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**DISSECTING A STIGMA**  
Muhammad Nurul Huda delves into extra-judicial killings  
PAGE 15

**EGYPT IN TURMOIL**  
Internet, phones down as thousands demonstrate to oust Hosni Mubarak  
PAGE 20

**IT'S MURRAY V DJOKOVIC**  
Andy Murray edges past David Ferrer to face Novak Djokovic in Australian Open final  
PAGE 17

## BNP plans fiery protests in JS

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN

The treasury bench might have to face an aggressive opposition bench in the current parliamentary session, as lawmakers from the BNP-led alliance are preparing to launch a blistering attack on the government for the stockmarket crash and some other crucial issues.

The alliance MPs, who have been boycotting the House proceedings since June last year giving a comfortable time to the treasury bench, are planning to return to the House anytime as they believe it is

**Opposition may return to JS to hit out at govt on stockmarket crash, other issues**

the proper time for them to speak for "people's cause".

Already irked by the government's various activities including cancelling the lease of BNP chief's cantonment residence, the opposition lawmakers want to portray it as anti-people.

Sensing the opposition plan, the treasury bench MPs are also preparing to counter this, promising a heated debate and discussion on different issues in the House after more than

six months.  
Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia  
SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

BNP alleges rigging in B'baria polls  
Demands CEC's resignation  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

## Govt refusal to deploy army in by-polls irks EC

**Constitutional provision ignored**

STAR REPORT

The government has ignored a constitutional provision by refusing the Election Commission's request for army deployment in the just-concluded by-elections to two constituencies and polls to five municipalities.

Article 126 of the constitution says: "It shall be the duty of all executive authorities to assist the Election Commission in the discharge of its functions."

Talking to The Daily Star, Election Commissioner Muhammed Sohul Hussein said the government did not meet all their requirements though the constitution stipulates that it do so.

He said they are still in the dark why the government



Soil of Kumkumari village near Savar dairy farm is contaminated with toxic liquid from nearby factories. Inset, saplings turned reddish and almost died due to pollution.

## Toxic industrial waste flows into farmland

Villagers in Savar demonstrate against discharge of waste by industries, press for installing ETP

MORSHED ALI KHAN

Highly toxic industrial waste released into the environment has destroyed vast areas of agricultural land and water bodies in Savar on the outskirts of the capital.

Farmers and residents say their livelihoods have been shattered by the horrendous pollution caused by a few industrialists making money at the cost of their lives.

Yesterday they attended a protest rally at Savar against massive degradation of their cropland and water bodies.

"In recent past I grew enough rice and vegetables on my land," said Surat Ali Mridha of Kumkumari, a village near Savar dairy farm.

"This year the land yielded nothing. I sold the small piece of land for survival of my family," said Mridha.

"It's all barren because these industries are releasing waste onto our soil."

The rally called by Savar River and Environment Protection Committee demanded industries in the neighbourhood set up effluent treatment plant (ETP) immediately.

"None in the area has any in-built effluent treatment facilities as

## Hijacked SHIP Hasina seeks IMO help in rescue of crew

UNB, London

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has sought International Maritime Organisation's (IMO) cooperation in rescuing 26 crewmembers of Bangladeshi ship MV Jahan Moni hijacked by Somali pirates.

Hasina sought the cooperation when IMO Secretary General Eftihimos E Mitropoulos paid a courtesy call on her yesterday afternoon at her Hotel Hilton suit in London.

Expressing concern over the hijacking of the ship along with mariners,

## Cuet shut for 2 weeks after clash

CU CORRESPONDENT

Authorities closed Chittagong University of Science and Technology (Cuet) yesterday for 14 days following a clash between students over a teacher's refusal to take class.

A group of students in electrical and electronics engineering department of Cuet on Thursday made offensive comments in a class of a newly appointed teacher while others protested against the improper behaviour, said a few students.

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