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**Care 16212**

# The Daily Star celebrates 24th anniversary

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Daily Star yesterday celebrated its 24th founding anniversary with a call to uphold impartial journalism to move forward and build a prosperous Bangladesh.

The leading English daily hosted a reception in the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre on the occasion, sharing the joy of its success with hundreds of readers, patrons and well-wishers who showered praise and encouragement upon the Star family.

A galaxy of personalities representing a wide spectrum of citizens -- politicians, academics, diplomats, businesspersons, journalists, art luminaries, celebrities and civil society members -- attended the function, making the anniversary celebration a remarkable event.

At the programme, The Daily Star relaunched its website, unveiling the new, state-of-the-art look, to cater to the readers' need more effectively in an age where information technology plays a major role in the dissemination of information.

Rokia Afzal Rahman, the chairperson of Mediaworld Limited, the owning company of The Daily Star, thanked the readers, advertisers and patrons for being with the newspaper in its journey to ensure people's right to know and uphold a free media.

She said the newspaper has brought significant changes

PHOTOS ON PAGE 2 SEE PAGE 8 COL 2



A number of young achievers in their own fields push a buzzer with The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam to inaugurate the newspaper's new website during 24th anniversary celebrations of the paper at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre yesterday evening. PHOTO: STAR

## Four killed in Naogaon road crash

Wedding party bus collides with truck

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least four people, including a woman, were killed and 16 others injured after a bus carrying a wedding party collided head-on with a cattle-laden truck on the Naogaon-Rajshahi highway in Mahadevpur upazila of Naogaon yesterday.

The identities of the deceased could not be known immediately.

The bus plunged into a roadside ditch after the two vehicles collided with each other near Bhimpur Cold Storage in Mahadevpur around 9:00pm, leaving four passengers of the bus dead on the spot, said Saiful Islam, officer-in-charge of Mahadevpur Police Station.

Fire service personnel and police rushed to the

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## Japan keen to help Bangladesh more

Peaceful situation key to wooing more investment, say Jica officials

M ABUL KALAM AZAD, back from Japan

Japan is keen on providing Bangladesh with more financial assistance to help it step up the overall development and achieve the goal of becoming a middle-income country, officials of Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) said in Tokyo recently.

"But for this, Bangladesh has to ensure a peaceful climate for investment and economic growth," said Okuda Hisakatsu, deputy director of Jica's South Asia Department.

Talking to The Daily Star at Jica headquarters, Okuda, who is in-charge of Bangladesh and Nepal, said the ongoing

political violence in Bangladesh may hamper various projects and slow down the pace of development.

Improvement in governance and efficiency of the officials, checking corruption, increase in power generation, and infrastructure and transport development were also vital, he observed.

Being the largest Official Development Assistance (ODA) provider, Japan has been increasing its assistance to Bangladesh. The amount of ODA that includes grant, loan and technical assistance was nearly \$300 million in 2012 and \$327 million in 2013.

Every year, Jica sends missions to

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## PCJSS threatens fresh agitation

Santu Larma asks govt to give timeframe for CHT accord implementation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samiti will go for a non-cooperation movement against the government from May if a specific timeline for full implementation of CHT peace accord is not declared by April 30.

"The government is intentionally not implementing the accord while the situation in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) region is deteriorating day by day," said PCJSS President Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, known as Santu Larma.

"If the government does not come forward and declare a timeline for full implementation of the accord within April 30, it [government] will be held responsible for any situation in the region as a consequence," he said.

Larma, also chairman of CHT Regional Council, issued this ultimatum while inaugurating the 16th district council

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## BNP leader Salahuddin still traceless

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Joint Secretary General Salahuddin Ahmed still remains traceless amid his family allegation that plainclothes men picked up him from Uttara in the capital more than three days ago.

According to the family of Salahuddin and BNP, the men showed them DB police identity cards before "picking up" the BNP leader from a house.

Law enforcers yesterday once again rejected the allegation.

Monirul Islam, joint commissioner of Detective Branch of Dhaka

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## MUMBAI ATTACK 'MASTERMIND' Pak court orders release of Lakhvi

AFP, Islamabad

A Pakistan court yesterday cancelled a detention order against the alleged mastermind of the 2008 Mumbai attacks, potentially paving the way for his release.

It is the latest round in a tussle over Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi, accused over the terror siege that left 166 dead, which has worsened already strained ties with India.

The latest ruling means Lakhvi could be released as early as Saturday, though the government can still appeal to the Supreme Court and for now he remains in jail.

Lakhvi was granted bail by an anti-terror court in December, infuriating New Delhi, but quickly slapped with a detention order under public order laws.

The Islamabad High Court suspended that order, only for the Supreme Court to reinstate it in January.

Yesterday, the High Court once again set aside the detention order, senior government lawyer Jehangir Jadoon told AFP.

A detailed order handed down by the court said government lawyers had failed to provide evidence to justify

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## HARVEST GETTING WASTED

The watermelon production has been rather good this year in char areas of Barisal owing to clement weather. However, farmers are selling off the melons for almost half the price as most wholesalers are reluctant to buy the perishable fruit. Warehouses are filling up with melons but the ongoing blockade and hartals are preventing traders from shipping them across the country.

PHOTO: STAR

## WAREHOUSE COLLAPSE Six bodies handed over to families

STAR REPORTER

Six bodies of the cement factory warehouse disaster in Bagerhat were handed over to their families yesterday.

Authorities called off the rescue operation yesterday after recovery of seven bodies from the rubble. The other body could not be identified.

Brig Gen Mohammad Selim, acting chairman of Sena Kalyan Sangstha, announced an end to the operation around 12:35pm.

Members of Bangladesh Coast Guard, the Navy, the Army, police and Fire

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## 15+6=17!

Bride walks out finding groom a 'math genius'

BBC ONLINE

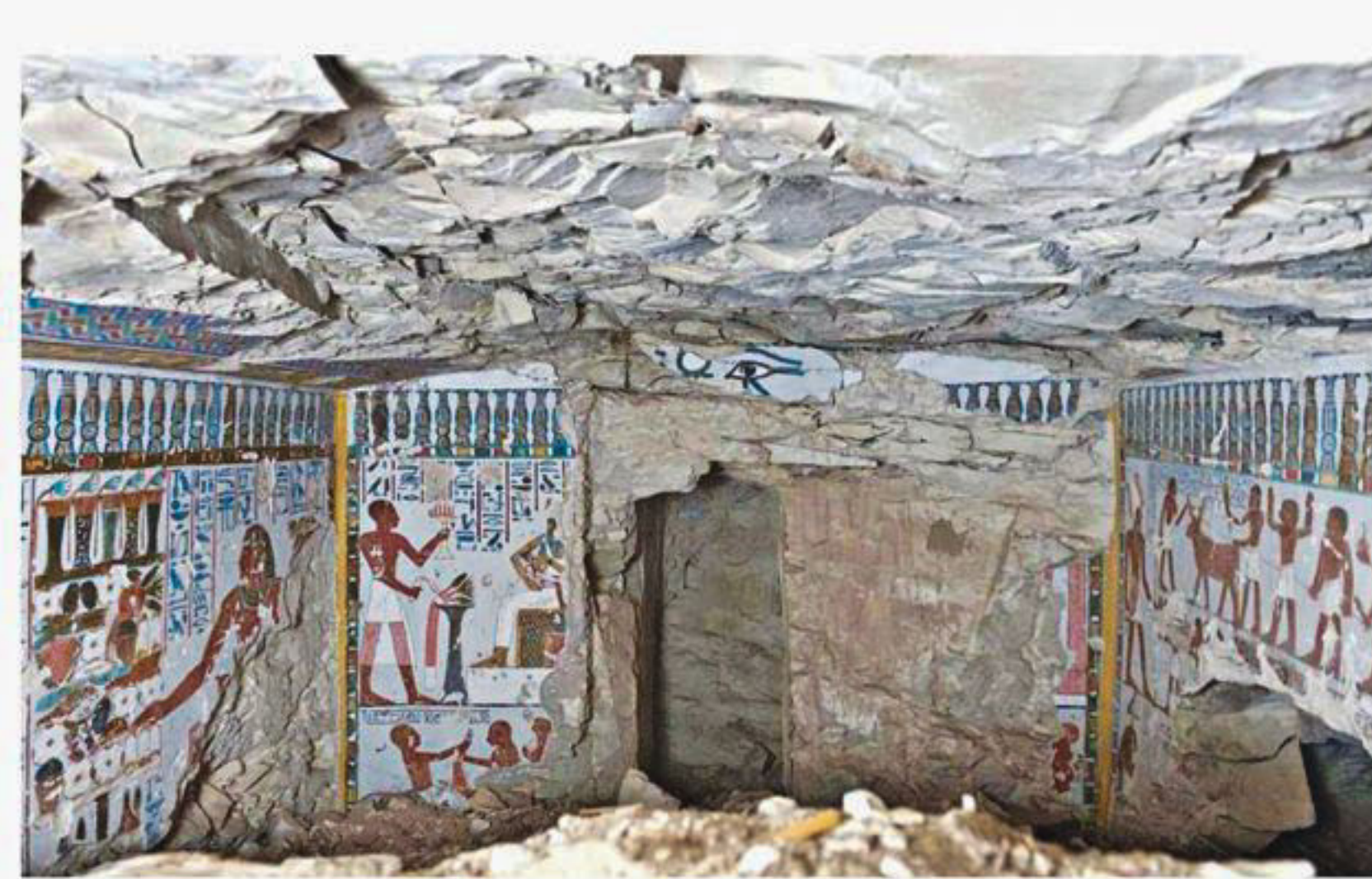
An Indian bride has walked out of her wedding after her bridegroom-to-be failed to solve a simple maths problem, according to police in Uttar Pradesh.

The bride asked the groom to add 15 and six. When he replied 17, she called off the marriage.

Reports say the groom's family tried to convince the bride to return, but she refused saying the man was illiterate.

Local police said they

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## Stunning 3,000-yr-old tombs found in Egypt

MAIL ONLINE

A team of American researchers has discovered two ancient tombs in the southern Egyptian city of Luxor.

The antiquities ministry of Egypt on Tuesday said the tombs date back to the New Kingdom of the 18th Dynasty (1543-1292 BC) -- the most famous of ancient Egypt dynasties.

Incredible photographs distributed by the ministry show one of the tombs with bright green and brown paintings with hieroglyphics and murals depicting both celebrations and everyday activities. Despite their age, the artworks are still remarkably vibrant and colorful.

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**The Daily Star**

Integral Energy Limited

**ONLINE POLL**

Do you think violence against women and child marriage are still rampant in Bangladesh?

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

Yes (83%)

No (17%)

TOTAL VOTES: 152

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think it was justified for the BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to blame Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for the current political standoff?

**HAIKO**  
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01755661188

**PRAYER TIMING**  
MARCH 14

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-05 12-45 4-30 6-12 7-30

JAMAAT 5-40 1-15 4-45 6-15 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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