

BE SAFE BSRM



**CHANGE IS NOT AN OPTION!**  
Choose the best steel

BSRM Xtreme  
Feel safe with Xtreme Inside

www.bsr.com

TRANSKOM DIGITAL



**Samsung 40" LED TV only @Tk. 16,500\***  
Up to 6 equal monthly installments available at 0% interest  
No Additional Charge for Purchases Using Cards  
MRP: Tk. 99,000  
Buy Online [www.transkomdigital.com](http://www.transkomdigital.com)

0% interest 6 Months  
10% interest 6 Months  
FlexiBuy interest 6 Months

For More Information: 9855366-8, 01712-665463

# 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.



Pascal Lamy

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



Artists 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.

PHOTO: STAR

# 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

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

# 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 anti-liberation 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

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

# Woman dies a month after she was set afire

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 who she claimed was her husband.

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

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

SEE PAGE 7 COL 3



**PLAYER-OF-THE-MATCH: Sylhet Royals' Nazmul Hossain Milon, who hit a match-winning 45 not out off 29 balls, drives one down the ground during the BPL match against Rangpur Riders at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.**

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

GO CATCH THE excitement...

Charge Tk. 2/SMS (+15% VAT)  
For details: [www.grameenphone.com](http://www.grameenphone.com)

go beyond

# 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

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

# 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 Nagar.

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

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

# 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

PRAYER TIMING		February 1
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-35	6-10
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-46	5-50
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

**ONLINE POLL**

Do you agree with Information Minister Hasanul Haque Inu that the government has acted against all misdeeds?

Yes (14%)  
No (83%)  
No Comments (3%)

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](http://www.thedailystar.net)

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT [facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews)

# SPELLING BEE IN PABNA High turnout, festive mood

SHAHNOOR RABBANI

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 country-wide hartal, more than 500 enthusiastic students from various schools, teachers and parents joined the event to support 76 participants who showed their spelling skills.



SEE PAGE 19 COL 1



**A silver-skinned Aeroscraft prototype sits in its hangar in Tustin, California. 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 off and landing.**

PHOTO: MAIL ONLINE

af Alliance Française de Chittagong

ভোরা কন কন যাবি আঁর সাম্পানত

Boat Technology & Culture in Chittagong and Bengal

This is a sequel of **গান্ধী উত্তরান** organised by The Daily Star

3 - 9 February 2013  
Shilpakala Academy Chittagong & AFC Auditorium

Films - Songs - Conferences - Exhibitions -

BEHIND THE SEA  
Photo exhibition by Bruno Valentin, Julien Pannetier & Nazir Uddin Mahmud  
Zeppelin photo agency

BOAT TECHNOLOGY & HISTORY IN CHITTAGONG & BENGAL  
Exhibition by TaraTari, Watever, Gold of Bengal & Alliance Française de Chittagong

zeppelin aamra WATEVER AKK

af Alliance Française de Chittagong

ভোরা কন কন যাবি আঁর সাম্পানত

Boat Technology & Culture in Chittagong and in Bengal

This is a sequel of **গান্ধী উত্তরান** organised by The Daily Star

Venue: Shilpakala Academy Chittagong Open Stage & Gallery  
Alliance Française de Chittagong (AFC) Auditorium

3rd February, Sunday - 'Karnaphuli or nodi'  
4.30 PM: Official Opening of the Festival at Shilpakala Academy Chittagong (Open Stage)  
Chief Guest: Mahfuz Anam, Editor & Publisher, The Daily Star  
7.00 PM: Film 'Titash Ekti Nadir Naam' by Ritwik Ghatak (Shilpakala)

4th February, Monday - 'Bangopasagar'  
10.00 AM: Film 1- Samuel Berthet: Bengal Maritime History in Perspective (AFC)  
11.00 AM: Jean-Francois Salles: The Bay of Bengal and the Ancient Maritime routes  
11.30 AM: Film 'Christians and Spices' Portugal's search for India (AFC)  
12.30 PM: Prof. Momin Chowdhury: History of Bengal, A Maritime Perspective (AFC)  
2.30 PM: Film 'Bullion for goods' The Dutch come to trade (AFC)  
3.30 PM: Yves Marre: Boats of Bengal yesterday and today (AFC)  
7.00 PM: Film 'The River' by Jean Renoir (Shilpakala)

5th February, Tuesday - 'Kon Kon Zabi'  
11.00 AM: Shahhaj H. J. Leena: Sea & sky wisdom of Chittagong Mariners (AFC)  
12.00 PM: Film 'An affair of the State' French ambitions in India (AFC)  
5.00 PM: Book Exhibition (Bishaud Bangla)  
6.00 PM: Concert Abdul Gafor Hall, Babul Jal Das, Proma Abritti Sanghata (Shilpakala)

6th February, Wednesday - 'Egije Chalo'  
10.00 AM: Chamber of commerce and industry: presentation TaraTari-Gold of Bengal-Watever Marc Van Peteghem and team, Thibaut Saint-Olive - Alexandra Sourbier - Corentin de Chatelperron  
7.00 PM: Film 'The Last Sailors' (Shilpakala)

7th February, Thursday - 'Shutki Khao'  
7.00 PM: Bruno Valentin & Julien Pannetier: 'Behind the Sea' - Zeppelin photo agency (AFC)  
8.00 PM: 3rd Stow Food Festival (AFC)

8th February, Friday - 'Sampant'  
11.00 AM: Visit Taratari Shipyard (Kalurghat-AK Khan)  
3.00 PM: Launch of the 1st Fiber Boat - Gold of Bengal Watever  
Chief Guest: Abdul Latif Siddiqui, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Textiles & Jute, Govt. of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh  
Special Guest: His Excellency Michel Trinquier, French Ambassador to Bangladesh

9th Saturday - 'Dipot Zaum'  
12.00 PM-4.00 PM: Annual Game Sonadia Paschim Para School (Sonadia, Cox's Bazar)  
Youth for Change - Biodiversity Club AFC  
Photo Exhibition: 3-9 February (10 AM - 8 PM) at Shilpakala Gallery