

60 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Saluting Timeless Ideas of Construction

Tens of thousands of skilled workers took 20 years to build the pyramid, using 2.3 million limestone blocks. Their construction technique was so exceptional that the Khufu's Pyramid still stands strong after 4500 years.

www.bsrn.com

BE SAFE BSRN

Be obsessed with sound

PHILIPS

► 600W RMS power ► Dolby Digital & Pro-logic II

► DVD, VCD, CD & USB playback

Price
Tk. 35,500

Get 10% discount*

For More Information:
9855366-8, 01712-665463

*Conditions apply

TRANSKOM DIGITAL

think electronics... think DIGITAL

Saleh cedes power

His 33-year rule ends as new Yemeni president takes over

BBC ONLINE

Yemen's president Ali Abdullah Saleh stepped down yesterday after 33 years in power and months of protests which took the country to the brink of civil war.

He formally handed power to his deputy Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi, who was sworn in as president on Saturday.

The transfer of power is part of a deal brokered by Gulf states. Saleh is also granted immunity from prosecution.

As part of the agreement, Hadi will serve a two-year term and oversee the drafting of a new constitution.

Aides to the former president have said Saleh will go into exile in Ethiopia within two days along with some of his family members, the Associated Press reported.

Saleh becomes the fourth Arab leader to be removed from power after more than a year of mass protests in the region. He only returned to Yemen on Saturday after



Ali Abdullah Saleh

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, inset, addresses a rally in Lalmonirhat yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



No fair polls possible under political govt

Says Dr Kamal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fair election under a political government is not possible as the two major parties have never shown any semblance of neutrality in the past, commented noted jurist Dr Kamal Hossain.

"That is why the general election in 1986 was foiled, election in 1988 was not acceptable and political crisis intensified in 2006," he recalled.

Dr Kamal was speaking

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Girl 'kidnapped', then set on fire

Dies after six days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 12-year-old girl succumbed to her injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) early yesterday, six days after she was allegedly set ablaze by her "husband".

Deceased Sonia Akhter was the only child of pick-up van driver Rafiqul Islam.

According to the victim's father, Sonia in her deathbed told him that Shamim, 18, and two other youths "abducted" and took her to Shamim's village Surajpur in Debidwar of Comilla district in the dead of night on January 8.

There Shamim had Sonia sign some papers which he later claimed to be mar-

riage papers, the father added.

On January 21, the Shamim allegedly told her that she was of no use to him anymore and the only solution before him was to kill Sonia and pass it as suicide, the father quoted Sonia as saying, adding that in the morning he poured kerosene on her and set her on fire.

Shamim's father Tajul Islam first rushed Sonia to a hospital in Comilla town with 97 percent body burn and later shifted her to DMCH the next day identifying the girl as Tahmina, 18. On Friday afternoon he informed Sonia's mother of

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Filmmaker Kumkum passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alamgir Kumkum, a noted filmmaker, freedom fighter and the founding president of Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote, died at a city hospital yesterday. He was 65.

Atikur Rahman, son-in-law of Alamgir told The Daily Star that Alamgir had long been suffering

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



SAGAR-RUNI MURDER Journos observe 1-hr token strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalists at all the newspapers, television channels, news agencies, and online media across the country abstained from work for one hour yesterday to press for the arrest of the murderers of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi.

The newsmen wore black badges and stopped working from 12:00noon to 1:00pm.

They also demanded fair investigation into the killings of all of their fellows and exemplary punishment to the killers, stopping repression on media men and freedom of the press.

Sagar, news editor at private TV station Maasranga, and his wife Runi, a senior reporter at another TV channel, ATN Bangla, were killed in the wee hours on February

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Rejoinder, our reply

In a rejoinder to a Daily Star report headlined "2,000 Jhau Trees on beach cut down", published on February 19, Range Forest Officer of Inani Range under Cox's Bazar South Forest Division Sunil Kumar Debroy claimed that the news was not based on facts.

The range officer said a total of 205 stumps of tamarisk (jhau) trees were seen at the spot. He said of the total remains only three were of recently cut trees. He claimed that as Jhau trees are very strong,

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

IF HOSTILITIES BEGIN...

- 1 British infantry battalion will fly to UAE
- 2 More troops follow to Oman, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Qatar if requested
- 3 A second nuclear sub sails to the region
- 4 RAF Typhoons and Tomahawks fly to bases in Qatar, Oman, Bahrain and UAE

Britain's plans for war with Iran

THE SUN ONLINE

Britain is drawing up plans to send hundreds of troops and an extra nuclear sub to the Gulf as tension mounts with Iran.

Defence chiefs are convinced the UK will be swiftly sucked into any new conflict with Tehran's fanatical regime.

They say it is a matter of when not if war breaks out - with 18 to 24 months the likely timescale.

The Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force (RAF) will have crucial roles if hostilities are triggered by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's nuclear stand-off with the world.

The UK will first fly an infantry battalion to the United Arab Emirates, our strong ally in the region, The Sun can reveal.

The move would be a public show of

support, demonstrating that Britain is ready to defend the UAE if it comes under attack from Iran. The UAE is separated from Iran by just 34 miles of sea across the Strait of Hormuz.

Further troops could follow if our other allies Oman, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Qatar ask for help.

The Royal Navy has already quietly gathered seven warships in the Gulf. HMS Daring -- one of its newest and most powerful destroyers -- arrived in the region last month to join Type 23 frigate HMS Argyll.

Minesweepers Pembroke, Quora, Middleton and Ramsey are based in Bahrain and a nuclear submarine is lurking in the area.

Under the war plan, a second sub

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

HSC exams schedule revised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the face of protests by HSC examinees of the science group, the government yesterday deferred the mathematics examinations by nearly a month.

According to the revised routine, examinations of two papers of

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

PRAYER TIMING		February 28
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-15	5-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-05	6-10
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think it was justified for the prime minister to accuse main opposition BNP of instigating the bloodbath in Bangladesh Rifles headquarters three years ago?

Yes (10.2%)

No (86.9%)

No Comments (2.9%)

TOTAL VOTES: 588

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think clemency given by the president to convicted criminals encourage crimes?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

www.thedailystar.net

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT

facebook.com/dailystarnews

GHULAM AZAM'S CHARGE HEARING

Wartime footage shown at ICT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal yesterday was shown a series of video clips on the Liberation War of 1971 during the charge-framing hearing against former Jamaat-e-Islami kingly Ghulam Azam.

The clips, presented by the prosecution, were picked from news reports aired in different international channels during the war and documentaries.

The footages include wartime reports by the American broadcasters CBS, NBC

and ABC, an interview of martyred filmmaker and litterateur Zahir Raihan and a documentary on Mainuddin, an Al-Badr commander who has been staying in the UK since 1973.

More pieces of video clips on the battles between the coalition force and Pakistan, and the surrender of Pakistan forces too were screened at the tribunal.

The prosecution had earlier announced that the video clips would reveal the role of Ghulam Azam during the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

SPELLING BEE Young spellers going ahead

SHAHNOOR RABBANI

There were hugs and greetings all around at the Mirpur branch of Scholastica yesterday as three of their students made it through to the second round of The Daily Star Spelling Bee contest.

Friends, classmates and teachers greeted sixth-grader Shuddho Ukil and seventh-graders Anika Bushra Rahman and Aryan Rahman for their success.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7



The Spelling Bee contest at Juvenile English Medium School, Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR