

**Electro**  
Symbol of Absolute Reliability

kWh Meter

ENERGY METER COMPANY LTD.  
Hotline: 01714021071  
Address: House-9/10/11, Road-4,  
Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212

# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

Your Right to Know

24 PAGES PLUS STAR INSIGHT PRICE: Tk 10.00

REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXII No. 353 | POUISH 29, 1419 BS | SAFAR 29, 1434 HIJRI



**AMINA SUNDORI**  
A play staged in Chittagong presents local folktale  
PAGE 11

**RED STAR OVER CHINA**  
A book narrates the rise of the Communist power in 1930s  
PAGE 24

**'STILL DANGEROUS'**  
US "not ready" to release photos from the raid that killed Osama  
PAGE 6

## ADDRESS TO THE NATION PM seeks support for another term

Warns against snatching of voting rights

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Addressing the nation on completion of her government's four years in office, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the people to give the Awami League another chance to run the country for continuation of the economic growth.

The prime minister also sought cooperation of the countrymen in completing the war crimes trial, and urged the BNP not to try to save the war criminals.

Her 30-minute televised speech highlighted the AL-led grand alliance

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2  
SEE FULL TEXT ON PAGE 13



### KEY POINTS

Public cooperation urged in trying war criminals

'Minus-two formula' plotters still active

Most of the electoral pledges fulfilled

Economy strong despite global recession

ACC, EC and judiciary working independently

Progress made in communications sector

## Reactions mixed

PM highlights successes, hides failures: BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's address to the nation drew mixed reactions from leaders of different political parties yesterday.

A few termed her speech frustrating since she did not give any clear idea about how the next parliamentary elections would be held. This has been a key issue in the country's political arena for a while.

The Daily Star talked to leaders of the main opposition BNP, ruling Awami League's allies in the grand alliance, and others to learn their views on the premier's 30-minute speech to the nation yesterday evening.

BNP Standing Committee Member Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman said, "The prime minister's speech frustrated people as she did not place any solution to the ongoing political crisis

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Muslims offers Juma prayers at Biswa Ijtema on the bank of Turag in Tongi yesterday.

PHOTO: POLASH KHAN

## First phase of Ijtema begins

Devotees swarm banks of Turag

HELEMUL ALAM

Defying bitter cold, lakhs of devotees from home and abroad yesterday joined the first day of Ijtema on the banks of the river Turag in Tongi to seek divine blessings of Allah.

The first phase of Ijtema, which will conclude with Akheri Munajat (final prayers) tomorrow, began with religious sermons by Maulana Jamil after Fajr prayers.

The second phase of the largest congregation of Muslims after Hajj will be held from January 18 to 20.

Maulana Qwari Zobayer, imam of Kakrail Mosque, led the Juma prayers at the Ijtema ground yesterday with rows of worshippers spilling out of the 160-acre ground, around 20km off the capital.

Vehicular movement on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway came to a halt for

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

## Mercury slightly up 2 more die in Lalmonirhat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The poor and the homeless continue to suffer in the cold wave sweeping across the country over the last few days with the minimum temperature ranging from 3 to 10 degrees Celsius.

Yesterday, the lowest temperature was recorded at 4 degrees Celsius in Saidpur where mercury dipped to 45-year-low 3°C on Thursday.

Temperature dropped to 4.1°C in Sreemangal,

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

## Record remittance despite ME crisis

Bangladesh earned \$14b last year

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPOLO

Bangladesh earned a record amount in remittance, more than \$14 billion, and exported the second highest number of workers last year despite the Middle East crisis, said researchers.

The remittance earning of the country was around \$ 13 billion in 2011.

Last year, Bangladesh exported more than six lakh workers. The largest number of workers, more than eight lakh, was exported in 2008, said sources of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment.

Although the migration rate increased by around 6 percent in 2012 over 2011, the growth rate began to decline from September owing to the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) sudden ban on manpower recruitment on various grounds, including allegations of malpractices in recruitment, said a report of Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU).

The RMMRU, a non-government organisation that works with migrants, said the UAE had received the largest number of workers, around 44 percent of

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

## Tailback on Dhaka-Ctg highway

Traffic comes to a halt after mishap

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thousands of passengers were stuck in a 35-kilometre long tailback on the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway for hours after a goods-laden truck overturned in Chandina upazila of Comilla yesterday.

The Dhaka-bound truck from Chittagong flipped over at Madhaiya around 7:00am, halting traffic on the road, reports

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

## 125 killed as deadly blasts rock Pakistan

AFP, Quetta

Extremist bomb attacks killed 125 people in one of Pakistan's deadliest days for years, raising concerns about rising violence in the nuclear-armed country ahead of general elections.

Two suicide bombers killed 92 people and wounded 121 after they targeted a crowded snooker club in the southwestern city of Quetta Thursday, in an area dominated by Shia Muslims from the Hazara ethnic minority.

Extremist Sunni militant group Lashkar-e-Jhangvi claimed responsibility for what was the worst single attack ever on Shias, who account for around 20 percent of Pakistan's 180 million population.

It was the deadliest attack in Pakistan since twin suicide bombers killed 98 people outside a police training centre in the northwestern town of Shabqadar on May 13, 2011 -- shortly after US troops killed Osama bin Laden.

Earlier Thursday, a bomb detonated under a security force vehicle in a crowded part of Quetta, killing 11 people and wounding dozens.

Separately, a bomb at a religious gathering in the northwestern Swat valley killed 22 people and wounded more than 80, the deadliest incident in the district since the army in 2009 fought off a two-year Taliban insurgency.

At the snooker club, the first bomber

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

People covering faces on the dusty Beribandh road in the capital's Lalbagh on Thursday. Travelling the worn-out road is getting harder by the day. The sufferings of those using the road get compounded by dusts kicked up by vehicles, especially in the dry season.

## VC must step down

Teachers, students of Rokeya University vow to continue agitation; three 'attackers' held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Turmoil at the Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur is set to continue even though the university had been closed sine die Thursday night.

The agitating teachers and students now say that they have only one demand and that is for the "corrupt" vice-chancellor to step down and that they would make a major push for it as soon as the university opens again.

Meanwhile, Vice-Chancellor Prof Muhammad Abdul Jalil Miah claimed that he would only step down if anyone could prove that he indulged in corruption.

On Thursday morning, unidentified criminals, reportedly Bangladesh Chhatra League activists, attacked agitating

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



## In memory of 10th death Anniversary

Today is 12th January, on this day we deeply remember our dearest founder Chairman of Shamsul Alamin Group Late **Al-haj A.K. Shamsul Alamin**, a renowned personality, a famous Industrialist, a social worker, charitable man and a former member of parliament. We pray to Almighty Allah to grant eternal peace for the departed soul of Late **Al-haj A.K. Shamsul Alamin**.

Humbly, we remain,  
All family members and  
Officers, Staffs and Workers

**Shamsul Alamin Group**  
Alamin Centre, 25/A, Dilikusha C/A, Dhaka - 1000