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JP's POLL DEBACLE
Ershad's realisation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Party (JP) has suffered badly in the recently held municipality elections due to its participation under the grand alliance, said the party

Lakhs gather on Turag bank

Biswa Ijtema's first phase begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 20 lakh devotees will seek divine blessings at the Biswa Ijtema, one of the largest congregations of the Muslims, beginning today on the bank of Turag in Tongi.

Deviating from its decades-old tradition, this year's Ijtema is going to be held in two phases. Spanning six days, each phase of the ritual will be of three days.

The first stage will continue till January 23 while the second will commence on January 28 after a four-day break.

In its new dimension, the Akheri Munajat (concluding prayers) will also be held in two phases on January 23 and 30.

President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina are also expected to join the Akheri Munajat.

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Devotees start gathering on the bank of Turag in Tongi yesterday to join the Biswa Ijtema, one of the largest congregations of the Muslim. Its first phase begins today and the second after a four-day break.

PHOTO:
ANISUR RAHMAN



Cherie takes over as AWU chancellor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former UK first lady Cherie Blair yesterday took the charge of chancellor of the Asian University for Women in Chittagong. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave her the charge at the opening ceremony of a three-day international symposium

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Zia executed Taher 'under pressure'

Moudud tells HC; court seeks US journo Lifschultz's statement on Taher's trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A tremendous pressure from some repatriated army officers had forced Ziaur Rahman to try and execute Colonel Abu Taher through a military tribunal in 1976, senior BNP leader Moudud Ahmed told the High Court yesterday.

Col Taher was a victim of the conflict between the repatriated officials, who did not fight the Liberation War, and freedom



Col Taher

fighters in the army, he also said.

Moudud was reading out excerpts from his book -- Democracy -- and the Challenge of Democracy -- as the court during the hearing on a writ petition asked him to make statement in connection with the trial of Taher.

"The repatriated officers had found a new ally in Zia after the killing of Mujib and removal of Moshtaque [who

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Evidence against SQ Chy sufficient
Says war crimes investigator

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

There is sufficient evidence to prove the war crimes charges against BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, said Rana Das Gupta, member of the International Crimes Tribunal's

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DEMAND FOR PAY AS PER CONTRACT
30,000 workers on strike in UAE

Most of them are Bangladeshis

PORIMOL PALMA

Around 30,000 Asian workers, mostly Bangladeshis, in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have been on strike for the last five days demanding pay hikes, workers said yesterday.

The workers of Arab Tech, a Dubai-based construction company, are pressing for 1200 dirhams (1 dirham= Tk 19.40) for the carpenters and labourers and 1000 dirhams for the helpers, including a two-way air ticket during the contract term.

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China president warns US on Tibet, Taiwan

AFP, Washington

Chinese President Hu Jintao yesterday warned the United States to respect Beijing's sovereignty over Taiwan and Tibet but assured that his country had no interest in engaging in an arms race.

Hu repeatedly urged "mutual respect" and cooperation between the Pacific powers as he delivered a policy speech on a state visit in which his hosts have repeatedly pressed him about human rights.

At a luncheon with senior officials and business leaders, Hu said that Taiwan and Tibet "concern China's sovereignty and territorial integrity and they represent China's core interests."

"A review of the history of our relations tells us that US-China relations will enjoy smooth and steady growth when the two countries handle well issues involving each

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ONLINE POLL

Do you think the inclusion of Ashraful in the Bangladesh cricket team for the Cricket World Cup 2011 is justified?

Yes (47.8%)
No (49.7%)
No Comments (2.5%)

TOTAL VOTES : 760

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think Awami league will learn from the municipality polls and fix the problems to retain its popularity?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT
www.thedailystar.net

EC to field observers in by-polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) deploys its own observers today in Habiganj-1 and Brahmanbaria-3 constituencies to ensure free and fair by-polls there on January 27.

As per the EC

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PRAYER TIMING January 21

| | |
|--------------|--------|
| Asan | Jamaat |
| Fajr 5-30 | 6-05 |
| Juma 12-30 | 1-15 |
| Asr 4-15 | 4-30 |
| Maghrib 5-43 | 5-47 |
| Esha 7-15 | 7-45 |

Source: Islamic Foundation

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