



The Daily Star

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Mali coup leaders agree to stand down in exchange for amnesty
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The region is Ctg's oyster

Experts want deep seaport to turn the city into economic hub in south, south-east Asia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Chittagong has immense potential for becoming a regional economic hub, but delays in building a deep seaport may mar the chances of that happening with Myanmar fast coming up as a challenge in light of its opening up to the outside world.
Business and trade experts shared the concern at the economic conference, "Future Chittagong: Future Bangladesh", organised by The Daily Star and the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) at the Chamber House of the port city yesterday.
The conference was part of the Odommo Chattagram festival, an initiative of The Daily Star to project the history,

culture and economic prospects of Chittagong.
Participants in the discussion said Chittagong, which lies between China, Myanmar and Northeast India, could become a regional economic zone and contribute to the overall development of Bangladesh.
So, a regional economic zone should be centred in the port city to take advantage of its geographical position in South and Southeast Asia, said Salahuddin Kasem Khan, trustee secretary of AK Khan Foundation.
Citing the example of China's success through establishing a Special Economic Zone (SEZ), he said India had followed the model and was now building an SEZ in

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These three post boxes, one for local, one for national and one for international mail and painted in different colours, can hardly be identified as post boxes. The slots for dropping the mail have also been covered up by the posters. The photo was taken near Sonargaon intersection in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Go for proper maritime policy

Seminar spurs govt on building capacity of navy, coastguard

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A national maritime policy is necessary to explore, protect, and make the best use of biological and non-biological resources in the Bay of Bengal, speakers told a seminar yesterday.
It is a must now to enhance the capacity of Bangladesh Navy and the Coast Guard to protect Bangladesh's interests in the Bay, they said.
The speakers suggested the government form a single authority that can be called National Maritime Commission to coordinate its agencies and stakeholders operating in the Bay.
Bangladesh Institute of International Strategic Studies organised the seminar "The Need for a National Maritime Policy of Bangladesh" at its auditorium in the capital.
They also stressed the need for creating opportunities for higher education and research on sea and oceans.

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BNP takes back its greetings

Fakhrul says they congratulated govt by mistake

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The BNP yesterday withdrew the felicitation it had extended to the government after Bangladesh won the maritime boundary case against Myanmar at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea last month.
Acting secretary general of the party Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said the



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WATER TRANSPORTS

Fare hiked up to 35pc

PANKAJ KARMAKAR and SUSHANTA GHOSH
After three and a half years, the government has decided to hike the fares for all state-run ferry services by 25 percent and passenger vessels by 35 percent due to the rise in fuel prices.
The new fares are likely to come into effect from Tuesday after a meeting with the stakeholders today at the office of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC), said its General Manager (commercial) Mosharraf Hossain Hawlader.
Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan will be present in the meeting. The ministry has already given its approval to the fare hike.
The fares were last increased in October 2008, following which the fuel prices have soared by 42 percent in several phases, added Mosharraf.
According to the new fare structure, passengers will have to pay Tk 750 instead of Tk 565 for a first-class one-way trip on the 169-km Dhaka-Barisal route.

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No caretaker government

Reiterates PM
UNB, Dhaka
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday turned down again the opposition's plea for restoring the caretaker government system.
"My words are clear... over 5,200 various polls

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DESTINY AFFAIRS

Govt to form commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said the government will form a commission to deal with the allegations against Destiny 2000 Ltd and return money to affected clients of the company.
The commission will be modelled on the panel formed

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And on this day, we pray that you may rest in peace and feel pleased to see all your initiatives and endeavors to have grown and prospered over time.

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