



DUTY-FREE RMG EXPORT

WTO chief for talks with **US Congress**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh should continue negotiation with the US Congress for a duty-free access of the country's main export items to the American market, Pascal Lamy, director general of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), said yesterday.

At present, Bangladesh garment

exporters pay 15.3 percent duty to enter the US market as the American government did not give duty-free access despite commitment for the same.

A negotiation is underway in the WTO to this end, Lamy told reporters after a meeting with Commerce Minister Ghulam Muhammed Quader at State Guest House Padma in Dhaka.

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Pascal Lamy



Artistes of Pallavi Dance Centre play the characters Modhusree and Surjosen in the dance drama Shapmochan at the Muktamancha of Jahangirnagar University yesterday evening. Standard Chartered Bank and The Daily Star organised the event as part of Celebrating Life, aimed at promoting culture and creativity.

CELEBRATING LIFE StanChart, **Star** present Tagore dance drama at JU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Standard Chartered-The Daily Star "Celebrating life" organised another enticing event at Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday evening -a Tagore dance drama performed by Pallavi Dance Centre.

Dr Farhad Hossain, pro vice-chancellor of JU, Soma Mumtaz, professor of drama and dramatics department, Minu Haque, director of Pallavi Dance Centre, Ahmed Reza, director of TSC, and Rafi Hossain of The Daily Star

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Hartal cannot stop war trial

PM tells Panchagarh public rally

BSS, Panchagarh

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the ongoing trial of war criminals would not be stopped in any situation created by the antiliberation forces and their political mentors.

"The anti-liberation forces are enforcing hartal, rampaging and killing people to create a situation to stop the trial.

"But, I want to make it clear that the trial **SEE PAGE 19 COL 3**

PHOTO ON PAGE 5

Target growth, investment

BB announces monetary policy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a bid to increase productive investment and achieve higher economic growth, Bangladesh Bank yesterday announced a slightly expansionary monetary policy for the second half of the current fiscal year.

BB Governor Atiur Rahman

announced the Monetary Policy Statement (MPS) where the private sector growth target has been upped by 0.5 percentage point and fixed at 18.5 percent to be achieved by June.

"A balanced monetary policy has been announced to achieve

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7 **MORE IN STAR BUSINESS**

A piece of wood saved him

An Indonesian drifts to Australia

AFP, Sydney

An Indonesian crewman who abandoned a stalled people-smuggling ship has washed up on a remote Australian island after days clinging to a piece of driftwood following the breakup of his makeshift raft.

The sunburnt, dehydrated man **SEE PAGE 6 COL 6**

after she was set afire

Woman dies a month

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Thirty-year-old Fatema Begum died yesterday, weeks after she was set on fire for demanding her child's paternity from the man

With 38 percent of her body burnt, she had been undergoing treatment in the Burn Unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital,

who she claimed was her husband.

where she breathed her last.

According to Fatema's family members, Jahangir Hawladar, a distant cousin with whom she had had a love affair for the last two years, made the attack.

His house is very close to hers and he ran a tea stall in the same village in Pirojpur.

He reacted angrily when

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FOREIGN WORKERS Malaysia slaps levy on salaries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia will have to pay a levy of TK 1,000 to 4,000 a month from now on.

The Malaysian Cabinet made a decision to impose levy on all foreign workers yesterday, according to a report on Star Online of Malaysia.

The decision is to be enforced with immediate effect on new foreign workers and those

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9.21cr voters on final list

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of voters in the country now stands at 9,21,29,852, Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad said yesterday.

Of them, 4,62,01,871 are males and 4,59,27,981 females. In the last three years, about 70.17 lakh people have been included in the list while 4.67 lakh dropped following their death, the CEC told a press briefing at the EC conference centre in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla

The commission published the final updated voter list yesterday.

More than 1.09 crore new voters will be entitled to exercise their franchise at the next parliamentary polls. Around 8.12 crore voters appeared on the voter's roll

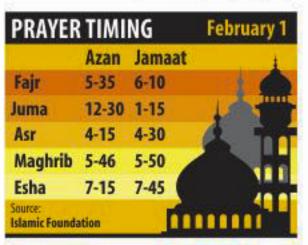
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Esha

PALTAN VIOLENCE Fakhrul gets bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir in a case filed for blasting cocktails and damaging vehicles in the capital's Paltan on December 9 last year. **SEE PAGE 6 COL 5**





SHAHNOOR RABBANI

(83%)

No Comments I

TOTAL VOTES: 360

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's allegation that the

agitating non-government teachers are

keeping contact with the opposition to

press home their demands?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

www.thedailystar.net

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT

off and landing.

Krishnapur Government Girls' High School in Pabna saw an impressive turnout at the Spelling Bee event in the school field yesterday. In the face of the countrywide hartal, more than 500 enthusiastic students from various

schools, teachers and parents joined the event to support 76 participants who showed their spelling skills.

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PHOTO: MAIL ONLINE



The finished version, funded by US defence department, will carry three times

more than the biggest military cargo planes. It is also capable of vertical take



Dhaka-1215, Tel: 9144330 (Hunting) & 8124944, Fax: 9144332, 8125155, 8126154, GPO Box No: 3257, e-mail: editor@thedailystar.net,reporting@thedailystar.net

