

BE SAFE

BSRM



FATIGUE

TESTED

DUCTILE ROD

BSRM Xtreme500W

KEEPS YOUR BUILDINGS SAFER FROM NATURAL DISASTERS

BSRM Xtreme

Feel safe with Xtreme Inside

www.bsrm.com

A TRANSCOM Product

মহা ফুটিতে বছর পুতি  
YEAR END BUMPER SALE

Find us on Facebook  
www.facebook.com/transcomlight  
www.transcomdigital.com

\*Conditions apply

19"

TLED1901

Available at all TRANSCOM DIGITAL & authorized dealer outlets

Only @ Tk. 5,634

Up to 3 EMI

@ 0% Interest

MRP: Tk. 16,900

TRANSTEC

Confirmed Gift

8GB Pen Drive OR HDMI Cable

No Additional Charge For Purchases Using Cards

0% Interest

FlexiBuy

For More Information: 9855366-8, 01712-665463

# Export stops

## Goods piled up at industries but no way to ship those

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

Factories are overflowing with finished goods due to the countrywide blockade that began on November 26, with many factory owners considering temporarily shutting down production for a dearth of storage space.

For instance, take an apparel factory spanning 20,000 square feet that produces 1,500 pieces of garments each day. After accommodating the cutting, sewing, finishing and packing workstations and office space for management, the factory would be left with storage space of 3,000 to 5,000 square feet, enough to accommodate 7-10 days' output.

Now, if the plant is unable to send out the finished products in 9 out of 10 days, it would easily reach its storage limit. In reality, most of the factories are staring at this conundrum, thanks to the nine days of countrywide blockade that the opposition alliance has enforced in the past 10 days.

Nizam Uddin, production manager of AG Textile Mills, which manufactures fabric for the garment sector, said the factory has been hit at both ends by the blockade: both the inflow of raw materials such as yarn and outflow of fabrics, have stalled.

Although the textile mill managed to carry out production as of yesterday, Nizam says the problem will become acute in a couple of days' time. "Most definitely, we will have to stop production for want for raw materials and storage space."

Bengal NFK Textile, another similar factory, however, is less fortunate: lack of storage space has ground its production to a halt. It is now considering sending its workers off on casual leave.

"Our machines are designed in such a way that it will keep running for 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. If we

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



In a convoy, over 100 tankers loaded with jet petrol head towards Shahjalal International Airport in the capital from Narayanganj during the opposition's blockade yesterday. Every day just enough fuel is taken to the airport in this way to ensure a smooth operation of flights. The photo was taken at Farmgate.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

POLLS OBSERVER  
Too early to say  
Says head of C'wealth team  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Commonwealth would decide whether it would send observers for the next general elections in Bangladesh after considering its political situation, Martin Kasiye, head of the democracy section of the Commonwealth Secretariat, said yesterday. "It is too early to say that.... We are not in a position to say what the secretary general [of the Commonwealth] will

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

# Non-stop blockade looms

## BNP mulls harsher programme from next week; Khoka detained; Rizvi sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led 18-party opposition alliance might enforce an indefinite blockade of roads, rail and waterways from Saturday or Sunday if the government does not give in to its demand for a non-party polls-time government.

BNP spokesperson Salahuddin Ahmed yesterday issued an ultimatum to the government to meet the opposition demand by 5:00pm today, or else the opposition would announce tougher agitation programmes.



Khoka

who has been hiding to avoid arrest, told The Daily Star over the phone.

Meanwhile, detectives and Rab members last night picked up BNP Vice-president Sadeque Hossain Khoka from a house at Sector-4 in the

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad's decision to back out from the electoral race has boosted the morale of the opposition camp. The BNP now thinks that it is the proper time to make a final push to thwart the government's move for a one-sided national election.

"This is the right time to hit the iron," a BNP leader, told The Daily Star over the phone.

capital's Uttara, a close aide to Khoka told this newspaper.

In a video message sent from an undisclosed location to the media, Salahuddin said, "We'll be forced to announce tougher programmes if the government fails to make a proper response to our demand."

"We want to tell the prime minister [Sheikh Hasina] that there is still time. Postpone the schedule for a one-sided election. Shun the path of confrontation for the welfare of the country," he added.

Talking to this newspaper, a mid-level BNP leader close to its acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said it is certain that the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

# Hasina won't budge

## Appears adamant on holding polls with or without other parties; says 'no' to change in polls schedule

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government remains firm in going ahead with elections on January 5 even though its former ally Jatiya Party has decided not to take part.

Despite the blow from the Jatiya Party and the BNP-Jamaat-led opposition's violent movement, Hasina told her party colleagues, "I will bow down to no one."

"Nobody will be able to foil the election and there is no scope for changing the election schedule. If someone tries to stop the polls, he or she will be arrested no matter who that person is," a party leader quoted her as saying during a meeting of the Awami League Central Working Committee at Gono Bhavan last night.

The meeting at length discussed the Jatiya Party's decision not to take part in the polls even after its candidates had filed nomination papers.

Hasina told the Awami League leaders at the meeting that her party would be in the election even if no other party took part.

She asked party nominated candidates for the upcoming polls to go their constituencies and begin their campaign. She also urged them to make sure there was a high voter turnout and all steps were taken to maintain law and order.

She directed her party leaders and lawmakers to launch counter strikes on the BNP-Jamaat men if they tried to attack people and Awami Leaguers to foil the polls.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Dairy farmers dump milk on the road at Sat Matha of Rangpur city protesting the opposition-called blockade, which makes them unable to sell or transport the milk, which goes bad.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

# Solution not from abroad

Nisha Desai stresses AL-BNP talks

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United States has again stressed the need for dialogue for resolving the ongoing political crisis to have free, fair, credible, and peaceful elections in Bangladesh.

US Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs Nisha Desai Biswal made the call while addressing a press interaction on US Foreign Policy Priorities in South and Central Asia in Washington on December 3.

"The solutions are not going to come from the international community. The solutions are there within the people and the institutions and the parties of Bangladesh, and what needs to happen is for that dialogue that allows a compromise..." she said in response to a question.

Biswal also said a compromise might emerge through dialogue that will allow elections to take place that the people of Bangladesh can have confidence in and can feel are credible.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

# Newsweek

## Print edition again

AFP, New York


International current affairs magazine Newsweek plans to relaunch its print edition in early 2014, just over one year after ceasing publication to focus on its website, the New York Times reported Tuesday.

Newsweek editor in chief Jim Impoco was quoted as saying that the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

PRAYER TIMING			December 5
Fajr	5-15	5-50	
Zohr	12-45	1-15	
Asr	3-45	4-00	
Maghrib	5-19	5-22	
Esha	7-00	7-30	
Source: Islamic Foundation			

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think Ershad will stick to his latest stance of not participating in polls?

Yes

31%

No

69%

TOTAL VOTES: 399

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think FBCCI will succeed in convincing political parties to leave the path of violence?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

# Return our looted treasures

## Chinese think-tank tells visiting UK PM

AFP, Beijing

British Prime Minister David Cameron yesterday faced demands for the return of priceless artefacts looted from Beijing in the 19th century, on the last day of his visit to China.

Cameron travelled to the southwestern city of Chengdu on the third day of what embassy officials said was the largest ever

British trade mission to the country.

British officials say deals worth 5.6 billion pounds (\$9.2 billion) have been signed so far on the trip, but Cameron has been derided by both Chinese state-run media and the country's sharp-tongued Internet users.

The prime minister last Friday set up his own microblogging page on Sina Weibo, China's version of Twitter, attracting more than 260,000 followers by yesterday evening.

He invited netizens to ask questions,

# BISHWAJIT MURDER

## Verdict Dec 18

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court will deliver the verdict in the Biswajit murder case on December 18.

Twenty-one Chhatra League men are accused in the case.

Dhaka Speedy Tribunal-4 Justice Nizamul Haque yesterday set the date after hearing the arguments from the prosecution and the defence.

Bishwajit Das, 24, a tailor, was hacked to death in public on his way to his Amantron tailoring shop at Shakhariabazar in Old Dhaka during the opposition's countrywide road-blockade

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

# Time for dual screen mobile

THE TELEGRAPH ONLINE

YotaPhone, the dual-screen mobile device, will launch in Russia, Austria, France, Spain and Germany before Christmas and in 15 other countries including the UK by the end of Q1 2014.

It has a 4.3-inch 720x1280 HD LCD display on the front and a 360x640 e-ink display on the back.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

