

### JS goes into session today

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The Jatiya Sangsad that goes into its 18th session today is likely to pass bills to hike salaries and allowances of the president, prime minister, ministers, state ministers, deputy ministers, speaker, deputy speaker, lawmakers and judges of the Supreme Court.

### Ctg mob lynches two robbers

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**  
Two robbers were beaten to death after they shot one dead during a robbery at Chandanaish upazila in Chittagong yesterday. The lynched robbers are Amin, 24, of Dohajari Adarashagram, and Nizam, 25, of Cox's Bazar. Later, police with the help of local people held six robbers of the same gang and recovered five firearms, including three locally made guns.

### Banks at ports to remain open on holidays

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The central bank and all the commercial banks will come under the purview of the two-day weekly holiday, but some branches will be kept open on holidays under special arrangements, Bangladesh Bank (BB) announced yesterday. The bank branches situated at

# 15,000 Bangladeshi workers in S Korea in arrest fear

**RAFIQ HASAN**

Around 15,000 Bangladeshi workers in South Korea are now in panic apprehending arrest for illegal stay beyond a deadline given by the authorities asking migrant foreign workers without valid documents to leave the country by August. The Korean authorities are now conducting frequent raids to trace and arrest workers staying illegally. Over 50 Bangladeshis were already caught by Korean police and deported to Bangladesh, foreign ministry sources said.

The Bangladesh embassy in Korea has informed the foreign ministry that Seoul has not extended the deadline or declared amnesty to illegal workers. All such foreign workers including Bangladeshis are now in tension, the embassy said. Reports from Korea however said a small number of illegal foreign workers left Korea within the deadline. Sources mentioned that the quota for Bangladeshi workers in Korea is 8,500 but they number over 25,000 as many of them went there

with tourist visa but stayed back. Their number however declined due to raids on undocumented workers over the last few months. Meanwhile, Bangladesh might even lose the lucrative manpower export market in South Korea because a section of Bangladeshi workers are leading workers' agitation on the issue of their rights. The Korean authorities have already threatened to exclude Bangladesh from the list of countries sending workers, the sources pointed.

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### Ice cream with harmful dyes, essence on sale

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Harmful sodium cyclamate, textile dye, barley and essence are still used as the ingredients of ice cream, a mobile court found yesterday.

Sodium cyclamate, which is used as a sweetener, was banned in the country in 1982 as it poses great health risks. But the mobile court found traces of it while raiding three ice cream factories in the Narinda area, instantly shutting them down.

Workers of the factories also informed the court that they use the barley instead of milk. Besides using harmful materials, the court also found the environments of the factories were very unhygienic.

"The court is conducting successful raids everyday but the attitude of the adulterators is not changing," said one of the members of the court.

The court first raided Anando ice cream factory at the city's Narinda yesterday.



Magistrate Rokan-ud-Doula of a mobile court examines the barley-mixed ingredient for ice cream at the Ananda ice cream factory at the city's Narinda yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Mubarak set for victory in landmark Egypt vote

**AFP, Cairo**

Egyptians were voting Wednesday in the country's first contested presidential election with veteran leader Hosni Mubarak all but certain to win a fifth term amid fears of widespread fraud.

The country's judges -- tasked with supervising the poll -- have already warned they would not endorse the result of the vote amid suspicion the regime would seek to

swell an expected low turnout to boost Mubarak's legitimacy.

The 77-year-old former air force commander, who has led the country for 24 years since the assassination of Anwar Sadat, is facing nine challengers, most of them unknown even to most Egyptians.

Two hours after polling kicked off, the all-powerful electoral commission announced it would allow independent monitors inside polling

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### Saarc experts to meet again in Oct to finalise Safta issues

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Committee of Experts (CoE) of Saarc, which failed to resolve the outstanding issues related to the proposed South Asia Free Trade Area (Safta), has decided to meet for another round in Islamabad next month.

Official sources said the CoE will

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### ACC appoints 35 officials

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday in a gadget notification appointed 13 Class-I anti-corruption officers (ACO) and 22 Class II inspectors on permanent basis from the now-defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption (Bac).

After screening 1,008 Bac officials on Tuesday, the ACC appointed the 35 officials.

The ACC also finalised the screening of the Class III and IV

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### NEW ORLEANS

# Mayor orders forced evacuation

**AGENCIES, New Orleans**

As floodwaters receded inch by inch Tuesday, New Orleans Mayor C Ray Nagin authorised law enforcement officers and the US military to force the evacuation of all residents who refuse to heed orders to leave the dark, dangerous city.

Nagin's emergency declaration released late Tuesday targets those still in the city unless they have been designated by government officials as helping with the relief effort.

The move comes after some citizens bluntly told authorities who had come to deliver them from the flooded metropolis that they would not leave their homes and property. An estimated 10,000 residents are believed to still be in New Orleans, and some have been holed up in their homes for more than a week.

While acknowledging the emergency declaration, police Capt Marlon Defillo said late Tuesday that forced removal of citizens had not yet begun. He said that officers who

were visiting homes were still reminding people that police may not be able to rescue them if they stay.

"That would be a PR nightmare for us," Defillo said of any forced evacuations. "That's an absolute last resort."

Repeated telephone calls to Nagin's spokeswoman, Tami Frazier, seeking comment were not returned.

Meanwhile, engineers struggled to drain the saucer of a city of billions of gallons of water, a Herculean task that could take weeks -- if they are lucky.

The Army Corps of Engineers said the timetable ranges from three weeks to nearly three months, depending on a string of variables, including rainfall, the still-unknown condition of the pumps abandoned to Hurricane Katrina, and whether the system can withstand the flotsam of broken buildings, trees, trash and corpses.

Work has also been impeded by

sporadic gunfire coming from "criminals with guns," said Col. Richard Wagenaar, the Corps' chief district engineer.

The contractors are "getting used to it and that's pretty scary," Wagenaar said.

Despite complications, "we have to get the water out of the city or the nightmare will continue," said Louisiana Environmental Secretary Mike McDaniel. He said the water will be pumped into Lake Pontchartrain even though it is fouled with sewage, heavy metals, gasoline and other dangerous substances.

The pumping began after the Corps used hundreds of sandbags and rocks over the Labor Day weekend to close a 200-foot gap in the 17th Street Canal levee that burst in the aftermath of the storm and swamped 80 percent of this below sea-level city.

Following an aerial tour Tuesday, Nagin said the water was dropping

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### BB froze \$1,462 of 2 Saudi NGOs last year

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) last week updated the foreign ministry that it had frozen \$1,462 in different accounts at four banks last year following a United Nations (UN) inquiry about activities and transactional particulars of two Saudi-based international Islamic NGOs.

The UN in a letter last July asked the foreign ministry to inquire about the activities of the Benevolence International Organisation and the Al Haramain Islamic Foundation in Bangladesh as well as if their accounts have been frozen and how much money these accounts have.

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### Prayer Timing

September 8		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-35	5-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-20	6-25
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation