



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE



## FAST & FURIOUS 7

The movie resumes filming after the death of its star Paul Walker

PAGE 14

## SONIA FILES NOMINATION

The congress chief is to compete from Rae Bareilly; asset declared Rs 2.8 cr

PAGE 15

AZIMPUR TO GABTOLI

# 11-minute trip project ignored

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

It takes at least an hour to drive to Gabtoli from Azimpur. Imagine it taking only 11 minutes. Yes, it would have been possible if a Tk 775 crore project had been implemented.

But the government has shelved this highly feasible project on the ground of a fund crunch.

Strangely, the government is now considering building an expensive elevated expressway, proposed by a ruling Awami League lawmaker, on the same stretch of road.

In 2010, the government moved to ease congestion on Mirpur Road. And Buet experts, after carrying out a study in 2011, suggested building elevated U-turns and underpasses to ensure uninterrupted traffic flow on the road.

The country's premier technology university had said a drive to Gabtoli from Azimpur would take only 11 minutes instead of the 78 minutes it now takes. All relevant departments of the government and Buet even approved the project, titled Bangabandhu Corridor, in March 2012.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Two monkeys play in the pool at Dhaka Zoo yesterday as spring draws to an end and the summer heat increases.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## Stalked, she takes her life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Humiliated and physically assaulted by local youths, a 17-year-old girl took her life in the capital's East Jurain area early yesterday.

Babysitter Shuva Akhter hanged herself from the ceiling fan with a scarf around her neck about 10:00pm on Tuesday at a room of their house owner on the first floor of a two-storey building. Her family lives on the ground floor.

Asked why she had committed suicide there, Shuva's brother-in-law Liton Mia said the power had failed at the time and everyone of the building was on the roof. The room was empty and perhaps that's why she chose the place.

He told The Daily Star that local youths

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

## CRIMEA ANNEXATION

# Nato suspends Russia ties

US Congress passes sanctions bill

AGENCIES

Nato said it has suspended all cooperation with Russia over the Crimea crisis and questioned Moscow's claim to have withdrawn troops from near the Ukrainian border, saying it could not confirm any pullback.

And just hours later the US Congress easily passed an aid package for Ukraine that includes sanctions against Russia for annexing Crimea, in the lawmakers' first binding response.

The West's latest moves came as Moscow heaped even more pressure on Ukraine's teetering economy with a painful gas-price hike, undermining what had been tentative signs of a calming in the worst East-West standoff since the Cold War.

Meanwhile, crisis-hit Ukraine yesterday took the first step toward granting more powers to the regions in line with Western wishes but stopped well short of creating the federation sought by Russia.

The government said it would like to eliminate the current practise under which local governors are appointed by the president and move toward an election system. But it said nothing about granting regions the right to set their own trade policies or establish special relations with foreign states.

Ukraine's parliament met one of Moscow's key demands by voting unanimously to disarm all self-defence groups that sprang up around the country during its political crisis, which first erupted in late November over the former

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

## DEEP-SEA PORT

# Denmark too wants to build it

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Denmark has expressed fresh interest in building a deep-sea port at Sonadia of Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, the Netherlands, which has already shown interest and made a presentation about its plan for the mega project, will submit a report on their investment proposal within a week, according to officials at the Prime Minister's Office.

Considering these aspects, a high-profile government committee designated to decide on the matter of the port, could not make a final decision yesterday.

The committee was supposed to make its final recommendations to the prime minister yesterday on whether China, the Netherlands, the United

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

## NEWS ANALYSIS

### RIGGING IN UPAZILA POLLS

# Nasty blow for democracy

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Free and fair elections are a basic requirement for the success of a country's democracy. For holding a credible election, a strong electoral system is imperative.

Thus, the state of the electoral system describes largely the state of democracy in a country. And if any force wants to paralyse a country's democracy, it must damage the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Delectably different

Chairman re-elected for keeping his promises

FARHANA MIRZA, Munshiganj

Osman Gani Talukdar has kept his promise to his constituents. Five years ago, he had pledged not to enjoy any government facilities if he was elected chairman of Louhajang upazila parishad in Munshiganj.

Voters took him at his words and elected him chairman. Osman

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Osman Gani Talukdar



PHOTO: STAR



## FIRST SEMIFINAL

# Lanka face West Indies today

SPORTS REPORTER

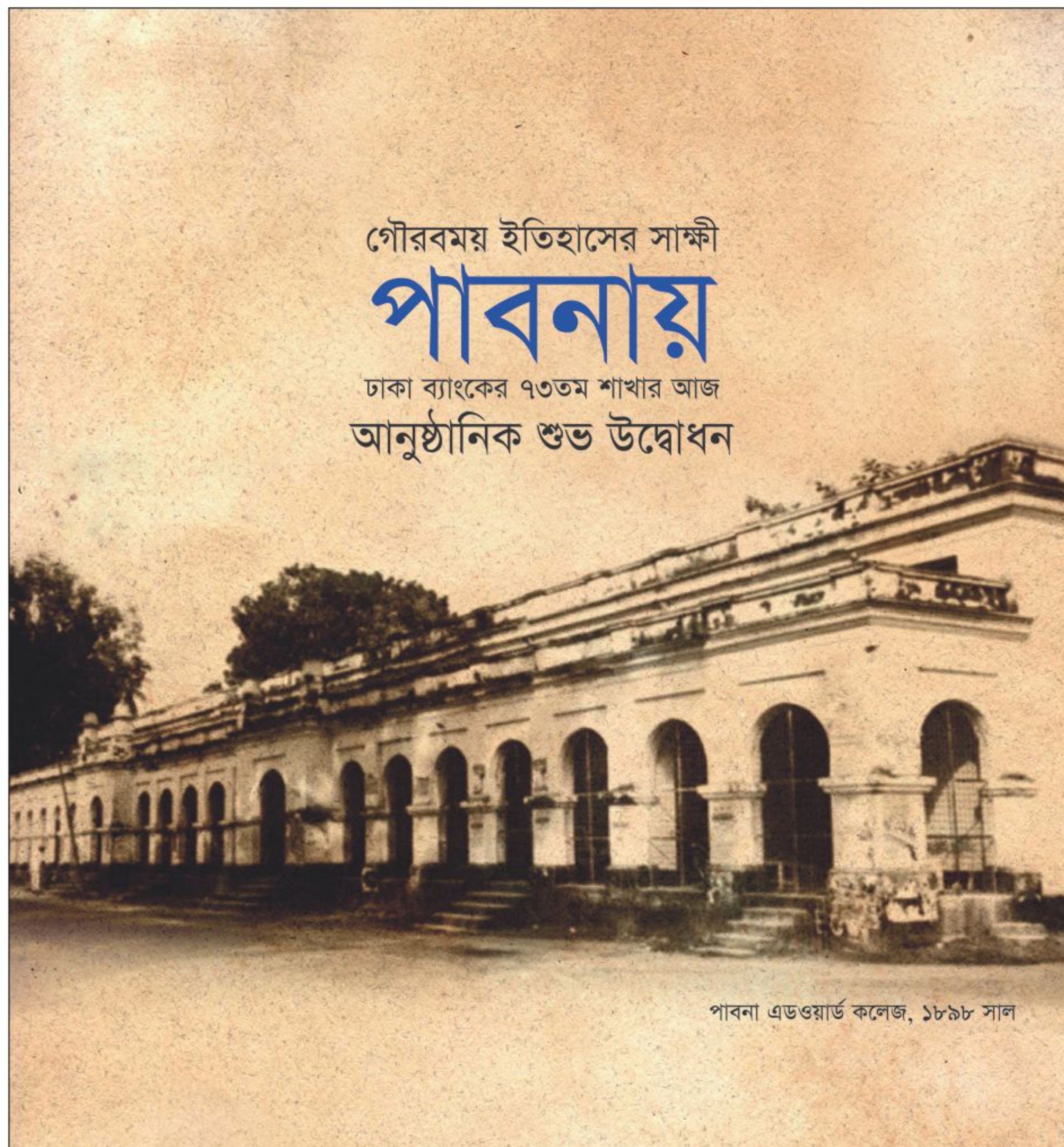
Sri Lanka may lead the head-to-head record against West Indies by four games to one, but that one defeat -- in the final of the 2012 T20 World Cup -- in their own den must have been a hard one to digest. Come this evening, the Lankans will get their opportunity to avenge that defeat and seal a spot in the finals. The task however, won't be an easy one as they face a high-flying West Indian side that have twice come from behind to beat the likes of Australia and Pakistan.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



গৌরবময় ইতিহাসের সাক্ষী  
**পাবনায়**

ঢাকা ব্যাংকের ৭৩তম শাখার আজ  
আনুষ্ঠানিক শুভ উদ্বোধন



পাবনা এডওয়ার্ড কলেজ, ১৮৯৮ সাল

পাবনা শাখা:  
মুন্সি কমপ্লেক্স  
১৩৬ হাজি আব্দুল গণি রোড  
পাবনা

**DHAKABANK**  
LIMITED  
EXCELLENCE IN BANKING

helpdesk@dhakabank.com.bd

www.dhakabankltd.com