



Today's Spelling Bee words from MS the only choice?  
Page-17, Sports  
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**FOCUS ON EXPORT DIVERSITY**  
Canada Showcase 2012 takes off in the capital  
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**RUSSIAN ELECTION**  
Vladimir Putin elected president for third term  
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## Female workers left in the lurch

Ministry sits on safety issues of domestic helps abroad; abuse reported mostly from Lebanon

**PORIMOL PALMA**  
The government seems little bothered about protecting female Bangladeshi domestic workers from abuse abroad, particularly in Lebanon which recruits the highest number of

women migrants from Bangladesh. Two years back, the authorities concerned had pledged, first, to provide the workers with cell phones so they could seek immediate help while in trouble and, second, to open a

regular embassy in Beirut, the Lebanese capital. However, both the pledges are yet to be fulfilled. The issue has come to the fore recently as female migrants mainly from

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## Govt creating obstacles

Alleges BNP about Mar 12 rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is obstructing people's participation in the March 12 BNP rally in the capital, claimed party's acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday.

He said the law enforcers were intimidating Dhaka hoteliers and bus owners to prevent people outside Dhaka from joining the rally.

"The government has started to create

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## Stimulus offered to stock losers

Govt allows 50pc interest waiver, IPO quota for affected small investors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Small investors who suffered losses due to the recent stock market slump will get a 50 percent waiver of interest on loans, the finance minister said yesterday.

The interest to be waived must be accrued within the 2011 calendar year or financial year 2011-12.

"The order will come into effect from

Monday [today]," AMA Muhith revealed to reporters as he emerged from a meeting at his secretariat office.

The government has also decided to give the affected small investors a scope to pay the remaining 50 percent of the interest through quarterly instalments in three years.

The small investors will also enjoy a

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## Housewife tortured for dowry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housewife in the city was hospitalised yesterday after she was brutally beaten up by her in-laws for failing to meet their dowry demand.

Nilufa Akhter, 26, was allegedly beaten by her husband Abdul Hakim, his brother Abdul Halim and her mother-in-law Setara Begum.

Police detained Hakim

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On November 2, 2011, people protesting the killing of Narsingdi municipality mayor Lokman Hossain torch this intercity train, an instance of people taking the law in their own hands. FILE PHOTO

## Flouting law is now 'law'

Violence spirals as peaceful protests go ignored, offenders unpunished

RIZANUZZAMAN LASKAR and M RAHMAN

Instead of seeking help from the authorities, more and more people

are venting their anger and displeasure by blocking roads, vandalising cars and burning train bogies.

Social issues experts say a lack of

punishment for offenders and authorities' undermining peaceful protests lead to such mob violence.

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## No US base in Bangladesh

Envoy Mozena refutes media reports on special forces

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The US Ambassador to Bangladesh, Dan Mozena, yesterday rejected news reports that there is a permanent base of US special forces in the country.

"There is no question of US bases in Bangladesh," he told reporters after a meeting at the Detective Branch headquarters at the capital's Minto Road.

"US special forces come here often for various purposes and leave. We have cooperation with Bangladesh and it is all about partnership.

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## Bangabandhu's writ runs in East Pakistan

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

On this day in 1971, the whole of Bangladesh was in a state of ferment.

With each day passing by and with the central government of General Yahya Khan paralysed by the non-cooperation movement led by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, it was

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