

The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

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24 PAGES PLUS RISING STARS PRICE : Tk 10.00



REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXII No. 40 | FALGUN 11, 1418 BS | RABIUL AWAL 30, 1433 HIJRI



Today's Spelling Bee words from
How to be an embarrassment to your friends
PAGE 6, Rising Stars
champs21.com

TAKA GAINING VALUE
Thanks to lower import pressure and central bank monitoring
PAGE B1

RUDD STEPS DOWN
The Australian FM resigns over leadership tussle with the PM
PAGE 6

STOCK CRASH VICTIMS

50pc interest waiver for small investors

Govt body prepares compensation package to be finalised in 10 days

REJAUL KARIM BYRON
A government committee has recommended waiver of up to 50 percent interest on margin loans taken by small investors who suffered financial losses due to the recent stockmarket crash.
The interest to be waived must be accrued within the calendar year of 2011 or the financial year 2011-12. It also recommended giving the adversely affected small investors a scope to pay the remaining 50 percent of the interest through quarterly instalments in three years.
Another recommendation is that 20 percent of all initial public offerings (IPOs) -- government and private -- to be issued in 2012 and 2013 be allotted for those small investors.
The committee defined that adversely affected small investors are those who deposited Tk 10 lakh or less of own money in beneficiary owners (BO) accounts, and incurred losses.

- **Remaining 50% interest to be paid over 3 yrs**
- **20% of all IPOs to be allotted for small investors for 2 yrs**
- **Small BO accounts at loss 15.26 lakh**
- **Interest accrued in those accounts Tk 499cr**

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Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha, the authority for developing Dhaka, is filling up a portion of the Balu river in Rugganj near Sector-14 of its Purbachal housing project. The River Saving Taskforce, formed to protect rivers, recommended that the Balu be kept at least 100 metres wide there, now it is just over 30 metres.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

MANMOHAN-MAMATA TALKS

Farakka dominates, Teesta ignored

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, from New Delhi



Mamata Banerjee

Paschim Banga Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's meeting with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh yesterday focused on the leakages in the Farakka barrage, which, she claimed, had led to an excess water flow to Bangladesh.
However, a brief discussion took place between them on the sharing of water of the Teesta River with Bangladesh.

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Steep decline in Teesta water flow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The volume of water in Teesta irrigation canal has dropped down to 450 cusec while that of the Teesta River below 1,000 cusec as India, the upstream country, is apart from withdrawing, diverting the water.
Water board officials said the volume of water in Teesta drops steeply in December-March as India holds almost all the water during that period.
According to the officials of Bangladesh Water Development Board, Bangladesh needs 3,500 cusec of water during the lean period in February-March.
"We cannot open the sluice gates of the irrigation canal everyday as the water might flow down to the

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Major power plant shut for over 20 months

Slow bidding process, change of decisions behind delay

SHARIER KHAN

Even 20 months after a major gas-fired power plant in Ghorashal went out of order due to negligence of its technicians, the Power Development Board (PDB) could not select a contractor to repair it due to a slow bidding process and change of decisions.
The damage of the 210 megawatt plant in July 2010 worsened the coun-

try's load shedding situation. As it remains out of order, the government is spending extra money to buy similar amount of power from rental power plants, said a well-placed PDB official.
While the lowest purchase price of power from rental plants is Tk 4.8 per kilowatt hour, the same amount of power from Ghorashal plant, built by Russian company Technopromexport,

costs less than Tk 3. This means the government is counting heavy replacement cost.
The government had taken urgent measure to reduce the load shedding by taking up rental power projects as a short term solution. These plants having three to five years' contract are now generating more than 1,500

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RESORT ON BEACH

HC summons Oli, asks for explanation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned Liberal Democratic Party chief Col (ret) Oli Ahmed to appear before it on February 28 to explain his

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INT'L CALL MANAGEMENT

Anomalies found in state-owned telcos

ABDULLAH MAMUN

A government probe committee discovered anomalies in international call management at the two state-owned telecom companies, Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Ltd and Teletalk, which could cause loss of revenue for the state.
The committee submitted its report to

the telecommunications ministry yesterday in which it also said the two companies failed to extend proper cooperation towards the probe committee.
The six-member committee was formed two-and-a-half months ago to look into telecom operators' involvement in illegal voice over internet protocol.
The Daily Star has obtained a copy of

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SAGAR-RUNI MURDER

Journalists announce agitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The journalist community yesterday announced one-day work abstention for Monday to press home their demand for immediate arrest and trial of the killer(s) of journalist couple Sagar and Runi.
They also declared to observe a six-hour token

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DU STUDENT KADAR

Cop apologises for false case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The police officer who falsely implicated Dhaka University student Abdul Kadar in a robbery case has apologised to a Dhaka court and sought mercy from it, saying that he was compelled to do so under orders from his boss.
Sub-inspector of Khilgaon Police Station Alam Badsha, complainant of the case, also



Abdul Kadar

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PM wants EU

to nominate Prof Yunus as next WB chief

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday requested the European Union to nominate Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus as the president of the World Bank.
The premier made the request when visiting member of European

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Dhaka Wasa's road digging to install pipes for fresh water (not in frame) creates a traffic bottleneck at Kalyanpur in the capital. Stationary traffic on this patch of Mirpur Road during the day has become a norm with almost no sign of Wasa hurrying up its work.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

COMING OUT TOMORROW **theSTAR**
This week, the Star magazine's Cover Story focuses on the colonised minds. In our society, ridden with poverty and ignorance, white has become synonymous with beauty, and the advent of an array of so-called fairness products is helping the masses to take a dip into the white madness.
In a Special Feature, we tell the story of the thousands of non-Bengali Bangladeshis, who have been denied the right to their own languages. We have an exclusive piece on Humayun Faridi, where his friends and colleagues recall the versatile actor's life and works.
Recent twin murders of a journalist couple have put ethical journalism in the dock. How should news be covered, especially when women and children are involved?

Whitewashed

Ask your Hawker for your Copy