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Only Ivy among frontrunners has clean sheet

Taimur accused in 9 cases, Shamim in 5

RAKIB AHAMMED

Former Awami League lawmaker Shamim Osman and local BNP leader Taimur Alam Khondaker--two frontrunners in the Narayanganj City Corporation mayoral race--stand accused in several cases filed on charges including murder, corruption and theft, according to their nomination papers.

Selina Hayat Ivy, another favourite for the post from the ruling AL, however, faces no criminal charges. Shamim, also a former general secretary of district AL, has five cases filed against him with different police stations in Narayanganj.

Taimur, backed by BNP for the polls, faces nine graft charges.

On Sunday, eight mayoral hopefuls filed nomination papers for the maiden polls to the newly formed city corporation due on October 30.

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Returning Officer Biswas Lutfur Rahman looks through the nomination papers of Selina Hayat Ivy, a mayoral aspirant in the city corporation polls in Narayanganj. The photo was taken at the city's Shaheed Zia Hall yesterday.

All 8 mayoral candidates get go-ahead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

The returning officer of Narayanganj City Corporation (NCC) election yesterday declared valid the nomination papers of all eight mayoral aspirants.

The hopefuls include Awami League leaders Shamim Osman and Selina Hayat Ivy and BNP leader Taimur Alam Khondaker.

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Govt to use EVM as tool to rig polls

Says BNP
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) would be the main weapon to manipulate the voting system and it cannot be safe for our country, BNP acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said yesterday.

By introducing EVMs, the government is trying to rig the next general

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Kumari Puja celebrated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hindu devotees yesterday celebrated Maha Ashtami across the country, offering obeisance to Goddess Durga.

Today, Maha Navami, the fourth day of Durga

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Global meet for cut in migration cost

Suggests legal framework for manpower brokers, strict control of licensed recruiting agencies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An international conference has recommended bringing under a legal framework manpower brokers both in labour sending and receiving countries, and firmly regulate operations of licensed recruiting agencies to cut migration cost for overseas jobs.

It also suggested that job contracts signed between the migrant workers and employers must specifically mention their wages, and contain provisions for welfare, healthcare and other social security.

Experts and officials from nine manpower exporting and four importing countries gave the suggestions at the two-day conference that ended in Dhaka yesterday.

The global meet was jointly organised by Switzerland, chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), and Bangladesh, chair of the Colombo Process, a regional forum of labour-sending countries, with technical support from the International Organisation for

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Syed Abul discloses his assets

UNB, Dhaka

Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain yesterday submitted his wealth statement to the cabinet secretary.

"In compliance with the Cabinet Division directive, I myself submitted my wealth statement along with income tax return to Cabinet Secretary Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan at the ministry," he told UNB over phone.

Earlier on Sunday, the

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Hi-tech driving licence on cards

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority is set to start producing hi-tech driving licences to prevent the use of fake licences by drivers, a problem that is attributed to accidents on roads.

A total of 11.50 lakh licences will be issued in five years at the cost of Tk 37 crore from the public exchequer. The licences will have chips securely storing a driver's data.

"We are ready to launch production of the modern driving licence. We are just waiting for its inauguration by the prime minister or communications minister," Deputy Director of BRTA Sitangsu Shekhar Biswas told The Daily Star.

He said printing machines and other equipment have been set up in the BRTA Elenbari office in August, which having a capacity to produce 5,000 licences a day.

According to the plan, data will be entered into the database at all BRTA offices across the country but manufacturing of the licences will be done only at the Elenbari office of the BRTA. Data of 10,000 drivers has already been entered.

Tighter IT, which did digital voter enrolment before the 2008 general elections, is doing the job

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8



Schoolboy killed for ransom

Skull, bones found 4 months after abduction

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police recovered the bones and skull of schoolboy Motashim Bin Hridoy yesterday, four months after he was abducted.

A team led by Assistant Police Superintendent of Kushtia recovered the remains from a grave at Bahirchar of Bheramara upazila, 48km off the town.

The class-VIII student was picked up by a group led by local youth Helal Uddin Danny on a microbus on his

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Govt to build 20,000 flats for middle class

Ecneec okays Tk 9,031cr project

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will build 20,000 flats in the capital's Uttara in the next five years for low and middle income people.

The project was approved by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina chaired the meeting.

The Tk 9,031-crore project will commence in November and is expected to be complete by June 2016.

Under the project, a total of 240 apartment (16-storey each) blocks will be constructed at sector 18 of Uttara.

The buyers will have to pay 25 percent of the total cost of the flat as down payment while the remaining amount can be paid in 96 monthly installments.

However, the sizes and prices of the apartments have not been determined yet.

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BLAST IN SOMALI CAPITAL

Qaeda-linked rebels kill 65

REUTERS, Mogadishu

Somalia's al-Qaeda-linked rebels struck at the heart of the capital Mogadishu yesterday, killing at least 65 people with a truck bomb in the group's most deadly single attack since launching an insurgency in 2007.

Witnesses said a truck exploded at the gate of a compound housing four government ministries in the K4 (Kilometre 4) area of Mogadishu, where students had gathered to sit exams.

"We have carried 65 dead bodies and 50 injured people," ambulance coordinator Ali Muse told Reuters. "Some are still lying there. Most of the people have burns."

Al Shabaab insurgents, who claimed responsibility for the blast, pulled most of their fighters out of Mogadishu in August allowing government troops and African Union soldiers to seize much of the coastal capital, but the rebels had vowed to attack government installations.

Paddy Ankunda, spokesman for the African Union force (AMISOM) in Somalia, said students and government soldiers were among the dead.

The blast destroyed kiosks near the compound and

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JS goes into 11th session on Oct 20

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 11th session of the ninth parliament will begin on October 20.

President Zillur Rahman yesterday convened the session, says a press release of the Parliament Secretariat.

The participation of BNP-led opposition lawmakers, however, remains uncertain as they have been boycotting the House proceedings since March this year. They have accused the ruling party of destroying the "atmosphere" in parliament.

"We have not yet made any decision to return to parliament. Party's respective forum concerned led by our Chairperson Khaleida Zia

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STUDY ON EXPANDING UNIVERSE

3 researchers from US, UK get Nobel

Brian Schmidt Saul Perlmutter Adam Riess

BBC ONLINE

Three researchers behind the discovery that our Universe's expansion is accelerating have been awarded this year's Nobel prize for physics yesterday.

Saul Perlmutter and Adam Riess of the US and Brian Schmidt of Australia will divide the prize.

The trio studied what are called Type 1a supernovae, determining that more distant objects seem to move faster.

Their observations suggest that not only is the Universe expanding, its expansion is relentlessly speeding up.

Prof Perlmutter of the University of California, Berkeley, has been awarded half the 10m Swedish krona (€940,000) prize, with Prof Schmidt of the Australian

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পরিবেশ বান্ধব পাট বাঁচাতে গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার "পণ্যে পাটজাত মোড়কের বাধ্যতামূলক ব্যবহার আইন" ২০১০ পাস করেছে।

এই আইনের উদ্দেশ্যঃ

- * পলিথিনের ভয়াবহ বিপর্যয় থেকে পরিবেশকে রক্ষা করা;
- * বায়ুদূষণ, মাটিদূষণ ও পানিদূষণ রোধসহ নদী-নালা, খাল-বিল, জলাশয় ও সমুদ্রে বাঁচানো;
- * সকল মহানগর, জেলা, উপজেলা ও পৌর এলাকার পয়ঃনিষ্কাশন ব্যবস্থা সচল রাখা;
- * প্রায় ৪ লক্ষ পাট চাষীর পাটের ন্যায্যমূল্য প্রাপ্তি নিশ্চিতকরণ;
- * প্রায় ৩ লক্ষ পাটকল শ্রমিকের কর্মসংস্থানের নিশ্চয়তা বিধান;
- * প্রায় ৫ কোটি মানুষের অন্ন ও কর্মসংস্থানের লক্ষ্যে পাট শিল্পকে বাঁচিয়ে রাখা এবং
- * পাট ও পাট শিল্পের উন্নতি ঘটিয়ে দেশের অর্থনীতিকে মজবুত করা।

এই আইনের লক্ষ্যঃ

অভ্যন্তরীণ বাজারে সকল প্রকার খাদ্যশস্য ও নির্ধারিত পণ্যাদি পরিবহন ও মজুদে পাটপণ্য ব্যবহার করা বাধ্যতামূলক।

আইন ভঙ্গকারীর দণ্ডঃ

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