

THE DAILY Star ON FRIDAY



REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXI No. 1 | MAGH 1, 1417 BS | SAFAR 8, 1432 HIJRI | www.thedailystar.net | Your Right to Know | 28 PAGES PLUS THE STAR PRICE: Tk 10.00



ASSANGE BLASTS CHINA
WikiLeaks chief brands the country as "tech enemy" of his outfit
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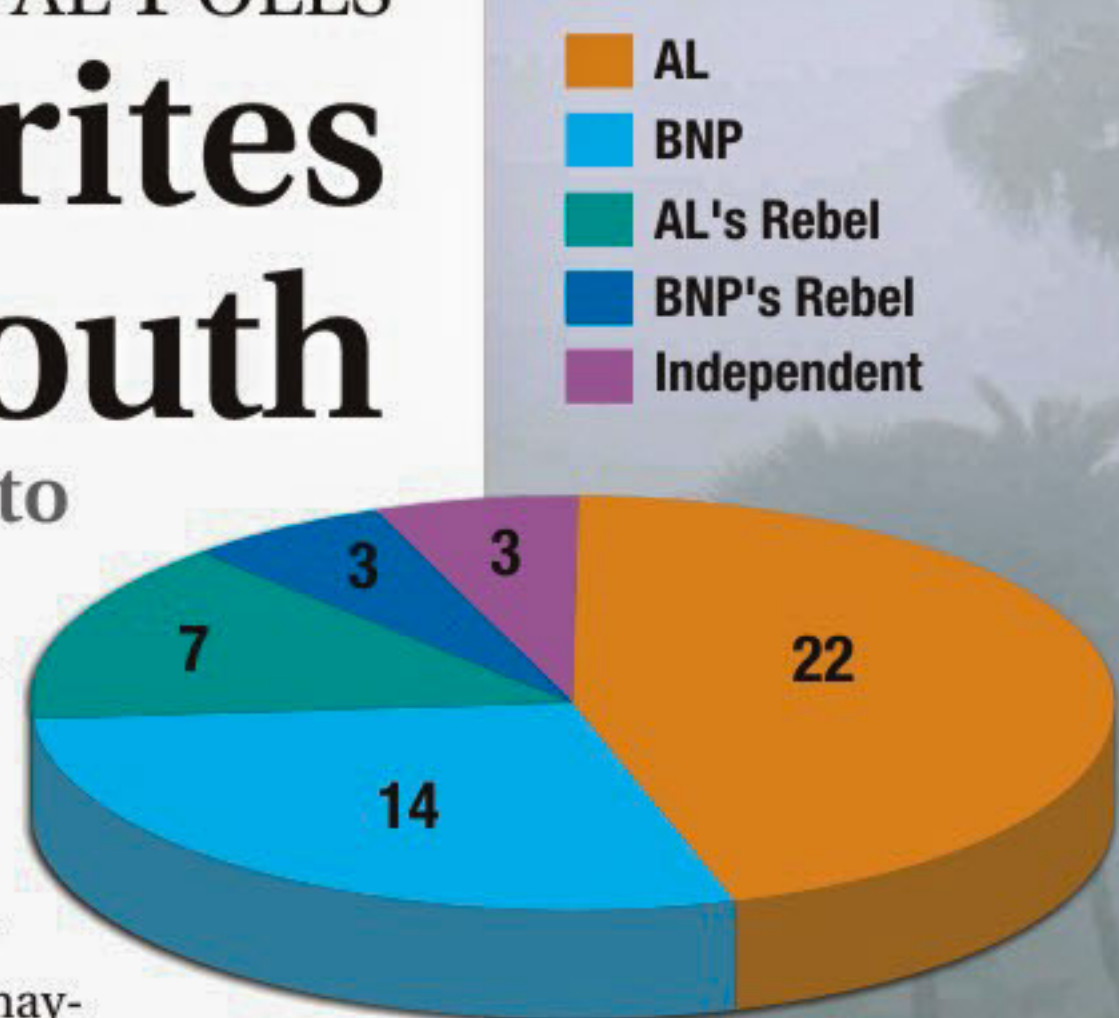
WB UPBEAT ON BANGLADESH
But warns that inflation risks and low remittance may persist
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RALLY FOR RELIEF
Tennis stars will play a charity tourney for Aussie flood victims
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WARRIORS MUNICIPAL POLLS AL favourites back in South

Sheikh Hasina directs to expel AL rebel candidates from party

STAR REPORT
Awami League-backed candidates fought back in the battle of ballots by winning the majority of municipal mayoral posts in Barisal and Khulna divisions yesterday, a day after suffering setback in the divisions of Rajshahi and Rangpur.
In the divisions' 49 municipalities, AL-supported candidates picked up 22 mayoral posts while BNP favourites bagged 14.
Dissidents from AL got seven seats while BNP's rebels won three. Three independent contestants also emerged victorious.
In 19 municipalities of Barisal, only one BNP favourite scored a win.
Meanwhile, the ruling Awami League took a hardline about the dissidents who ran without the party backing and are blamed by its top brass for Wednesday's downfall.
AL President Sheikh Hasina last night directed her party colleagues to expel the rebel candidates, two senior leaders told The Daily Star.
The rebels, who even won in the south, are likely to face the same action.
In 72 municipalities of Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions, the ruling party-backed contenders secured only



The visibility is poor, the cold is numbing, yet the enthusiasm is high. This photo was taken yesterday at 8:30am in front of Sankarpasha Govt Primary School polling centre of Nalchhity municipality in Jhalakathi. More photos on page 9. PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

Expressway: alternative thought

Renowned civil engineer Dr M Shamim Z Bosunia approached The Daily Star with an innovative plan to solve the capital's traffic problem last Wednesday, in which he designed an expressway providing for a far greater use of

North shows yellow card to AL govt

Says BNP
UNB, Dhaka
BNP leaders said people of North Bengal have shown the Awami League government the yellow card through Wednesday's municipal polls for its "misrule and failures, while red card is waiting." The BNP leaders made the remarks while

FOOD STOCKS Govt to get into import gear

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
In a bid to boost the food stocks and make the local commodity market stable, the government yesterday disclosed its mega food import strategies.
According to its decision, the government will import nine lakh tonnes of additional rice to increase the stock to 12 lakh tonnes. The authorities previously targeted importing three lakh tonnes of rice for 2010-11 fiscal year.
Like the staple food, the government will import

BANGLADESH'S DEMAND FOR ELECTRICITY Bhutan for tri-nation talk

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
Bhutanese Prime Minister Lyonchhen Jigmi Y Thinley yesterday came up with an idea of holding a tri-nation discussion among Bangladesh, Bhutan and India to meet Bangladesh's acute demand for electricity.
"Why three of us should not discuss how can we meet the needs of Bangladesh sooner than later?" he said while addressing a press conference at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel yesterday evening.
Thinley is due to depart Dhaka this morning ending his four-day visit to Bangladesh.
Speaking at the press conference, he said currently Bhutan is rather over capacitated with 10 mega hydraulic power projects committed to India, which



Lyonchhen Jigmi Y Thinley

will be completed by 2020.
"We like to help Bangladesh and explore generation of hydropower in Bhutan for Bangladesh," said Prime Minister Thinley.
He mentioned that Bangladesh proposed for investment in hydropower in Bhutan on equity share basis or direct purchasing from Bhutan.
He expressed gratitude to the Bangladesh government for offering Bhutan to use Chittagong and Mongla seaports. Thinley visited Mongla seaport yesterday and was impressed to see the existing facilities.
He said a team from Bhutan would come to Bangladesh to see how efficiently they can use these ports.
In reply to a question, the Bhutanese

Friends are forever

'Bondhu' package 7 F & F 49 paisa/min



The Daily Star twinkles with culture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Daily Star has considered promoting and upholding our traditional cultural practices as part of its moral obligation. And what better way to demonstrate this commitment on the occasion of its 20th anniversary than to celebrate with major cultural events?
As part of the

No wrong in detention

US ambassador-at-large for war crimes says pre-charge detention no violation of int'l standards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Accused war criminals can be detained before bringing charges against them as long as their prolonged detention is judicially reviewed, Stephen J Rapp, US ambassador-at-large for war crimes issues, has said.
"Different countries follow different process and different courts have different procedures," he said yesterday, adding, "Pre-charging detention is not automatically a violation of international standards."
Speaking at a press conference at American Recreation Association in the capital, he stressed that accused should be tried for their activities, and not for their association with any organisation.
"Individuals are judged not by what association they are part of but what they did. Even then one's membership is not enough to convict an individual, it has to be on



Stephen J Rapp

PADMA BRIDGE WB to provide \$1.2b

UNB, Dhaka
The World Bank, through its concessionary arm - the International Development Association (IDA) - will provide \$1.2 billion for the country's largest ever infrastructure development project, the Padma Multipurpose Bridge.
The government and the WB held successful negotiations of \$1.2 billion concessional credit for the project on January 9, which is expected to have a transformational effect on the nearly 30 million people living in the south west region, and accelerate growth in the country as a whole.
The WB would also provide additional financing of \$300 million if the construction cost is scaled up.

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