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**CONFLICT IN YEMEN**  
**23 Bangladesh nationals evacuated**

**STAR REPORT**  
A group of 23 Bangladeshi expatriates, who had been stranded in Al Hudaydah and Sana'a cities of strife-torn Yemen, reached Djibouti yesterday. They were granted three-day visa by the African country and would be sent home soon, SM Mahbul Alam, counsellor at the Bangladesh High Commission in Kuwait, told BBC Bangla last night. "We will contact different airlines. If tickets are available, we will send them to Dhaka," he said. Currently, around 300 Bangladeshis are stranded in Sana'a, 15-20 in Hudaydah and 10-12 in Mukha cities. The processes for getting permission for a Bangladesh Biman aircraft's entry to Sana were almost



**A pile of hilsa fish, unloaded from a trawler at Firingibazar Fisherighat in Chittagong city, is placed on a cart for being carried to wholesale markets. With days left to Pahela Baishakh, demand of the fish has soared as it is a staple in the feast of Bangla New Year celebration.**

**Work for AL favourites in city polls**

**Hasina asks party's Dhaka city leaders**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The Gono Bhaban yesterday denied The Daily Star reporter access to cover the PM's meeting with Awami League's Dhaka city north and south unit leaders without giving any reason. The Daily Star, however, carries the report based on information obtained from secondary sources. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed Dhaka city Awami League leaders to work for the party-backed candidates in the upcoming city corporation elections and pursue voters through door-to-door campaign. "You [city AL leaders] will have to go from door to door of the voters, win their hearts through pointing out successes and development work of the government and the BNP-Jamaat's violence and subversive activities," the PM was quoted as saying by a city AL leader. However, subsection 14 (A) of article 6 of the code of conduct for city corporation elections says, "... ministers, state ministers, deputy ministers or anybody of their status cannot participate in election campaigns or electoral activities..."

**Trace him, please**

**Missing BNP leader Salahuddin's wife seeks PM's intervention again**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The wife of BNP leader Salahuddin Ahmed, who has been "missing" since March 10, submitted another memorandum to the PM yesterday, seeking her intervention to trace him. Hasina Ahmed, also a former BNP lawmaker, once again asked for an appointment with the premier in the memorandum. She was accompanied by Salahuddin's brother and his wife while handing over the document to an office assistant of the Prime Minister's Office. Following a writ petition filed by Hasina Ahmed with the High Court, police headquarters, Dhaka Metropolitan Police, Rab, Criminal Investigation Department and Special Branch of police submitted five



**SHOPLIFTING IN THE HAGUE**  
**Bangladeshi diplomat to face music**

**DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT**  
A young Bangladeshi diplomat will face punitive action as he was caught stealing a mobile phone from a shop in the Netherlands, according to foreign ministry sources. An assistant secretary on probation, Mahbub Shahid Shisir was supposed to formally enter the Foreign Service through a ceremony on Thursday. He, however, will not be awarded a certificate and may be

**Economic zone can boost Chinese FDI**

**Says ambassador Ma Mingqiang**  
**DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT**  
The foreign direct investment (FDI) by China in Bangladesh can witness a phenomenal boost with an economic zone in place for Chinese investors, said new Chinese envoy Ma Mingqiang. "There could be a 50 percent increase [in FDI]," said Mingqiang, adding, "Private companies are investing everywhere. If they are confident enough and are not left alone, they will be coming in more numbers." Dhaka has already cleared allocation of a separate economic and industrial zone in Chittagong for Chinese investors. Talking with senior journalists at The Daily Star during his first courtesy visit yesterday, the ambassador also said trade was heavily in favour of



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**Food-borne diseases kill 2m a year: WHO**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Food-borne diseases kill an estimated two million people annually, including many children, in developing countries, the World Health Organisation said as people yesterday observed the World Health Day. "Food contaminants, such as harmful parasites, bacteria, viruses, prions, chemical or radioactive substances, cause more than 200 diseases -- ranging from infectious diseases to cancers," it said. Food production has been industrialised and its trade and distribution have been globalised, said WHO Director General Margaret Chan in a statement.



**This is one of those restaurants where food remains exposed to dirt and filth. With no roof overhead, poor people, mostly labourers, have meals there all in the open. The unhygienic environment or quality of food hardly matters to them because of the affordable prices. The photo was taken at Karwan Bazar wholesale market.**

**Air force plane meets accident**

**None hurt**  
**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
All flight operations at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport remained suspended for over half an hour yesterday after the nose-gear of an air force trainer aircraft collapsed during landing in the airport. The pilot and co-pilot who were on a training mission to the FT-7 aircraft, were not hurt in the incident, Nurul Islam, assistant director of the Inter Service Public Relations (ISPR), said. The aircraft, also operated as a fighter jet, skidded due to collapse of its nose-gear moments after it landed at 4:17pm, airport sources said.

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JAMAAT 5-15 1-15 5-00 6-24 8-15  
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

**ONLINE POLL**  
Do you agree with the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) that the government's move to seek budgetary support from the World Bank would undermine the policy-making independence of the government?

**Yes** (77%)  
**No** (23%)

**TOTAL VOTES: 79**

**The Daily Star**  
Integral Energy Limited  
**TODAY'S POLL**  
Do you think local government elections should be held in a partisan manner and laws in this regard should be amended?  
PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

**চেষ্টার পরিবর্তন**  
পাইলস, ফিস্টুলা, কোষ্ঠকাঠিন্য, আমাশয়, কোলন ক্যান্সার, রেকটাম ক্যান্সার এবং কোলনস্কপি

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