



**WORLD E-CONNECTED**  
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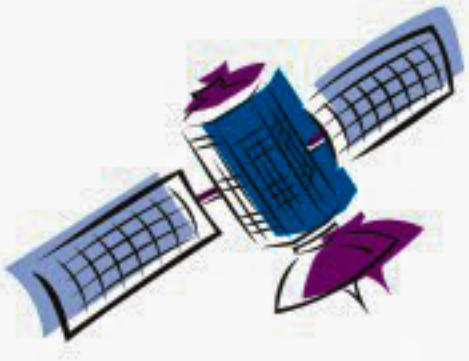
**'HIGH TREASON'**  
 India's army chief on the release of a letter that terms its forces unfit  
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**TAMIM IN PUNE WARRIORS**  
 The team have signed the Bangladeshi batsman for the fifth session of IPL  
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# Satellite by 2015

Deal signed with US firm

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
 Bangladesh will launch its first satellite into space by 2015 in a landmark move towards opening a new era in communication and broadcasting and creating new businesses.  
 Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission yesterday signed a Tk 82.5 crore consultancy deal with a US firm, Space Partnership International (SPI). The firm will design the satellite, named Bangabandhu, officials said.  
 The satellite will reduce reliance on foreign satellites for cable channels and improve telecom services to the remote areas of the country.  
 Moreover, meteorological data, including



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 PHOTO ON B1



People stand in a long queue at Chittagong Railway Station to get train tickets. Tickets like this one are very precious as scalpers have taken over. People quite often fail to get tickets waiting in line for hours.  
 PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

## TRAIN TICKET CRISIS IN CTG New system, old result

TAREK MAHMUD, Ctg  
 Scalping of train tickets at Chittagong Railway Station is not being curbed despite the railway authorities' preventive measures.  
 The authorities reduced the lead time for buying advance tickets from 10 days to 3 days since February 17 in an attempt to make saleable tickets available at the

counters right before departure of trains, and also to curb scalping. The measure is applicable to all routes across the country.  
 But it failed to produce any positive result in Chittagong. The long queues at the ticket counters have been getting longer, and tickets for certain trains have been vanishing within hours of opening the counters.  
 Railway sources and sufferers said

ticket scalpers continue to buy off a good portion of the tickets leading to an artificial crisis.  
 Omar Faruk, who was trying on February 20 to get tickets for February 23, said, "I waited for more than two hours in the queue, but failed to get tickets when I reached the counter."  
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## In Chittagong, about Chittagong, for Chittagong

Chittagong edition, Odommo Chattagram from today  
 From today *The Daily Star*, with support from some of the biggest Chittagong based business houses, starts a 12-day long festival in Chittagong, about Chittagong, and for Chittagong, ending on April 10.  
 It will start with a music concert at MA Aziz Stadium this evening with some of the biggest names in band music like LRB, Renaissance, Arnob and many upcoming bands and artistes of the port city. This will be followed by theatre, painting, and photo exhibitions participated by the most eminent theatre groups, painters, and photographers of Chittagong.  
 A most unique feature of the festival will be

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## Electricity price hiked

Effective from March 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
 The government yesterday hiked electricity prices by Tk 0.28 per unit for bulk consumers and Tk 0.30 per unit for retail users with retrospective effect from March 1 this year.  
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## KEPZ in crisis

DoE scraps its environmental clearance certificate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
 The Department of Environment (DoE) has cancelled the environmental clearance certificate issued to Korean Export Processing Zone (KEPZ) in Chittagong due to unauthorised hill cutting and filling of water bodies in the project area.  
 DoE Director (enforcement) Mohammad  
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## Speaker vexed at fresh BNP boycott

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speaker Abdul Hamid yesterday strongly criticised opposition leader Khaleda Zia and her deputies for boycotting parliament afresh and questioning his neutrality.  
 The Speaker noted that Khaleda had issued a 90-day ultimatum to the

## PM speaks against caretaker system

JS session prorogued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday strongly opposed the idea that the caretaker government system is essential to holding a free and fair parliamentary election.  
 "It was necessary to hold election under a caretaker government when polls were massively rigged," the prime minister told parliament.



Elections were often rigged through a "media coup" or inclusion of fake voters in the voter list, she said.  
 Hasina alleged that nearly one million fake voters were included in the voter roll during the tenure of the previous BNP-led four-party alliance government.  
 But the Election Commission is now

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## POWER PRICE HIKE BNP may call hartal for April 4

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition BNP and its allies might call a dawn-to-dusk country-wide hartal for April 4 protesting the price hike of electricity.  
 The party could declare the shutdown from a rally to be held tomorrow in front of its central office at

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## MULTI-STOREY PARKING LOT GRAFT Khoka, 6 others sued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday sued former Dhaka City Corporation mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, Land Reform Board Chairman Nurul Huq and five others for corruption in a multi-storey car park project.  
 According to the case statement, the corruption took place between 2007 and 2009 and caused a Tk-827 crore loss to the national exchequer.  
 ACC Deputy Director Harun-ur-Rashid filed the case with Shahbagh Police Station.  
 He said an ACC investigation had found that Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) gave DCC a 27-katha land in Dilkusha through illegal means. The

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সৌন্দর্য, সাহসের যত গল্প  
**The Daily Star**  
**আদম্য চট্টগ্রাম উৎসব**  
 বিশেষ আলোচনা অনুষ্ঠান  
 ৩০ মার্চ, ২০১২; বিকাল: ৫ টা ১৫ মি. চ্যানেল আই  
  
 উপস্থাপনা: নাসিরুদ্দিন ইউসুফ  
 অংশগ্রহণে: মাহফুজ আনাম (সম্পাদক ও প্রকাশক, দি ডেইলি স্টার)  
 রেজাউল করিম মুশতাক (প্রেসিডেন্ট, চট্টগ্রাম সমিতি, ঢাকা)  
 আইয়ুব বাচ্চু (জনপ্রিয় সংগীত শিল্পী)  
 পরিচালনা: রাজু আলিম

## Foreign choice to cost more

20pc duty slapped on 71 imported items

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has increased tax on 71 imported items temporarily for three months to ease pressure on foreign exchange reserve and enhance revenue earning.



The NBR through an SRO yesterday imposed 20 percent regulatory duty on refrigerator, juice, biscuits, ready-made garments like lehenga, motorcycle parts and other luxury commodities till June 30.  
 An NBR official said the existing duty on these items is 60 to 150 percent. After imposing the fresh regulatory duty, prices of these items may go up by 25 to 30 percent.  
 NBR Chairman Nasiruddin Ahmed told *The Daily Star* most of these items are luxury commodities used by wealthy people. Imposition of new duty is not likely to put much pressure on them, he added.  
 He said the step has been taken to increase revenue collection as the government has to give subsidies on different items including fertilisers to provide relief to common people.  
 The commerce ministry had earlier sent a recommendation to the finance ministry to impose regulatory duty

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**Professor Rafiqul Islam**  
 Professor Emeritus and Former Vice Chancellor  
 University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh  
 Recipient of **Independence Award 2012**  
 thrilled  
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