

**BSRM** www.bsr.com

**NOT ALL 500Ws ARE CREATED EQUAL!!**

Only BSRM Xtreme, which is regularly **EN7** and **EN8** Fatigue tested at 5 million cyclic load reversals from a U.K. Lab, is SAFE for your family.

**BSRM Xtreme**  
Feel safe with Xtreme inside

**TRANSCOM DIGITAL**

**Inverter Technology**  
from Hitachi Refrigerator

INVERTER × Dual Fan Cooling **eco choice**

**HITACHI**  
Inspire the Next

Up to 9 EMI @ 0% Interest

R-V470PG3 395 Litres **TK. 96,500**

R-V610PG3 510 Litres **TK. 127,900**

R-WB480PG2 405 Litres **TK. 135,000**

For More Information: 09613 700700

# Peace recipe

Political analysts suggest ways to strengthen democracy, end violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political analysts yesterday recommended constitutional amendments, including changes to the electoral systems, balancing power between the president and prime minister, to strengthen democracy and end the recurrent violence around election time.

They also recommended introducing bicameral legislature -- where there are two assemblies -- for better check and balance, referendum on important national issues, and strengthening the constitutional institutions.

Stating that political parties were becoming weak, which was a matter of concern for democracy, the experts said periodic violence around elections, including the present hartal and blockade, were ruining the country's potentials.

The observations came at a discussion titled "Rethinking Democratisation: Consensus Building for Results" organised by the Policy Research Institute and International Political Science Association at the PRI conference hall in the capital.

"Now, absolute power remains in the

centre ... political parties have been democratised for the power of money," said eminent economist Prof Rehman Sobhan while addressing the discussion as chief guest.

Money is the prime factor in nominating election candidates, even at local government levels, he said. The members of parliament have a direct control over the locally elected peoples' representatives, something that made the democratic system truly weak, he said.

Terming the over two-month-long hartals and blockade a mere "low-grade" violence, Prof Sobhan, first member of Bangladesh's Planning Commission, said the parties calling for hartals were failing to mobilise people.

"The support for hartal is actually zero. This hartal is totally immoral and counter productive," said Sobhan, adding that it meant the political parties were getting weak.

Its consequences were very dangerous as in the past the political parties fell into non-democratic process, he warned.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 2



Milk producers stand in what is locally known as "Shokal Bazaar" at Sherpur of Bogra yesterday with hardly any customers there yesterday. Fearing they would not be able to ship the milk due to the blockade, wholesale customers are staying away from perishable goods.

## Islamists to rise if crisis continues

Warns global risk analysis firm

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The breakdown of the political process in Bangladesh creates space for Islamist groups to carry out violence, fears a leading global risk analysis, research and strategic forecasting company.

"If the political crisis continues well into 2015, Islamist groups are likely to exploit the population's

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

## It mustn't be 16

Rights activists react to govt move to allow marrying off girls before 18

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A government move to conditionally relax women's marriageable age of 18 years has been met with outright rejection from rights activists.

But the women and children affairs ministry has defended the move saying that the relaxation is meant for specific cases and will be applicable only under certain circumstances.

Rights activists, however, said once the act was implemented, child marriage would increase, which in turn would increase child and maternal mortality rates, further contribute to population growth and intensify social

problems such as gender-based violence.

A provision of the proposed act says though the marriageable age for girls will be 18, marriage of a girl aged 16 will not be regarded illegal if it is done with the consent of her parents or court for valid reasons.

However, according to the existing Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, it is a criminal offence to marry, or facilitate the marriage of a girl under 18 or a boy under 21. The act will be annulled once the new one is implemented.

Eminent rights activist Sultana Kamal said that the initiative would undermine their decade-long efforts not to marry off girls until they are 18 and that this age limit

SEE PAGE 8 COL 2

## Manna on remand in sedition case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Nagorik Oikya convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna on a fresh 10-day remand in a sedition case.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Ataul Haque passed the order after Manna was produced before it on completion of his 10-day remand in another case filed for "trying to instigate revolt by the armed forces".

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

## Nepal trip ends at Dhaka airport

SHARIER KHAN

It was at 8:45am on Wednesday when Towhid Firoze, a World Bank official, and I reached the Shahjalal International Airport to take a Biman flight for Kathmandu at 11:00am. We would be there to join a conference on hydropower the following day.

The airport premises looked quite nice, unlike most other days, as there was no usual crowd of visitors outside the terminal. The entrance to the terminal was unusually clean. Things have changed here for the better since the establishment was put on red alert three months ago.

There was no rush at the check in counters either. Towhid, also a former journalist, had checked in his luggage, while I just had a carryon bag. With our passports

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5



Shakib Al Hasan had some fun playing cricket with children from the McGrath Foundation on Saturday at the Adelaide Oval, the venue where they will take on England tomorrow.

PHOTO: BCB

## Tigers ready for England?

SPORTS REPORTER

The Tigers fans heaved a sigh of relief on Thursday after Bangladesh managed to survive a Scottish scare. Despite the struggle against a non-full member nation, the Tigers successfully chasing down the second highest World Cup target ever, was in a reason to celebrate.

However, that win won't mean much if the Tigers fail to eke out a positive result against the other nation from the United Kingdom tomorrow. The game in Adelaide is effectively Bangladesh's only shot at confirming a berth in the quarterfinals.

They do have a game against New Zealand in Hamilton on March 13, however, the hosts are running hot and it

**SMS UPDATE** LATEST SCORE, RESULTS AND MUCH MORE!  
Type 'Cric' and send SMS to 2002

> Charge: Tk.1/ SMS > 15% VAT on all charges  
> For details, visit [www.grameenphone.com](http://www.grameenphone.com)

**In two entertaining encounters of Pool B yesterday, Pakistan beat South Africa by 29 runs in Duckworth-Lewis method at the Eden Park in Auckland while Ireland kept the pool wide open with a nail-biting five-run win against Zimbabwe, ending the latter's quarterfinal hopes.**

would be naïve to expect the Tigers to bank on that game. It's a little different with regards to the English though.

Having lost all their World Cup games so far, except for the one against Scotland, the English have their backs against the wall; and one would feel that the Tigers will not get a better chance to inflict a surprise defeat. England didn't just lose the three crucial World Cup encounters, they were thrashed on every occasion.

Against Australia, both their bowlers and batsmen received a thumping, while against New Zealand Tim Southee led an annihilation that compelled their batting order to crumble. Kumar Sangakkara and Lahiru

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

## 'Earth-like planet exists'

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Astronomers have found new evidence of the existence of an Earth-like planet that lies a comparative stone's throw away from our solar system.

Discovery of the planet known as GJ 581d was

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5



**MAGIC OFFER**  
TO KNOW THE BEST INTERNET OFFER DIAL \*222\*5# (FREE)

তুফান speed 3G with no speed limit only on airtel



Join: [facebook.com/airtelbuzz](https://facebook.com/airtelbuzz)  
Visit: [bd.airtel.com](http://bd.airtel.com)