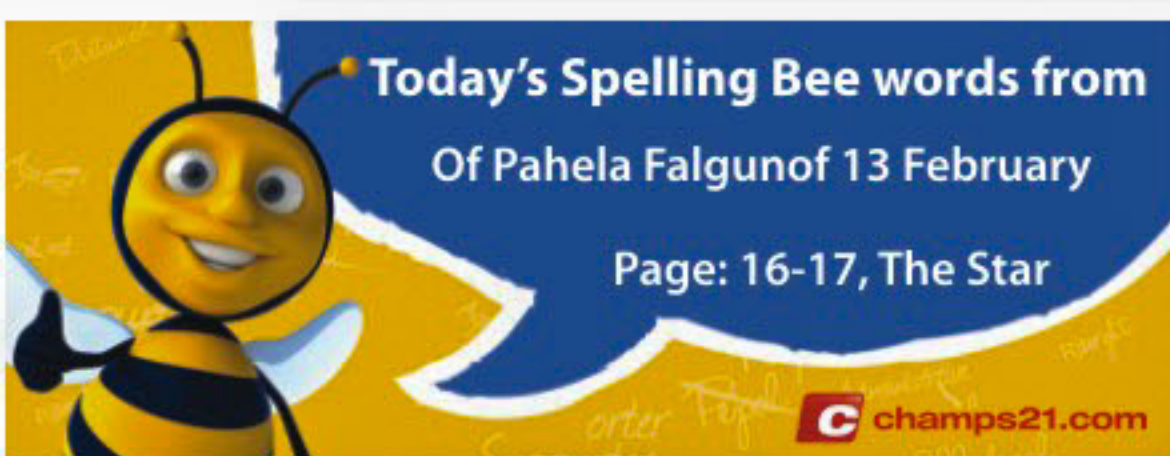


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Today's Spelling Bee words from
Of Pahela Falgun of 13 February
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ZOELICK TO LEAVE WB

A fight could be looming over US dominance at the global lender

PAGE B1

A GLEAMING DIAMOND

The world of legendary classical vocalist Girija Devi

PAGE 11



WAR CRIMES

Trial obstruction to invite legal action

JS passes resolution for new law after drama; law ministry's views ignored

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliament yesterday passed a resolution calling upon the government to enact a law to take action against those obstructing the ongoing war crimes trial.

The resolution was adopted despite opposition from the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, which is unprecedented.

Opposing the motion brought by AL lawmaker Benjir Ahmed, state minister for law Quamrul Islam assured the House that the government would soon take action against those hindering the trial "under the existing laws".

But treasury bench lawmakers protested Quamrul's suggestion and rejected it outright, saying if the motion was withdrawn, the collaborators of 1971 would benefit.

In the face of fierce objections, the state minister gave in and said, "I agree with the

sentiment of the House."

Quamrul spoke on behalf of Law Minister Shafique Ahmed, who was absent from the session yesterday.

Contacted by The Daily Star, Quamrul later said that he did not see the passage of the motion as his defeat and that it would "expedite the war crimes trial".

At present, six top Jamaat-e-Islami leaders and two BNP leaders face charges of committing crimes against humanity, including genocide, murder, rape and arson, during the country's 1971 Liberation War.

The accused persons include former Jamaat chief Ghulam Azam, the party's present chief Motiur Rahman Nizami, Naye-e-Ameer Delawar Hossain Sayedee and secretary general Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed and BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5



WHEN WILL THEY EVER LEARN? A man walks across the street dangerously, putting his life and also the life of the child at risk of a serious accident. The moment was captured in the capital's Rampura on Wednesday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

JOURNO COUPLE MURDER

Suspects identified claim cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives have claimed to identify some suspects who could be involved in the murder of journalist couple Sagar and Runi six days ago.

"We have identified some suspects and most of them are under constant watch," Monirul

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

TRIAL OF GHULAM AZAM

Al Jazeera report draws flak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rights activists and champions of the war crimes trial yesterday came down heavily on Al Jazeera television channel for broadcasting a report that said the ongoing trial would throw the country into further politi-



Ghulam Azam

cal instability.

They alleged the Qatar-owned news channel's story, aired yesterday, might help provoke instability in Bangladesh.

The report dealt with former Jamaat-e-Islami ameer Ghulam

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

Blake goes to Grameen Bank

Hails microcredit wonder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women's empowerment by microcredit has helped Bangladesh reduce poverty very quickly, and ultimately discouraged extremism and radicalism in the country, a top US official has said.

Bangladesh provides an

SEE PAGE 6 COL 7

US wants consensus for credible polls

Likes to see 2 leaders to work together

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United States has expressed its opposition to extra-constitutional power grab, and urged for a political consensus on a mechanism for holding credible elections in Bangladesh.

"We condemn any attempt



Robert O Blake

to stage military coup, and support the current government," said US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Robert O Blake responding to a question at a media briefing yesterday wrapping up his three-day visit to Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



After the killings...

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

When the police fired on students at Dhaka University on February 21, 1952, it was an entire Bangalee nation which was left in a state of shock. A number of young men died in the course of the firing, which was absolutely

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

HC ruling against distorted Bangla

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court in a suo moto rule yesterday directed the radio and television channels authorities not to use distorted Bangla or foreign languages in Bangla

SEE PAGE 7 COL 6



Kids leave Amar Ekushey Boi Mela premises with bags full of new books yesterday. The fair authorities dedicated the hours from 11:00am to 3:00pm of the day exclusively for children. Story on page 2

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

No doctoring of stock probe report: Muhith

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith has said he will step down if anyone can prove a distortion of Ibrahim Khaled's probe report on the recent stockmarket scam.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

Food dept's Jan 27 test cancelled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ministry of Food and Disaster Management yesterday cancelled the January 27 written test for recruiting sub-assistant inspectors and lower

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

3 killed in 'gunfight' with Rab

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Three suspected robbers were killed in a 'gunfight' between their cohorts and law enforcers in Companyganj upazila of the district early yesterday.

Two of the dead were identified as Joynal Abedin, 38, second-in-command of infamous

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

EC to update voter list from Mar 10

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Enumerators will begin door-to-door visits from March 10, collecting information on new voters to update the voter list for the next parliamentary elections. The elections are set for January 2014.

The four-phase work, which also includes updating of photographs, is expected to end by May next year, according to an Election Commission decision.

Those already registered as voters can

apply for any correction during the process.

The task in the capital will begin in early October but on a very small scale -- only a part of Lalbagh area -- as the commission may go for the polls to the bifurcated Dhaka City Corporation by May.

The updating of the list for the capital will be in full swing from January next year.

EC officials say they are preparing for

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

NON-PARTY GOVT BNP to join JS if govt offers talks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP is ready to join a dialogue in parliament on the formation of a non-party government, party leader Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said, only if the government initiates the negotiation.

"BNP will not participate in election if it is not

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

BIBIYANA POWER PROJECTS Summit seeks US help to get WB funding

Signs deals for Meghnaghat project

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leading local power company Summit yesterday signed two agreements with international companies GE Energy and NEPC-CNEEC Consortium for building the 335 megawatt Meghnaghat dual-fuel combined cycle power plant.

As per one agreement signed with

Summit Meghnaghat Power Company Ltd, GE Energy will supply gas turbine and provide a long term spare parts service.

Under the other agreement, US-China consortium NEPC and CNEEC will provide the engineering, procurement and construction services for the project.

At the signing ceremony, Summit chief

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4