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Beggar-free city before WC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The sub-committee on World Cup cricket security yesterday suggested the government declare February 17 public holiday in the capital for smooth holding of the cricket tournament at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

It also recommended for closing the educational institutes, temporarily

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**CONTEMPT OF COURT
6 officials summoned**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned six government high officials, including three secretaries, in connection with a contempt of court petition.

An HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain also

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Ctg steel mill fined for air pollution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined a steel mill in Chittagong Tk 10 lakh and suspended its environment clearance certificate for emitting toxic gas.

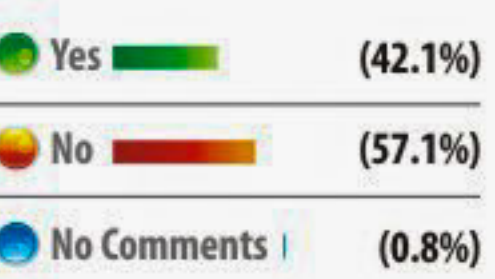
A team led by Mohammad Munir Chowdhury, director of DoE (monitoring and enforcement, asked the authorities

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2



ONLINE POLL

Do you think the persons responsible for the stockmarket manipulation will be tried?



TOTAL VOTES : 872

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think Tuesday's rise in the stock index was natural?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING January 26

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-35	6-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-46	5-50
Esha	7-15	7-45



SANCTITY NOT PROTECTED

Youths play cricket on the Central Shaheed Minar premises yesterday morning. The High Court last year issued directives upon the government to protect the dignity of the mausoleum. Besides, any disrespect to the monument hurts the nation.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL



**The Daily Star
It's theatre time for celebration**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bijoy-er Natya Utsav, a weeklong theatre festival to celebrate the 40th anniversary of independence, began at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy yesterday.

The Daily Star and Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTf) have jointly organised the event also to mark the 20th anniversary of the daily and the 30th anniversary of the federation.

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BY-POLLS TOMORROW

AL faces strong challenge in Habiganj-1

NAJMUL ALAM NOBIN, from Habiganj

The ruling Awami League is likely to face a strong challenge from Jatiya Party in Habiganj-1 by-election tomorrow.

Grand alliance candidate Dewan Farid Gazi won the seat securing more than 72 thousand votes in 2008 parliamentary polls. JP as part of the alliance had campaigned for him.

On Sunday and yesterday, JP Chairman HM Ershad attended election rallies in

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

Prestige battle for AL, BNP in B'baria

PANKAJ KARMAKAR and SHEIKH SHAHIDUL ISLAM, from Brahmanbaria

Dozens of high-profile leaders of two major political parties arrived in the urban town of Brahmanbaria in their efforts to secure victory for their respective party-nominated candidates in the by-polls scheduled tomorrow.

Both the parties have taken the by-polls as a prestige issue following countrywide municipal elections that experienced

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HRW slates extra-judicial killings in Bangladesh

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh government has not yet stopped torture and extra-judicial killings and there is no end of systematic human rights abuses, said an international human rights watchdog yesterday.

"The Awami League government has not kept its promise after its

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UAE detains 70 Bangladeshis for going on strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 70 Bangladeshi workers of Arabtec, a leading construction company in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), were detained by the police yesterday in connection with going on strike for over a week.

Going on strike is illegal in the UAE. Abu Zafar, consul general of Bangladesh embassy in Dubai, said the workers who displayed gestures of anger and disrespect are now under police custody. Around 5,000 workers of a particular labour camp have been on strike for the last seven days demanding pay hike, he said.

"They want 1,200 dirhams for the general workers who are currently drawing 650 dirhams per month," Zafar told The Daily Star over the phone.

They finally returned to work yesterday after the authorities agreed to raise their pay to 800 dirhams, provided they work an hour or two extra when work is available, he said.

"The impact of global economic recession is still lingering in Dubai," Abu Zafar said.

Earlier, workers from Dubai told The Daily Star that around 30,000 workers were on strike but Abu Zafar clarified the matter saying that, only workers of one labour camp participated in the work abstention.

Strike in the UAE is illegal and there is no scope for

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

MP's aide plunders 50 trees

Allege locals; he denies accusation
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A personal assistant of a ruling party lawmaker felled and looted more than 50 trees of LGED on Baishari-Bisharkandi roadsides at Iluharipara upazila in Barisal.

The trees, mostly mahogany, shegun, chambal, coconut, betelnut, raintree, were planted 12 years ago.

Abdus Salam Munshi, APS of Awami League lawmaker Principal Shah Alam of Pirojpur-2, felled the trees worth around Tk 1.5 lakh in two phases, said local sources.

Jalil Munshi, a cousin of Salam Munshi, said he planted the trees according to a contract with

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Of market for happiness

RAKIB AHAMMED

An aura of fragrance envelops the heart of the capital at Shahbagh when the city is in deep sleep as a small community of 500 people wake up every night to trade in flowers.

Trading at the market starts as early as 3:00 in the morning with several hundred buyers flocking to buy flowers of different varieties.

The story of the wholesale flower market remains untold to city dwellers, who buy flowers from different retailers, as the dealing ends by sunrise.

Around 20 kinds of flowers including a few rare species hit the market mainly from six districts Dhaka (Savar), Jessore, Chuadanga, Jhenidah, Narsingdi and Narayanganj.

Ashraf Ali, vice-president of the flower traders' welfare association, says flowers worth over Tk 3 lakh are sold at the 30-year-old market every day.

Traders start gathering the market by buses, trucks and other vehicles from 3:00am. The trading peaks at around 5:00am and ends within an hour.

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PHOTO: STAR

The wholesale flower market spreads aroma at Shahbagh in the capital. Trading begins in the early hours every day and the flowers are all sold by 9:00am.

Khulna Medical College shut after BCL factions clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khulna Medical College (KMC) was declared closed for an indefinite period following a clash between two factions of Chhatra League, student wing of the ruling party, over establishing supremacy on the campus yesterday.

The college authorities at an emergency meeting held at 11:30am also asked the students to vacate their dormitories by 8:00pm last night.

The clash began at about 10:00am following an altercation between the activists of Sabbir Ahmed Ayon and Chyon Biswas over establishing

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হযরত খাজা গরীব নাওয়াজ (রহ.) এর আওলাদে পাক ও একমাত্র সাক্ষাদানীন শায়খুল মাশায়েখ

শাহ ছুফি হযরত ছৈয়দ জয়নুল আবেদীন চিশতী মা. জি. আ. (দেওয়ান) সাহেবের

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