

**60 YEARS**  
A building requires around **5kg** of steel reinforcement per sq.ft. Then why **COMPROMISE ON SAFETY?**

**BSRM Xtreme**  
Feel safe with Xtreme Inside

www.bsrn.com

**Be obsessed with sound** **PHILIPS**

▶ 600W RMS power ▶ Dolby Digital & Pro-logic II  
▶ DVD, VCD, CD & USB playback

Price **Tk. 35,500** Get 5% discount\*

HTS 3530

**TRANSKOM**  
DIGITAL  
think electronics... think DIGITAL

For More Information: 9855366-8, 01712-665463  
\*Conditions apply

## Saarc trade, tourism fair begins in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-day trade and tourism exposition of Saarc countries opened in the city yesterday with a call to boost regional trade and introduce on-arrival visa for its citizens.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith inaugurated the 11th Saarc Trade Fair and Tourism Mart 2012 at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

Entrepreneurs from Saarc (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) countries are showcasing their products and services in the categories of garments, textiles, leather, jute, handicrafts, herbs, foods, nursery, spices, jewellery, toys, agricultural machines, tour operators, cosmetics, and books.

About 350 stalls have

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



PHOTO: STAR

Kids sing and dance at the opening ceremony of Odmmo Chattagram festival, an initiative of The Daily Star to promote the port city, yesterday. More on page 1,5.

## Minar died of poisoning

Suspect doctors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted journalist Minar Mahmud, editor of now-defunct weekly Bichinta, died from poisoning, said doctors of Dhaka Medical College (DMC) on completion of his autopsy yesterday.

Dr Sohel Mahmud, a lecturer of forensic medicine department, said they found powder-like substances under Minar's fingernails and yellowish liquid in his stomach while conducting the post-mortem.

"From this, we conclude that he might have died from poisoning," he told The Daily Star.

The journalist was found dead at Dhaka Regency Hotel in the capital on Thursday afternoon. Police recovered empty strips of 150 sedative tablets and a letter along with the body in the sixth-floor room of the hotel.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

## KIDNEY CANCERS Major rise 'linked to obesity'

BBC ONLINE

Obesity is fuelling a major increase in the number of cases of kidney cancers diagnosed in Britain, experts say.

Cancer Research UK has published figures showing there were just over 9,000 cases in 2009, compared with just under 2,300 in 1975.

Obesity increases kidney cancer risk by about 70 percent, compared with smoking which increases it by about 50 percent.

Cancer Research UK says too few people understand the cancer risk of being overweight.

Kidney cancer is now the eighth most common cancer.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

## ADP IMPLEMENTATION

# Foreign aid to be cut 24pc

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The planning ministry has proposed slashing foreign assistance from the current Annual Development Programme by 24 per cent mostly due to non-availability of matching funds and delay in approval from the donors.

According to the proposal, foreign aid of Tk 5,110 crore would be trimmed from the ADP to Tk 16,095 crore, said ministry sources.

Besides, Tk 2,520 crore budget support would be revised to Tk 1,425 crore.

The revised ADP will be placed before a meeting of National Economic Council (NEC) on Sunday for approval.

The ministry has suggested carving the highest Tk 1,254 crore from the Padma Bridge Project.

An Economic Relations Division (ERD) report said finalisation of appointment of contractors for the project will not be possible by June next year as the donors are yet to approve the tender documents.

After reviewing 20 foreign-funded projects, the ERD has listed several reasons for lowering the foreign assistance.

For example, the bank guarantee submitted by the selected bidder of World Bank-funded Efficient Lighting Initiative for Bangladesh (ELIB) project was found fake. As a result the authorities concerned decided to go for re-tendering and a WB assistance of Tk 168 crore remained unutilised.

An ERD high official said in such cases the total tender process needs to start afresh.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

## AL leader shot dead in Cox's Bazar

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

An Awami League leader was shot dead in Kalamar Chhara Bazar under Moheshkhali upazila Thursday night.

Police said a gang of around 10 miscreants stormed into the office of Osman Goni, 55, vice-president of Moheshkhali upazila unit AL. They attacked Osman, also a former UP chairman, stabbing him indiscriminately. The gang fled the scene after shooting him dead.

As the news spread, agitated supporters of Osman Goni set fire to at least 25 houses of local criminal Ziaur Rahman and his gang.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

**CHITROMOY CHHOBIR CHATTALA HAT**

**Chittagong Festival**

With the formal launching of 'Odmmo Chattagram' festival, a Daily Star brainchild to promote the port city Chittagong, the curtain was raised yesterday for a plethora of socio-cultural events that will continue for the next 11 days.

On the sideline of the musical concert yesterday a week-long photography exhibition titled Chitromoy Chattala Hat was opened in the morning in the gallery of Theatre Institute, Chittagong. Out of 650 entries, award winning 80 beautiful images are on display.

A six-day long painting exhibition was also kicked off in Rashid Chowdhury Auditorium of the Fine Arts Institute of Chittagong University. The exhibition titled Chhobir Hat features the nature, rich heritage, life style, and the struggle of marginalised section of the people in Chittagong.

SEE PAGE 10-11

**The Daily Star**

**Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL**

Do you think it was justified for the government to increase electricity price at all levels for the third time in four months?

Yes (16.5%)  
No (81.4%)  
No Comments (2.1%)

TOTAL VOTES: 387

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think it is wise to impose tax on 71 imported items targeting more revenue earning?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)  
YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT [facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews)

**PRAYER TIMING** March 31

Fajr	4-45	5-20
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-20	6-25
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation



## Old trees felled in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Some 40 old trees on the premises of Barisal General Hospital are being felled to construct a drain and footpath along the boundary wall of the hospital.

During a visit to the hospital early yesterday, this correspondent noticed that workers of a contractor selected by Barisal City Corporation (BCC) had felled four mango trees.

Preparations for felling dozens more palm, mango, mahogany and other trees were going on to construct the drain and footpath by a road in front of the hospital.

Contacted, Anisur Rahman, executive engineer of BCC, said "Workers of the contractor cut down the trees without informing the BCC authority."

PHOTO: STAR

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

These trees are on the verge of being chopped down as development work continues in front of Barisal General Hospital.

**Discover new avenues for your Business & Promote the Tourism sectors in SAARC Nations**

**11th SAARC Trade Fair & Tourism Mart '12 Bangladesh**

**30 March ~ 01 April, 2012**  
Time : 10:00 am ~ 08:00 pm  
@ Bangabandhu International Conference Centre  
Sher - e - Bangla Nagar, Dhaka - Bangladesh

[www.11thsaarctradefairandtourismmart.gov.bd](http://www.11thsaarctradefairandtourismmart.gov.bd)

**Organizer**

Ministry of Commerce Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
In co-operation with Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

**Media Partners**

Event Manager **CEMS**