

**Today's Spelling Bee words from**  
The Colours of February  
Page: 18, 19, Star Campus  
champs21.com

**INTERCONTINENTAL RETURNS**  
Agrees to take over Ruposhi Bangla  
PAGE B1

**IRAN'S NUKE AMBITION**  
The UK foreign secretary fears  
"a new cold war"  
PAGE 7

**BANGLA ACADEMY Awards go to 10**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Bangla Academy yesterday announced its literary award for 2011 in nine fields of literature.  
Dr Shamsuzzaman Khan, director general of the academy, named the 10 winners of Bangla Academy Sahitya Award 2011 at its premises.  
The awardees are  
SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

## Big parties backing extortion

*Transport sector crime pushes up prices of essentials; minister, businesses share frustration*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
The big political parties are encouraging extortion in the transport sector in their own interest, Commerce Minister GM Quader said yesterday.  
"Extortion at different places and under different names is on and it is causing prices [of essential commodities] to go up," he said speaking at a seminar on modernisation of agriculture and acceleration of farm produce exports.  
Quader, a presidium member of the Jatiya Party, a key component of the Awami League-led ruling alliance, said, "Big political parties are encouraging it [informal payments and extortion] more than discouraging it."  
He said political parties do not go tough on this kind of extortion since they need people to get votes for them. Extortion in the transport sector has become a norm and people involved in it consider it their legal business and their right.  
Now there is an effort to "legalise" this extortion.  
Quader's remarks came a week after Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan along with some transport leaders demanded before a parliamentary sub-committee that extortion in the transport sector be made legal to "stop corruption in the transport sector".  
SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

## Help try war criminals

Hasina urges Khaleda; slams her for threatening govt

UNB, Sandwip, Ctg

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday alleged that the BNP chief's 'Dhaka Cholo' programme is "designed to protect the war criminals" facing trial for their involvement in killings, plundering and rapes during the Liberation War.  
"Trial of war criminals is our election pledge. It must be accomplished. I want your cooperation," she told a huge rally at a ground close to Sandwip Haji AB College yesterday afternoon.  
SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



## Restore caretaker or quit power

Khaleda tells govt; warns of tougher agitation after Mar 12 rally

STAR REPORT

The ruling party must ensure that the next general election is held under a non-party government or it has to step down, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has said.  
"The ball is now in their [government] court. They must take measures to hold the general election under a neutral and non-party government. It does not matter whether the name of that government is caretaker or something else," Khaleda said at a huge rally on the Adarsha Samad School  
SEE PAGE 7 COL 4



**Progressive politics on the move**  
SYED BADRUL AHSAN

After February 22, events moved with remarkable speed. On April 26, 1952, as Abul Maal Abdul Muhith remarks in his State Language Movement in East Bengal 1947-1956, a non-communal organization called East Pakistan Students' Union was established. Additionally, leading progressive Bengali intellectuals came  
SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

STALEMATE OVER CARETAKER

## AL, BNP shift a little, show some hope

HASAN JAHD TUSHER

Both the ruling Awami League and the main opposition BNP now appear open to breaking the deadlock over ways to hold the next parliamentary elections.  
Sources said the two archrivals have primarily discussed at their respective party forums the issue of installing an interim government. They, however, want  
SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

to look further into it before coming up with a formal proposal.  
AL is ready to discuss the matter, provided the opposition places a proposal in parliament to that end, said a senior leader of the party.  
Until early this month, both the parties stuck to their stance on the caretaker government system. BNP was saying it  
SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

NEWS ANALYSIS

SIR NINIAN FORMULA

## Rejected then, reviewed now

SHAKHAWAT LITON

To break the political stalemate, Awami League now seems to prefer an interim administration comprised of members from the ruling and opposition parties for holding the next parliamentary polls.  
Back in 1994, the AL had rejected this very formula  
SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

## Star pledges for youths

*Celebrates its 21st anniversary*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star yesterday celebrated its 21st anniversary with a pledge to promote the country's youth and be a part of their endeavours in taking Bangladesh to new heights.  
In a colourful ceremony at the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, the English daily shared its joy of success with its readers, writers, well wishers and patrons.  
"More than 70 per cent of the country's population is below 40," Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of the daily, told the gathering. "This makes us perhaps the youngest population of the world."  
SEE PAGE 19 COL 1



The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam introduces to the audience 16 young leaders, who are aged below 35 and regarded as change makers in their domain, during the newspaper's 21st anniversary celebrations at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital yesterday evening.

PHOTO: STAR

## Yunus banks on youths

*Says they will change politics*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday called for an alternative political stream in the country, saying politicians were failing to fulfil the aspirations of the people.

He said frustration over politics was deepening among the people. "People are not satisfied with the politicians. So, politics has to be pursued in new ways. Alternative political stream has to be introduced," said the microcredit pioneer.

The Nobel laureate's observations came at a get-together of development activists at the Gonoshasthaya Kendra in Savar.

Forty NGOs have organised the three-day event to mark 40 years of the nation's independence and the anniversary of Gonoshasthaya Kendra (Peoples Health Centre). On the first day yesterday, they accorded a reception to 40 distinguished individuals for their  
SEE PAGE 19 COL 1



Ten global standards. One great bar.

- BDS ISO 6935
- BS 4449
- ASTM 706
- DIN 488
- NFA 350 16
- JIS 3112
- AUS 4671
- NSZ 4671
- I.S. 1786
- GOST 10884

60 YEARS OF BUILDING THE NATION

A building requires around **5kg** of steel reinforcement per sq.ft. Then why **COMPROMISE ON SAFETY?**

**BSRM Xtreme**  
Feel safe with Xtreme Inside

www.bsrm.com