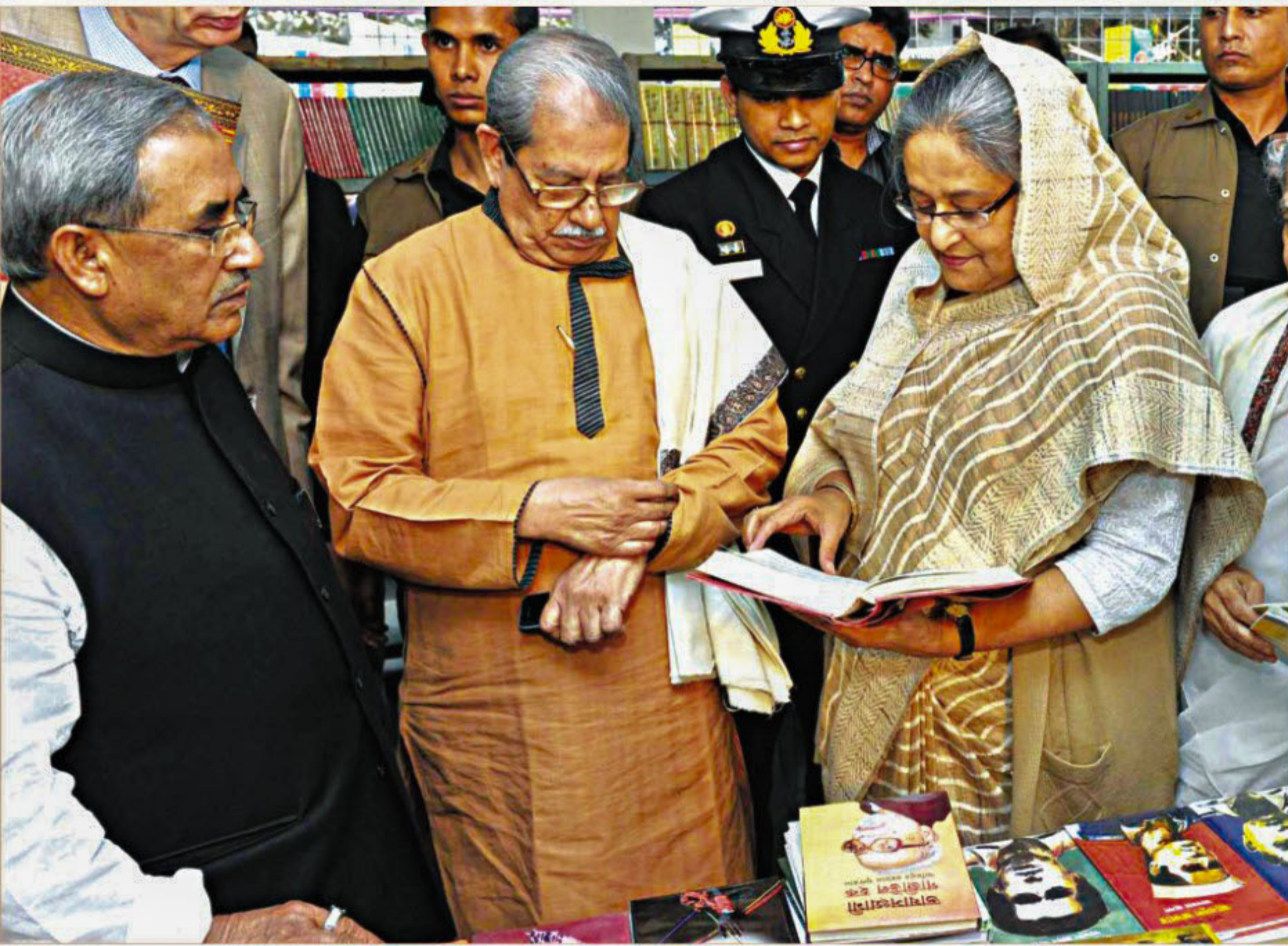
Sidratul Muntaha Paloma

## Question paper mix-up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of examinees faced difficulties on the very first day of the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and its equivalent examinations as they were provided with the wrong question papers.

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 MORE STORY ON PAGE 3



Inaugurating the book fair, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina skims through a book at a stall of the month-long Amar Ekushey Boi Mela at Bangla Academy in the capital yesterday afternoon while Prof Anisuzzaman and Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad look on.

PHOTO: PMO

**The Daily Star Spelling Bee**  
 Horlicks

## Star begins Spelling Bee contest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's first English spelling competition, "The Daily Star Spelling Bee", kicked off yesterday.

The contest, taking place on the web at www.champs21.com, aims at students from class six to ten of both Bangla and English medium schools.

Spelling Bee is an internationally acclaimed

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## Stocks hit 27 months low

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A steady fall in share prices brought the key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange below 4,000 points for the first time in the last 27 months, with stocks suffering more than 6 percent loss yesterday.

The DGEN, the General Index of the premier bourse, came down to 3,887 after a drop by 266 points at yesterday's close.

The DGEN, which stood at 3,383 points on November 15, 2009, crossed the 4,000-point mark the next day.

Analysts said the finance minister's remark on the national economy had dented investors' confidence further amid a liquidity crisis in the market for a tight monetary policy.

In a parliament session on Tuesday, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said the national economy was under a "dark shadow" because of uncertain trends on the global economic front.

Apart from this, a fruitless meeting of the Securities and Exchange Commission on Tuesday belied investors' hope that was reflected in yesterday's trading, said the

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## Bangla in Arabic script

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

The creation of Pakistan was in a good number of ways the emergence of a dilemma.

There was, in the first place, the very modus vivendi on which the state had come into being. Carved out of India as a separate homeland for the Muslims of the subcontinent, the new state nevertheless was politically undermined by the fact that a very large number of Muslims, higher than the total population of

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TIME TO

# HONOUR

BUSINESS LEADERS

It is time again for the prestigious



The Daily Star

Bangladesh Business Awards

For the **12th** time, we are going to honour the individuals and organizations for their outstanding contribution to business and the economic growth of the country. Your valuable nomination will help us pick the right nominees. Please log on to our websites:

[www.dhl.com.bd/bba](http://www.dhl.com.bd/bba)  
[www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)



Last date for filing nomination is 23 February 2012

## The Nomination Goes to...

<b>Business Person of the Year 2011</b>	<b>Outstanding Woman in Business of the Year 2011</b>	<b>Enterprise of the Year 2011</b>	<b>Best Financial Institution of the Year 2011</b>	<b>Nominator.</b>
Nominee:	Nominee:	Nominee:	Nominee:	Address:
Company:	Company:	Company:	Company:	Phone:
Why:	Why:	Why:	Why:	Email:
				Fax: