TRANSCOM

Poultry stares death

²₃ of farms shut in 5 years; govt inaction in tackling bird flu, lack of policy support blamed at Star roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government's negligence in tackling bird flu has driven the poultry industry to the brink of ruin as two-thirds of 150,000 farms went out of production in the last five years, sector leaders said yesterday.

The shutdown of thousands of farms cut into the production of chicken and eggs. The industry leaders now worry that Bangladesh that attained self-sufficiency in meeting domestic demand for protein such as chicken and eggs might again become import-dependent, without proper policy support.

Reduced compensation for culling bird flu-infected chickens and delayed disbursement of compensation funds forced many farmers to

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SITUATION GRAVE

Poor watch misses it all

M RAHMAN

The government does not have the real figure of bird flueaffected fowls due to poor monitoring and surveillance of the

total of 21 bird flu outbreaks

sources at livestock department and farm owners' associations. According to the Department of Livestock Services (DLS), a

livestock department, said were recorded from January 1 to April 5 this year across the country and 1,02,348 fowls were culled during this period.

> However, farm owners and **SEE PAGE 6 COL 3**



The Daily Star

Usually gridlocks dominate Shapla Chattar in downtown Dhaka but during hartal yesterday hardly any motor vehicles are seen there.

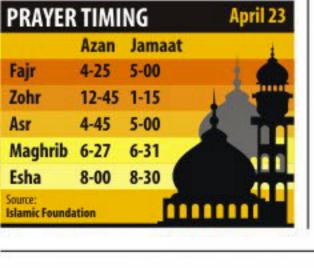
47 cops promoted to SP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday promoted 47 additional superintendents of police (ASP) to the rank of SP.

Besides, 53 officials, including those newly promoted, were transferred in the latest reshuffle of the police.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1



Myanmar Parliament

Suu Kyi's party postpones debut

Aung San Suu Kyi's party yesterday announced it would postpone its parliamentary debut, in the first sign of discord between Myanmar's newly elected opposition and reformist government. The democracy icon and other members of her National

League for Democracy (NLD) will not travel to the capital Naypyidaw to enter parliament today, spokesmen for the party told AFP, in a dispute over the swearing-in oath. "We are not boycotting, but we are just waiting for the

right time to go," said Suu Kyi, who won her first-ever seat in parliament in landmark April 1 by-elections, after a meeting on the issue in Yangon.

The NLD has baulked at the wording of the oath, which requires them to protect a constitution that was drawn up by the country's former junta.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

Suranjit's son gets ACC call

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ACC yesterday instructed the son of former railway minister Suranjit Sengupta to appear before it on April 26 and explain the sources of Tk 5 crore with which he has obtained an interconnection exchange licence from Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission.

Commission (ACC) Commissioner Mohammad Sahabuddin told The Daily Star

Anti-Corruption

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3 RELATED STORY ON PAGE 2

Leave economy alone

Businessmen urge political leaders to find an alternative to hartal

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Businessmen yesterday urged political leaders to find an alternative to hartals to ensure smooth running of the economy.

Hartals hamper both domestic and foreign investments, the business people said, adding that as a result employment shrinks. The strikes also present a bad image of the country, leaders of different chambers and trade associations said.

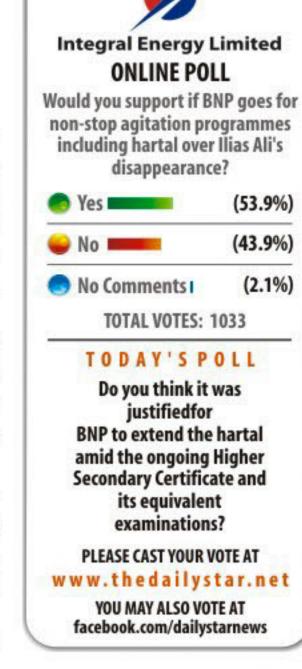
"We want alternatives to political strikes in the greater interest of the economy. Strike is a weapon for destroying the economy. The foreign investors get discouraged by such political strikes," said AK Azad, president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

He said hartal calling has been an outmoded act and that the political leaders should now prioritise job creation for fresh graduates. It is the responsibility of the government to protect the lives and properties of individuals in the country, Azad also said. Amjad Khan Chowdhury, president of

Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said hartals were definitely affecting the business activities as well as the economy. "But, we have to tolerate such undesir-

able political impacts. During strikes exports are affected badly. The internal transportation of goods is also hampered by the strike," he said.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina calls on Qatar Emir Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani in Doha yesterday.

РНОТО: PID



NOTICE TO TRADE



With effect from 01 May 2012, Marco Shipping Company (BD) Limited will be the new Agent in territory of Bangladesh for MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company S.A., Geneva.

The first MSC vessel to be handled under agency of Marco Shipping at Chittagong Port will be MV Vega Turmulin V-1218R ETA 02 May and ETD 05 May 2012.

All valued clients of MSC are requested to contact Marco Shipping Company (BD) Limited with regard to their import and export cargoes on MV Vega Turmulin V-1218R. Marco Shipping values and seeks the trade's continued support to MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company S.A., Geneva.

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