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# Mayor race kicks up AL row in Ctg

Party splits into pro-and anti-Mohiuddin groups

HASAN JAHD TUSHER

Chittagong City unit of Awami League and its associated bodies have apparently divided into pro- and anti-Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury factions, creating unrest in the ruling party politics there.

The port city's politics heated up after Mohiuddin, who is the City Corporation mayor and Chittagong City unit AL president, held a meeting with BNP lawmaker Salaudhin Quader Chowdhury a day after Eid. The meeting was apparently held to put a prospective CCC mayoral candidate of BNP in difficulty.

Protesting the mayor's meeting with the controversial BNP leader, party men loyal to AL lawmaker Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury Babu attacked a public meeting of Mohiuddin at Puratan Bridgeghata of Charpathar Ghata in Chittagong Friday afternoon.

AL leaders and activists loyal to the mayor while talking to The Daily Star have even mentioned taking revenge for the attack.

Meanwhile, a section of leaders and workers of AL and its associated bodies yesterday demanded immediate expulsion of Mohiuddin, the three time mayor, from the party for, what they describe as holding a meet-

ing with a "war criminal".

"The party president must expel him [Mohiuddin] to save the party and politics in Chittagong," said Nurul Islam MP for Chittagong-8 constituency claiming that all the lawmakers of Chittagong want punishment of the mayor.

Talking to The Daily Star he said the CCC mayor has been using the AL for his personal agenda for a long time and it must be stopped.

Sources said the division in Chittagong AL has developed over who would be the AL-backed candidate in the next CCC mayoral election next year.

A section of AL leaders and lawmakers want the party to nominate anyone other than Mohiuddin, sources said, adding that the mayor held the meeting with the BNP leader to put BNP's prospective CCC mayor candidate Abdullah Al Noman, who is also an archrival of SQ Chowdhury, in a difficult position.

Mohiuddin would be the next mayor candidate, said a leader loyal to him, preferring not to be quoted. He said the anti-Mohiuddin faction of AL has been spreading propaganda to tarnish the image of the mayor as they want the AL-back mayoral candidacy.

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The hustle and bustle of the city is not back yet as the capital is still in Eid holiday mood. The photo was taken at Kakrail intersection yesterday.

## Mahanavami today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thousands of devotees from Hindu community geared up for the celebration of Mahaastami Puja yesterday at different puja mandaps (marquees) of the country including the city to offer obeisance to Goddess Durga.

The auspicious "Sandhi Puja" was performed at the confluence of Mahashtami and Mahanavami from 12:38am to 1:26am last night in a serene and festive mood.

The Mahastami is also the time for Kumari Puja where a girl child, symbolising a pre-pubescent, is worshipped as the "Mother Goddess". This integral part of the sacred ritual was performed amidst

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## Twin car bombs kill 16 in Pakistan

AP, Peshawar

Two suicide car bombs killed 16 people and wounded about 150 others in separate attacks in northwestern Pakistan yesterday, just days after the Taliban warned suicide strikes were coming if the military pressed forward with an offensive. A third bomb injured four in the restive region.

Pakistan's mountainous, lawless northwest region along the Afghan border where the government holds little control is a favoured area for insurgents to plan attacks on US and Nato troops in Afghanistan, as well as on Pakistani security forces and government workers.

A suicide bomb was detonated outside a bank affiliated with the army in Peshawar, the capital of North West Frontier Province, police said. Ten people were killed and 79 wounded,

said Sahibzada Mohammed Anis, a senior government official.

An Associated Press reporter at the scene saw vehicles overturned by the blast, buildings gutted and glass scattered everywhere. Most of the casualties were customers in the bank or people loitering outside.

"We saw body parts in the car and our investigation confirms it was a suicide attack," said Malik Shafqat, a police official in Peshawar. He said the attacker also threw a hand grenade before detonating the bomb but it didn't explode.

A suicide blast also hit a police station in the province's Bannu district earlier Saturday, killing at least six people and wounding nearly 70 others, police said. The Taliban claimed responsibility for that attack.

A third bomb exploded in the northern town

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## 3 killed on barren city roads

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least three people were killed and 22 others injured in three separate road accidents in and on the outskirts of the capital yesterday.

The deceased were Nafisa, 3, daughter of Mohammad Milon of Mirpur-11, Mohammad Sohail, 18, a bus helper, and Mizanur Rahman, 25, student of a private university.

Sources said Nafisa and 13 others sustained injuries when their microbus heading for Munshiganj from Mirpur collided head-on with a bus from opposite direction on Dhaleswari Bridge-1 at south

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## CONTAINER HANDLING JOB ACC opens port probe Tuesday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two-member committee formed by the Anti-Corruption Commission will start its probe on Tuesday into allegation of corruption in awarding container handling job at Chittagong port during the tenure of the last caretaker government.

The committee constituted on September 17 will also investigate the issue of raising retirement age for shipping pilots during the period.

The probe body has requisitioned a room at the port as its temporary office and asked the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) to ensure attendance of the officials concerned for questioning.

The committee will quiz former shipping adviser Maj Gen (ret'd) MA Matin, CPA Chairman RU Ahmed and officials of traffic, finance and engineering departments.

ACC Deputy Director and committee Chief Fanaillah said they would grill all port officials concerned with the investigation.

He said they planned to stay at the port for three days but it

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## 2 JMB men arrested

STAR REPORT

Police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in separate drives arrested two members of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) from Joypurhat and Nilphamari districts on Friday and yesterday.

Rab arrested suspected JMB member M Masudur Rahman Ranu, 27, son of Mahfuzur Rahman, from his residence at Begungram village in Kalai upazila of Joypurhat yesterday, reports our staff correspondent from Rajshahi.

A team of Rab-5 from Joypurhat camp arrested Ranu, wanted in a case filed in connection with Khetlal Police

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## Injury-trap on Mirpur roads

HELEMUL ALAM

Most of the roads and alleys of different sections of Mirpur area have long been in dilapidated condition due to negligence of the authorities concerned causing untold sufferings to the local residents.

Of them, the condition of section-11 Bazar Road (locally called Egaronumber Bazar Road) is so rough and ragged that the residents of the area do not even dare to use it while going to the kitchen market.

Akhtar Hossain, a wholesaler of Egaronumber Bazar, said they have to suffer a lot, as the trucks carrying their goods cannot use the road for unloading.

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The condition of the Bazar Road at Mirpur-11 in the capital is the obvious reason for which vehicles do not ply there. Kids are seen crossing the road stepping on a few bricks laid on the road. Inset, another road at Senpara Parbata of Mirpur-10 in a similar condition.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Iran to allow UN to check new N-plant

Obama says Tehran must show its 'peaceful intentions'

AFP, Tehran

Iran said yesterday it would allow UN inspectors into its newly disclosed uranium enrichment plant, as US President Barack Obama laid a global outcry against Tehran for building the facility.

"As the president (Mahmoud Ahmadinejad) said, we have no problem for inspection within

the framework of the agency (International Atomic Energy Agency) regulations," Ali Akbar Salehi, Iran's atomic energy chief, said on state television.

"We will pursue this case with the agency and the date of the visit will be announced after we reach an agreement with the IAEA."

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## US may miss Gitmo's Jan closing goal

AP, Washington

President Barack Obama may not be able to meet his stated goal of closing the much-criticised Guantanamo Bay prison by January as his administration runs into daunting legal and logistical hurdles to moving the more than 220 detainees still there.

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## SC opinion overlooked

EC goes ahead to empower executive magistrates

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Election Commission is now seeking amendment to the Representation of the People Order (RPO) to empower executive magistrates permanently to try electoral offences during parliamentary polls, which goes against an opinion of Supreme Court.

The EC has already asked its officials to draft proposals to this end in line with the new mobile court law, which empowers executive magistrates to impose fines and sentence an offender to imprisonment for up to two years.

The SC last year disapproved the commission's move to deploy executive magistrates to hold trial of electoral offences during the ninth parliamentary elections.

"We want to incorporate a provision in the RPO empowering executive magistrates to hold trials of electoral offences to reduce the burden of the judicial magistrates," Election Commissioner Muhammed Sohul Hossain told The Daily Star on Thursday.

Interestingly, executive magistrates running mobile courts cannot sentence a person to

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## Tk 1 crore forest land recovered

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A mobile court recovered forest land worth Tk 1 crore from illegal occupants at Bhannara under Kaliakoir upazila on Thursday.

Gazipur district administration demolished a boundary wall of Haji Ismail Hossain Spinning Mills that was established grabbing around 80 decimals of land of the Forest Department over the last few years, Kaliakoir range forest department sources said.

After a failed attempt by the forest department to evict the

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### OnlinePoll

Do you support the government's plans to bring major changes to the constitution to restore the spirit of the Liberation War?

☐ Yes (52.85%)

☐ No (44.38%)

☐ No Comments (2.77%)

Total votes: 685

### TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain that Awami League wants to scrap CG system to prolong power?

Please cast your vote at [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

### Prayer Timing

September 27

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5:35	6:10
Zohr	1:45	2:15
Asr	5:15	5:30
Maghrib	7:00	7:05
Esha	8:30	9:00

Source: Islamic Foundation