

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XX No. 150

DHAKA TUESDAY JUNE 15, 2010

COMMITTED
TO
People's Right to Know

www.thedailystar.net

ASHAR 1, 1417 BS

RAJAB 2, 1431 HIJRI

24 PAGES PLUS STAR LIFESTYLE PRICE: Tk 10.00

China keen to
boost political,
economic ties
Chinese Vice president
tells banquet

UNB, Dhaka

Visiting Chinese Vice President
Xi Jinping said that his country
is interested to strengthen the
economic, political and other
participatory relations with
Bangladesh.

He made the remark while
speaking at the banquet
hosted in his honour by Prime
Minister Sheikh Hasina at
Sonargaon Hotel last evening.

Jinping noted that a
relation of mutual welfare already
exists among the people of the
two friendly countries.

"I hope, this will strengthen
further and bring more pros-
perity for the two countries,"
he said.

The Chinese vice president
said his country feels proud to
have a good neighbour like
Bangladesh.

He said that he had a fruit-
ful meeting with Bangladesh
prime minister yesterday.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

China to help build deep-sea port

Also offers assistance in installing country's
first space satellite; economic cooperation
agreement signed

UNB, Dhaka

China yesterday proposed to give assistance to
Bangladesh for building deep-sea port in
Chittagong and installing the country's first
space satellite.

Beijing also agreed to quick disbursement of
its assistance for Pagla Water Treatment Plant
and Shahjalal Fertiliser Factory.

The agreement came at the official talks
between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and
visiting Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping at the
PM's office in the afternoon.

During the hour-long talks the two leaders
agreed to boost cooperation in political, eco-
nomic and cultural fronts.

The talks followed the signing of an eco-
nomic cooperation agreement under which
Beijing will give grant of 40 million RMB,
Chinese regional currency, to Dhaka.

Briefing reporters on the outcome of the

talks, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said the
Chinese side assured more investment in
Bangladesh and reduce the bilateral trade
imbalance by allowing more Bangladeshi
products to have duty-free access to the
Chinese market.

She said China also agreed to extend coop-
eration for the development of telecommunica-
tion and infrastructure in Bangladesh.

The two sides agreed to exchange data and
information about the flow of the common
river Brahmaputra.

The Chinese side agreed to help Bangladesh
combat adverse impact of the climate change
as well as extend cooperation in curbing mili-
tancy and terrorism.

Vice President Xi stressed the need for
exchange of visits at the political level between
the two countries.

The two sides agreed to make memorable

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina receives Chinese Vice-President Xi Jinping at her office yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

PM pulls for water bodies Asks housing minister to go ahead, not to bow down to pressure by developers

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the state minister
for housing to go ahead with the plans to protect water bodies in
the capital without yielding to pressure from any quarters.

She gave the directions when the state minister, Abdul
Mannan Khan, met her on parliament floor. Senior ministers
and lawmakers were there when the two talked.

The prime minister blasted the land developers for the way

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Onus on govt

Urban experts shocked at developers'
excesses, say Dhaka to die if PM does
not handle the issue firmly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Urban and environment experts who witnessed an unusual
loggerhead between the housing minister and land developers
said Dhaka city cannot be saved unless the government deals
with the developers with an iron hand.

They urged strong and sincere measures to protect the flood-
flow zones suggested in the Detail Area Plan (DAP) of Dhaka.

"Unless the prime minister deals with the issue with an iron
hand, it will be impossible to save Dhaka," said Prof Jamilur Reza
Choudhury, chairman of DAP Review Committee.

The suggestions came a day after land developers blasted
State Minister for Housing Abdul Mannan Khan in a meeting
over DAP which reserves 21 percent of the capital's land as water

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Rivals gear up for close contest

Ctg city polls campaign ends tonight; army deployed

SHARIFUL ISLAM and ABDULLAH AL
MAHMUD, from Ctg

Army personnel were deployed in Chittagong
City Corporation area yesterday alongside
other law enforcement agencies to improve law
and order and ensure enforcement of the elec-
toral code of conduct.

Contestants of the CCC polls continued
vigorous campaigns as time for electioneering
ends at 12:00am June 16, 32 hours before the
start of balloting at 8:00am of June 17.

The Election Commission has almost com-
pleted all preparation for holding the polls and
the battle for ballots has heated up Chittagong
political arena.

In addition to police, Rab and BDR, six com-
panies of the army consisted of 702 personnel
were deployed in the city to maintain atmo-
sphere conducive to holding a fair election.
They will continue to work until June 18.

Empowered by the electoral laws, the army
will engage in election duties and would

SEE PAGE 7 COL 6

'Outsiders' in
campaign
despite ban
EC's decision not
well-circulated

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN,
DWAIPAYAN BARUA and NUR
UDDIN ALAMGIR from Ctg

A number of Awami League
and BNP leaders from Dhaka
were seen on the campaign
trail in Chittagong yesterday

for two mayoral candidates of
CCC polls, violating an earlier
decision by the Election
Commission.

The EC had decided not to
allow any outsider in the port

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Italy held to a draw

REUTERS, Cape Town

Shot-shy Italy needed a scram-
bled second-half equaliser by
Daniele De Rossi to snatch a 1-
1 draw with Paraguay after the
South Americans had looked
like pulling off a shock victory
in their World Cup opener
Monday.

Antolin Alcaraz thumped in
a header after 39 minutes after
the World champions had
begun their defence with a
desperately flat Group F dis-
play in the pouring Cape Town
rain.

The Italians were slightly
better in the second half,
levelling after another goalkeeping
blunder in the 63rd minute, but did precious
little to change the pessimistic view of their
fans and media who sent them to South
Africa with a verdict of no chance. Paraguay
had beaten Brazil and Argentina in qualifi-
cation so had no need to be in fear of the hold-
ers but their dire World Cup record where
they have not got past the second round in
seven attempts, going out in the group
stage four times, was always there in the
background.

The game had meandered through almost
an entire half of error-littered, unimaginative
play before exploding into life in the 39th
minute.

Aureliano Torres swung in a hopeful free-

kick from wide on the right but
Alcaraz showed great determina-
tion to make it his, rising
early and high above Fabio
Cannavaro to power his
header beyond Gianluigi
Buffon.

It was a stunning blow for
the Italians, who had looked
completely untroubled until
that point, albeit without ever
looking remotely like scoring
themselves.

Italy were forced to bring
on Federico Marchetti for
Buffon in goal at halftime but
it was at the other end of the
pitch where they needed

inspiration.

Little was
forthcoming but they levelled
when Justo Villar flapped and missed a
Simone Pepe corner and De Rossi stuck out a
foot to steer the ball into the empty net from
close range.

Either side of the equaliser Paraguay could
have had a second as Enrique Vera and substi-
tute Jonathan Santana shot wide when well
placed.

Italy roused themselves in the last 10 min-
utes in search of a winner but stout defending
Paraguay held on for deserved point.

Italy, who face New Zealand and Slovakia in
their remaining group games, will look to 1982
for inspiration, when they drew their opener
but went on to win the tournament.



Italy defender Giorgio Chiellini (R) walks past ecstatic Paraguay players after Antolin Alcaraz put the South Americans in front on the 39th minute. Italy though found an equaliser through Daniele de Rossi on the 63rd minute as the group F encounter ended 1-1 at the Green Point stadium in Cape Town yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Supplementary budget passed

MPs discuss, but hardly make any
effort to examine reasons for
additional spending by ministries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliament yesterday passed a Tk 11,987-crore supplementary
budget for additional spending by ministries and divisions
during the outgoing fiscal year.

It took only three hours to complete all procedures in the last
two days -- holding of discussions on the supplementary bud-
get, disposal of cut motions, approval of demands for grants and
the passage of a bill.

The absence of BNP-led opposition lawmakers made the
completion of the procedures easier. Dozens of cut motions by
opposition lawmakers against the grants were not placed or
discussed in the House during the passage.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Old city wakes up to chemical reality

RAKIB AHMED

Loss of 121 lives in the Nimtoli tragedy
created a deep sense of insecurity among
the Old Dhaka dwellers. They apprehend
they are living on a bomb that could go off
anytime.

The most devastating fire in country's
history prompted permanent residents of
the area to sit together to find ways to
protect the lives of over a million people
living there. It is considered one of the most
densely populated areas in the globe.

"Let our next generation survive,"
Akbar Hossain, a 40-year-old resident of
the town, who lost seven of his family
members in the Nimtoli blaze, made a
plea with hands clasped in a social gath-



Flammable chemicals, a threat too often overlooked.

PHOTO: STAR

social body that resolves social disputes,
sat in the meeting to find possible ways to
ensure safety in the days ahead.

They fear a reoccurrence of similar
chemical explosion and fire, as most of
the buildings in the area have stores of
flammable chemicals or factories of
various products on the ground floors.

"We are living on bombs," said
Mohammad Shahid, a middle-aged
resident of the area. Explosions may
occur, and fire may erupt anytime in the
factories and stores of flammable goods,
he added.

"We should take lessons from the
Nimtoli incident," said Abdur Razzak, a
senior resident.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Top floor of tilted building demolished

25 tin-shed illegal structures
at Begunbari also removed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) yesterday demolished
the top floor of a four-storey tilted building at Begunbari in the
capital as part of its ongoing drive.

Two eviction teams of Rajuk also demolished around 25
makeshift structures in city's Gulshan and Begunbari areas.

An eviction team of Rajuk knocked down the top floor of a
four-storey tilted building erected illegally at Begunbari. The
building is close to the five-storey building that collapsed on
June 3 and claimed 25 lives.

The team also pulled down three two-storeyed tin-shed
houses erected along the Begunbari canal (Hatifir Development
Project) in the area, said Shafiqul Islam, authorised officer of Rajuk, who supervised the drive.

Another team comprised of Rajuk Superintendent Engineer
Anwar Hossain, Executive Engineer Nurul Islam pulled down a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4