



## SIR RINGO STARR

The Beatles drummer gets knighthood alongside Barry Gibb

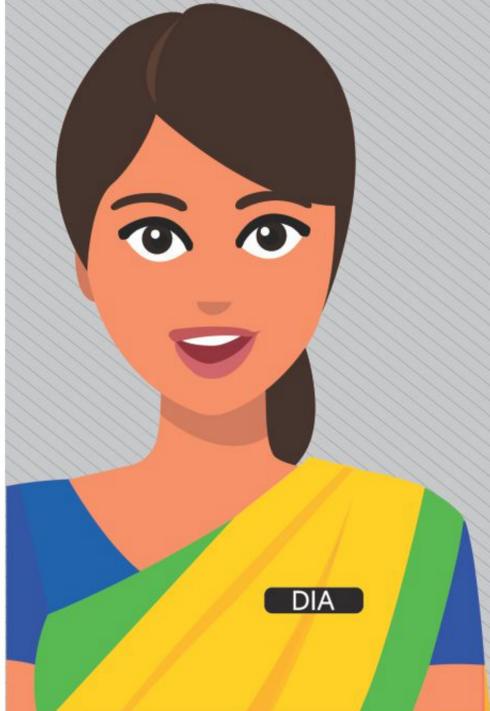
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## DIARY'

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EBL  
Consumer  
Banking



DIA

হ্যালো বাংলাদেশ!  
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দিয়া

বাংলাদেশে প্রথমবারের মতো আর্টিফিশিয়াল ইন্টেলিজেন্স (AI) এর মাধ্যমে ব্যাংকিং সেবা দেয়া শুরু করছে ইস্টার্ন ব্যাংক লিমিটেড।

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ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশ গড়ার পথে আরো একধাপ এগিয়ে গেলাম আমরা, ব্যাংকিং জগতে এই নতুন প্রযুক্তির মাধ্যমে। ফেসবুক মেসেঞ্জারের মাধ্যমে দিয়ার সাথে চ্যাটিং এর জন্য অনুগ্রহ করে ভিজিট করুন: [facebook.com/ebldia](https://facebook.com/ebldia)



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A child and her parents looking for her grades on a result sheet at the Dr Khastogir Government Girl's High School in Chittagong. Results of the JSC and PEC exams were published yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## HEAD

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economy

RAHMAN

he banking sector have paled the fair economic performance in ng year. fresh has achieved a record ecwth of 7.28 percent in 2016-17, .11 percent in the previous fiscal ding to Bangladesh Bureau of lata. have started bouncing back ber from a sluggish growth for r. Imports have been growing at gits in recent months. Private lit growth, which is an imporator to measure the vibrancy of my, grew by six years' high of percent in October. e government has been

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## BPC won't sell fuel to Biman on credit

Decision comes as the airline owes it Tk 1,600cr in 8 years

DWAIPAYAN BARUA and MOHAMMAD SUMAN MIAH, Chittagong

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) has decided to stop selling fuel to Biman Bangladesh Airlines on credit from tomorrow as its outstanding dues have hit around Tk 1,600 crore in the last eight years.

Padma Oil Company Limited (POCL), a subsidiary of BPC, supplies aviation fuel to different domestic and foreign airliners. The company has long been selling fuel on credit only to the national flag carrier.

On an average, POCL supplies jet fuel worth Tk 50 crore to the state-owned airliner every month.

According to POCL, the company sold fuel worth Tk 5,501.44 crore to Biman between February 2011 and December 19, 2017 and received total payment of Tk 4,405.3 crore on different occasions.

The arrears against sold fuel stand at Tk 1,096.14 crore, but the interests against the arrears reached Tk 504 crore since Biman failed to pay monthly bills on a regular basis, it alleged.

POCL General Manager (Accounts and Finance) Mohiuddin Ahmed told The Daily Star they have been selling fuel on credit only to Biman under special consideration.

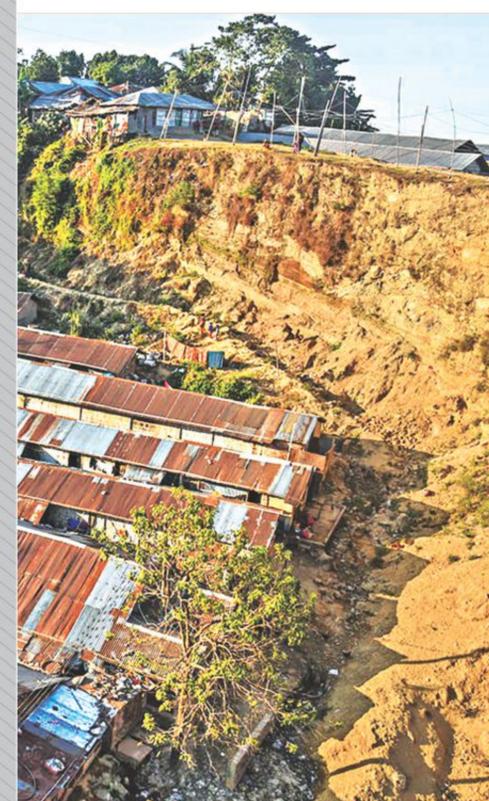
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## A YEAR in SPORT

STAR SPORT DESK

Like the rest of the world, the sporting universe does not stop for a second. But after an eventful year such as 2017, even as we chug forward we take some time to look back, mostly pictorially, on the sporting highlights of the year. Cricket has once again dominated the Bangladeshi consciousness as the most popular sport, but there have been other avenues of triumph and despair. There is also a consideration of the sustainability of our sporting structures and of course, a look back upon the highs and lows of the world of sport in 2017.

Flip to pages 16 and 17 to have a look at our year-end special.



## HILLS IN PORT CITY Vanishing into urban sprawl

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, Chittagong

The port city's unique combination of sea, river and hills is going to lose one of the features due to the greed of an influential quarter.

Hill grabbing has recently surpassed all previous records thanks to a lax attitude of the authorities concerned as multistorey buildings, shanties and tin-shed makeshift houses are replacing the hills.

During a visit to Bayezid area on Thursday, it was seen hills as far as eyes can see were being levelled just behind the Gulshan Mosque at Sher Shah Bangla Bazar to create space for highrises and colonies for low income groups.

The grabbing of hills has reached such a level that one might mistake the area as a Rohingya refugee camp.

Residential blocks and colonies had earlier been established cutting down the hills in the areas including Debar Par and Bank Pahar of Bayezid area where people who prefer cheap accommodation mostly take shelter.

Standing at the Bank Pahar Colony, Rejaul Karim, a vendor by profession, told The Daily Star he came to the area from Feni a few days ago.

"I learned about the cheap accommodation here from a relative, who managed a two-room shanty for me at Tk 2,000 a month," he said.

He would have to spend another Tk 100 for electricity, for which nobody has legal connection.

Displaced people usually take refuge in this area, another tenant Mofij observed.

Cable for electricity and pipe for water supply were seen horizontally and haphazardly drawn up in the area. None of the tenants dared to name those who take the rent and bill but hinted at ruling party men.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN