



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

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28 PAGES PLUS STAR CAMPUS PRICE : Tk 10.00



NO DRS IN WI SERIES

The Decision Review System will not be used in the upcoming Bangladesh-West Indies series

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MICRO-INSURANCE FOR POOR

The PKSF is set to launch pro-poor insurance schemes

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END OF NEGOTIATION

Afghan President Hamid Karzai abandons peace talks with the Taliban

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EC recast thru' talks

PM says polls in time without caretaker govt; BNP must participate in election if it wants to stay in politics

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the Election Commission will be reconstituted and strengthened through discussions with all stakeholders including the main opposition BNP in efforts to ensure free and fair elections.

"We agree with the opposition about the need for reconstitution of the Election Commission through discussions. That will definitely happen," she told a press conference at her official residence Gono Bhaban.

Asked about BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's recent statement that no general election will be allowed if the caretaker government system is not reinstated, Hasina said the election will be held without a caretaker

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Door for dialogue still open

Khaleda urged to join parliament

Call to stop 'protecting war criminals'

Jamaat-Shibir violence not to be tolerated

Call for consensus

React political, civil society leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political leaders and members of civil society have observed that the two major political parties--Awami League and BNP--should reach a consensus through dialogue on

holding the next general election in a free and fair manner in order to avert a crisis.

They made their views known to The Daily Star in response to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's assertion

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1,000 taxis to hit city roads

Saber Chy's company given licence

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The communications ministry has given licence to Karnaphuli Works Ltd, owned by Awami League lawmaker Saber Hossain Chowdhury, to operate a thousand new taxicabs in the capital and its adjacent districts.

Equipped with a minimum of 1500cc (1.5 litres) engines and air-conditioning, the vehicles to be imported from Japan are expected to roll onto the city streets anytime soon.

Abdul Mannan, secretary to the firm's Managing Director Saber Hossain Chowdhury, said the company obtained the licence on September 24 and is now working to procure taxicabs and put them into operation.

"We plan to import the taxicabs at one go," said Mannan.

He said the final decision on import of the vehicles will

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Crossfire killings necessary

Rab's former second man Bari told US envoy

STAR REPORT

Chowdhury Fazlul Bari, former second-in-command of Rab, during a June 2005 conversation with US embassy officials had described extrajudicial killings in the name of "crossfire" by the force as a necessary, short-term expedient, according to a diplomatic dispatch.

An influential figure during the 2007-2008 tenure of military-backed caretaker regime, Bari also had stated that a "due process" was the elite force's objective.

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Fazlul Bari



This mosque built in the Mughal period near Mitford Hospital in Old Dhaka is being torn down to make way for a modern one. Inset, workers knocking down structures.

MUGHAL ERA MOSQUE

Outcry over demolition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The authorities have been demolishing a 368-year-old mosque to erect a five-storey new one on DC Roy Road in Old Dhaka.

Located to the west of Mitford Hospital, the Mitford Kazi Sharif Mosque was constructed in AD 1643-44 during the Mughal period.

A Persian stone inscription in a wall of the three-domed mosque

shows that it was built by one Kazi Mohammad Sharif Multani.

Mosque committee sources said they were knocking down the ancient building with the help of

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The world's largest sugar refinery now in Bangladesh



With praises to Almighty Allah, City Group would like to announce the establishment of the largest sugar refinery of the world here in Bangladesh. City Sugar Industries Limited has the capacity of refining 5000 metric tonnes of sugar per day.

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a quest for excellence



2 Ws tipped to be top bureaucrats

HASAN JAHD TUSHER

The bureaucracy is going to see a shake-up at its top level within a day or two as the contractual jobs of cabinet secretary and prime minister's principal secretary ended on Thursday.

Cabinet Secretary M Abdul Aziz and PM's Principal Secretary Md Abdul Karim had been holding the two key positions since 2009.

Appointment of Water Resources Secretary Sheikh Md Wahid uz

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PRISON VISIT Rights chief threatens to go to HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Chairman yesterday said if the government took no action against Inspector General of Police (Prisons) who barred him from entering Sylhet jail on Thursday he will move to the High Court.

Human rights officials are eligible to visit places like prisons, hospitals or other government institutions without any prior

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

From weapon stores to carpet shops, many business houses of Purana Paltan in the capital nail their ads to this tree. Any advertisement requires permission from Dhaka City Corporation before they could be hoisted.