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21st Anniversary

Please ask your hawker today for the 80-page opening part of the special supplement on young achievers



SUN ON SUNDAY ON SALE

Rupert Murdoch's new tabloid pledges high ethical standards

PAGE 7

Today's Spelling Bee words from Bedi lambastes Dhoni
Page: 17, Sports
champs21.com

IT EXPOSITION ENDS

BASIS fair receives huge response

PAGE B4

Raise voice against move to protect war criminals

PM asks sector commanders UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the Sector Commanders' Forum (SCF) to mobilise public opinion against the "opposition's move" to protect the war criminals.

She made the call when an SCF delegation led by Maj Gen (retd) KM Safiullah met her at the Prime Minister's Office in the morning.

Hasina told the delegation that the trial of war criminals has begun and it will surely be held as their trial has turned into a people's demand, Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed reporters after the meeting.

Strongly criticising the BNP's "illogical programmes", Hasina asked the opposition leader to refrain from any attempt to protect the war criminals in the name of movement.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8



Toxic wastes from factories at Siddhirganj in Narayanganj have been posing severe environmental risks for years. The land has dried up and become discoloured and contaminated with hazardous substances. What is more dangerous is that toxic effluents keep flowing through this tiny canal into the Shitalakkhya, one of the major rivers in Bangladesh. The photo was shot recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

YOUNG ACHIEVERS SUPPLEMENT

I am delighted to announce that with today's issue, you will receive the first segment of our three-part 21st Anniversary supplement on the YOUNG ACHIEVERS OF BANGLADESH. Part 2 and 3 will be delivered to you on the 28th and 29th respectively.

The supplement has been the product of an exhaustive month-long research by The Daily Star to highlight and bring to national attention the excellent work that young Bangladeshis are doing across all sectors, be it in the country or outside.

The first segment is titled "Seed to Sapling and Higher" and covers achievers across four categories: Agriculture, Arts, Environment and Public Service & Professions.

The second segment, which is out tomorrow, is titled "The Young Fusing Knowledge with Skills" and covers Academia,

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

Transit to spin \$44m a year

Transport expert Rahmatullah says earnings to shoot up once total infrastructure in place

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh could earn about \$44 million a year by providing transit to India and its neighbours over the first five years while developing infrastructure for the facility, a transport expert said yesterday.

If the infrastructure was ready in five years, Bangladesh would annually earn half a billion US dollars from the sixth and \$1 billion from the 16th year.

Additionally, there would be an invest-



M Rahmatullah

ment boost alongside other positive impacts in various sectors, said M Rahmatullah, a member of the government committee on transit, during a dialogue at Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation.

The country would need three to five years to get its transport system in top gear for taking the load of the entire transit traffic, he said.

"For Bangladesh, transit will open up

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

Indian experts start Farakka water probe

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

A team of Indian government experts yesterday visited the Farakka Barrage to take stock of its two broken sluice gates.

The team, headed by RC Jha, chairman of Central Water Commission (CWC), inspected broken gates 13 and 16, three days after West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee complained to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh about the fault which she claimed allowed excess water flow to Bangladesh. Jha later told reporters

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

MURDERS IN LAXMIPUR President pardons a criminal twice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The president has granted mercy to convicted killer AHM Biplob for the second time in seven months. This time, Biplob's life sentence in each of two murder cases has been reduced to a 10-year imprisonment.

Biplob is the son of Abu Taher, an Awami League leader and mayor of Laxmipur municipality. Earlier in July last year, Biplob was pardoned by President Zillur Rahman in the advocate Nurul Islam murder case, in which he was given death sentence.

A home ministry source yesterday said Biplob was given life term in each of BNP activist Kamal murder case of 2001 and Shibir activist

Mohsin murder case of 2000.

The ministry on February 8 issued a letter, stating that the president being kind has reduced the life term convictions of AHM Biplob (inmate no-2009/A) to 10 years rigorous imprisonment, effective from the date of the jail warrant.

The president has also pardoned Biplob's associate Babor, who had also been awarded life sentence in the Kamal murder case. His sentence has been reduced by seven years, added the source, requesting anonymity.

The two are now serving their jail terms in Laxmipur jail.

Biplob had been convicted in

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

20,000 websites for people by 2015

Govt moves to take e-services to rural areas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will launch 20,000 websites by 2015 to take e-service to the masses in efforts to materialise its vision of Digital Bangladesh.

The websites will be developed under the National Portal Framework (NPF) in districts, upazilas, divisions, ministries and directorates with a free web-hosting by the government, Anir Chowdhury, policy adviser for Access to Information (A2I) at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), said at a seminar yesterday.

The websites will have information on union and upazila parishads, social safety nets, and disaster warning through the mobile network, he said.

They will also include documents on land management, and forums for farmers and fisheries workers, said Chowdhury.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2



If one gets curious enough to stop and read the text of this poster to know who this Md Jamal Hossain is, he or she gets a little indication. All this poster says is Jamal might have some connection with DCC ward-12 Jubo League, a pro-ruling party organisation, and demands justice over August 21, 2004 grenade attack. But it does not mention his designation whatsoever. According to the text at the bottom of the poster, Jamal has at least 12 well-wishers who want such an unfamiliar face to get attention. Neither Jamal nor his followers have stopped to think that the Jatiya Sangsad compound is a very restricted area. The picture was snapped a few days ago.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Dhaka keen on hydro plant

Sits with Delhi today to review electricity venture

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Bangladesh is expected to propose setting up of a joint-venture hydropower plant in north-eastern region of India in a Joint Steering Committee (JSC) meeting on power sector cooperation in New Delhi tomorrow.

If India agrees in principle to Bangladesh's proposal, then other steps

will be taken in this regard including choosing a site for the plant, from which Bangladesh could import electricity to meet its growing demand, a senior official of the Bangladesh foreign ministry told The Daily Star yesterday.

Dhaka is also likely to come up with a proposal to import power from Nepal and Bhutan through Indian territories.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

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