



Today's Spelling Bee words from
Riding a high wave
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'THE DEATH OF POOR JOE'

The oldest surviving film based on the works of Charles Dickens

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DRAVID CALLS IT QUILTS

The Indian batsman announces his retirement from international cricket

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RICE FARMING

Cost-cutting method gets little attention

Lack of govt efforts blamed for not promoting use of technologies that cut irrigation, fertiliser cost by 25pc

PORIMOL PALMA

Production cost of rice can be slashed by one-fourth through coordinated application of some farming technologies, but steps are yet to be taken for their large-scale use across the country.

Guti urea (fertiliser), alternate wetting and drying (AWD) and buried pipe technologies -- developed years ago -- are now used in around 15 lakh hectares out of some 150 lakh hectares of land usually under rice cultivation.

When these methods are applied, output increases with reduced input, thus cutting production cost.

Yet these never got due attention from successive governments.

Agriculture scientists, rice researchers and officials concerned



PHOTO: STAR

The alternative way to irrigate paddy fields that saves water.

gave out this information when contacted by The Daily Star.

Isolated use of one of the three technologies cuts production cost by 10 to 15 percent, but combined use of guti urea and AWD or guti

urea and buried pipe methods reduces it by up to 25 percent, agriculturists said.

The issue is now getting focus since production cost of paddy this Boro season could be over Tk 650 a maund because of increased diesel and urea prices while paddy now sells at Tk 550-600 a maund.

The price of diesel, used for irrigation pumps, went up by 30 percent in the last one year and urea price increased by 40 percent.

CQK Mustak Ahmed, who was agriculture secretary for about three years till he was transferred to the home ministry recently, said the three farming methods were not taken seriously earlier but the authorities are now working to ensure their large-scale use. He,

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Restrictions all around

Guests 'not allowed' in hotels, apartments, bachelors' messes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Is there any outsider in this house?" asked one of them.

It was around 12:45am yesterday at a five-room bachelor mess in Uttara, Dhaka. Mohammad Yeasin, an apparel merchandiser, was preparing for sleep in his room.

Suddenly, he heard somebody banging on the door. As he opened the door, six to seven people walked in, woke up the residents

and searched all the rooms.

The plainclothes officers carrying pistols and handcuffs ordered Yeasin and others not to allow any outsider in the house for the next two to three days. Then they left in a police van, a car and two bikes.

Similar incidents took place in some other bachelor messes and also residential areas like Japan Garden City in Mohammadpur, sending waves of panic across the city.

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Arrests shoot up

STAR REPORT

Ahead of the March 12 opposition rally in Dhaka, law enforcers in 24 hours arrested hundreds, many of them leaders and activists of BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami.

According to sources at the police headquarters, the number

of arrestees across the country was 2,849 in 24 hours until 6:00am yesterday. At least 80 people were arrested in the capital alone. On an average day, police detain 2,000-2,200 people in the country.

Police headquarters, however,

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Defy threat, obstruction

Khaleda asks people to join March 12 rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson

Khaleda Zia yesterday asked the government to stop its activities intended to hinder the BNP rally in the capital on Monday and said the consequences of these would not be good.

"I am requesting you all to come to Dhaka and attend the rally ignoring all intimidation and obstructions," Khaleda urged the people in a statement issued yesterday.

She made a similar appeal to city dwellers adding that the rally would be peaceful and lawful.

"The government has started mass arrests and hundreds of leaders and workers have been arrested. Police are searching houses, offices and party offices. The government did not give permission for the selected venues and did not allow us to



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Yahya to be 'our guest'

Said Bangabandhu
SYED BADRUL AHSAN

On this day, a flurry of activities characterised West Pakistan, with political figures such as Khan Abdul Wali Khan, Mian Mumtaz Mohammad Daultana and Air Marshal (ret) Asghar Khan making the demand that the regime accede to Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's demands as a way of resolving the political crisis.

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Truck ploughs into bazaar

7 killed, 30 injured

A CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

At least seven people including a small boy were killed and 30 others injured when a furniture-laden mini-truck crashed into a crowd at a roadside haat in the district's Sadar upazila yesterday.

The dead were identified as Harun Fakir, 40, Obaidul Sheikh, 20, Sujan, 40, Siam, 6, Sabbir, 18, Hibad Molla, 25, and Babul Khan, 40. All hailed from different villages under Sadar upazila.

Of the injured, 22 including Anwar Talukder, 55, Milon, 35, Bimal Biswas, 75, Arif Mia, 12, Yusuf, 60, Shamim Molla, 25, Nasir Sheikh, 40, Bakul Khan, 40, Billal, 22, Rahmat, 22, Mahub Kazi, 30, Rakib, 12 and Kazi Masud, 23, were admitted to Gopalganj Sadar hospital in critical condition.

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4 Bangladeshis killed in Saudi road crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four Bangladeshi workers were killed when a pick-up carrying them crashed in Al Qahtani, 850 kilometres off Jeddah in Saudi Arabia, on Thursday.

Three of the victims-- Abu Sayeed, son of Abdul Jabbar, Kamruzzaman, son of Abdul Munshi, Noor Mohammad, son of Abdus Sobhan-- were from Chakoria upazila in Cox's Bazar district; while Md Hasan was from Dhaka, said a foreign

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Tough law for education

Draft says govt approval a must before fixing tuition fees; commission to be formed to fix fees in universities

WASIM BIN HABIB

All educational institutions will have to take approval from the government before fixing tuition fees and other charges.

Registration of the institutions flouting this rule and charging extra fees will be cancelled and punitive actions will be taken against them, according to a draft of the Education Act.

The education ministry has finalised the draft of first-ever Education Act that says the government will form a regulatory commission for fixing student fees in universities.

The Act aims to implement the guidelines of the National Education Policy-2010. The education ministry on January 26 last year formed a sub-committee to formulate the act. The committee submitted the draft act

titled 'Education Act/Integrated Education Act' to the ministry last month.

Educationists, however, are quite sceptical about fixing the students' tuition fees upon the government's approval.

Rasheda K Choudhury, former primary education adviser to a caretaker government, said it would

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Gruesome murder

Body found in 8 pieces

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday recovered the headless body of an unidentified man chopped into eight pieces from the city's Jatrabari area.

The victim, aged around 30, might have been killed Thursday night, Sub-Inspector Sobhan Sharif of Jatrabari Police Station told The Daily Star.

Informed by locals, law enforcers around 7:00am recovered the pieces of the body stuffed in four sacks and left scattered on Nayapara Post Office Lane in Donia area. The head was missing.

Tk 2,950 and blood-stained clothes of the deceased were found in another sack dumped nearby.

Officer-in-Charge of Jatrabari Police Station AKM Abul Kashem said, "We did not see blood

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We Mourn



International Islamic University Chittagong (IIUC) expresses "deep shock and sorrow" at the demise of Mr. Khalaf Al Ali, the Second Secretary and Chief of Citizen Affairs of Royal Saudi Arabian Embassy at Dhaka, who was killed on 06.03.2012

(Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi rajeoon). This heinous incident had left a deep sense of sorrow and sympathy amongst all members of IIUC family including its Trustees, Teachers, Officers and Students. No words are enough to express our sympathy over this tragic and most unfortunate incident. We convey our deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathy to the members of his bereaved family and to the Saudi Mission in Dhaka as well.

We demand a proper investigation into the incident and bring the perpetrators to the court of justice immediately. We pray to the Almighty Allah (SWT) for the salvation of his soul and to accept him as a Shaheed (Martyr).



الجامعة الإسلامية العالمية شيتاغونج
International Islamic University Chittagong

We deeply mourn



Mrs. Jarjina Ahmed, Hon'ble Founder Member of the Board of Trustees, University of Asia Pacific (UAP) has passed away yesterday (March 9, 2012) afternoon (Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi rajeun). She was daughter of Late Murtaza Reza Chowdhury and wife of Late Hedayet Ahmed, the Founder Vice Chancellor of University of Asia Pacific and Founder Member of University of Asia Pacific Foundation.

Members of the UAP family deeply mourn her demise and pray that May Allah grant her Jannah.

Her namaz-e-janazah will be held today, after Zohr prayers at Gulshan Azad Mosque. She will be laid to rest at Banani graveyard.



UNIVERSITY OF ASIA PACIFIC