



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

Your Right to Know

28 PAGES PRICE: Tk 10.00



PAGE 7

## WALL STREET PROTESTS

Will it lead to a change in present form of capitalism?

PAGE 15

## TIGERS DESPERATE

Bangladesh must win the 2nd ODI against West Indies today to stay alive in the series

PAGE 16

## BERLUSCONI'S GOVT SURVIVES

The three-time Italian PM wins confidence vote in parliament

## KONABARI INDUSTRIAL BELT

# 80pc production gone with gas

Supply cut to feed Jamuna fertiliser factory; exporters of several hundred industries demand uninterrupted supply

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

Production in scores of industries from Konabari in Gazipur to Mirzapur in Tangail has dropped by 80 percent since last month for severe disruption in gas supply.

Gas distributor Titas has drastically reduced gas supply to these industries since September 8 to divert gas to Jamuna fertiliser factory that had remained shut for five and a half months.

Kaliakoir-Mirzapur Industrial Forum that represents 50 industries claimed they

have been making losses of about Tk 6 crore a day since September 8 for acute shortage of gas. The forum has been formed to press home their demand for uninterrupted gas supply.

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association said at least 300 of its export-oriented factories have been running at a loss for the recent gas crisis.

The move has put several hundred industries -- mostly export-oriented -- into uncertainty. The owners of the affected companies feared they might fail

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5



An influential quarter occupies the DND Canal in Narayanganj, builds structures on it and rents them out to people with the authorities concerned not caring much.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## PADMA BRIDGE GRAFT

# WB names Abul, his firm

The minister denies allegation

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain and senior representatives of his family-owned company SAHCO, sought to coerce multiple companies into using SAHCO as a paid "silent agent" for getting permission to bid for the main bridge contract of Padma Multipurpose Bridge project.

Companies failing to cooperate were threatened with retaliation, revealed an investigation report by the Integrity Vice-presidency (INT) of World Bank Group.

The project's main bridge contract, estimated to cost approximately US\$1.2 billion, includes construction of the main bridge, road viaducts, approach roads, toll plazas, and bridge end facilities. The total project cost is \$2.9 billion.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

## BDF meet deferred

Padma Bridge issue might be behind decision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The meeting of the Bangladesh Development Forum (BDF) has been deferred till February next year due to the complications rose over the Padma Multipurpose Bridge project, said finance ministry sources.

The meeting was scheduled to be held on November 2-3.

In BDF meetings, the government and development partners evaluate and discuss sector-wise

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

## N'GANJ CITY POLLS

# AL leaders say no scope for backing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A day after three organising secretaries of Awami League conveyed party backing to Shamim Osman in the Narayanganj City Corporation polls, two top party leaders yesterday said they cannot "openly" support anyone in local elections.

"As per the election law, we cannot support anybody overtly. We'll sit soon to decide on our next course of action," AL Joint Secretary General Mahubul Alam Hanif told private television channel ATN Bangla.

Party adviser Suranjit Sengupta also echoed the view. "Constitution and related laws do not allow partisan elections to the local government bodies," Suranjit told a discussion at Dhaka Reporters Unity in the capital.

Ending the weeks-long confusion, the ruling AL on Thursday decided to stand behind Shamim in his bid for the office of mayor in the October 30 election.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

## Candidates go door to door to woo voters

STAR REPORT

With the ruling party on his side, Shamim Osman, a mayoral candidate in the upcoming Narayanganj City Corporation polls, launched an election campaign in the city yesterday to drum up public support.

Selina Hayat Ivy, the other mayoral hopeful from Awami League, also began a door-to-door campaign.

Ivy told The Daily Star that it is the people of

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

PHOTOS ON PAGE 20

## NEWS ANALYSIS

# Disappointing signal from AL

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Ruling Awami League's "inability" to lend support to its leader Selina Hayat Ivy in the Narayanganj City Corporation polls appeared as a major blow to the rising expectation among the public of clean and competent candidates in future elections.

And it certainly disheartened Awami League leaders and supporters who want and work for a change in the present political culture by promoting honest and clean leadership within the party and in the elections. Ivy's failure to get party backing might be considered as a defeat for her supporters and a victory for those who patronise political thuggery, corruption and criminal activities.

Ivy's failure to gain party backing is a moral debacle of the Awami League. The party's inability to stand behind a

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5



PHOTO: STAR

A patient receives evening specialised service at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University. The hospital started treating patients in the evenings from the first of this month.

# A hospital with a difference

BSMMU introduces specialised consultation service for patients

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More patients come, from more distant places every day. And the number rises every other day to take the "evening specialised consultation service" at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

October 1, the first day of the service, saw 89 patients. As the

number crossed the 200 mark in the last few days, the authorities responded by opening more departments.

The evening service starts after the regular outdoor patient department closes at 2:00pm. Specialised doctors, particularly professors and associate professors, see patients between 3:00pm and 6:00pm for Tk 200 each. The

service is available every day except for Friday.

The BSMMU came up with the service against the backdrop of doctors facing criticism for their preference in seeing patients at private chambers than in public hospitals.

"This is a magnificent idea. I've been suffering from a throat

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

## 'Corrupt' ministers get PM's backing

BNP alleges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Bank has suspended funding the Padma Bridge for corruption but the prime minister is still patronising the corrupt ministers, BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir said yesterday.

He also accused Finance Minister AMA Muhith of creating confusion over the issue by "lying about the corruption".

"The prime minister [Sheikh Hasina] patronises her ministers indirectly to

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

## Cops stop Birishiri tree felling

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrokona

Police yesterday halted chopping down of century-old trees along a road at Birishiri in Netrokona in compliance with a High Court order.

Abul Kalam Azad, officer-in-charge of Durgapur Police Station, told The Daily Star they stopped the logging in the morning after getting a letter from the Zila Parishad.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

SEE EDITORIAL

### ১৫ অক্টোবর ২০১১

### বিশ্ব হাত ধোয়া দিবস

জীবনযুক্ত হাত ... সুস্থ জীবন

- অল্পপরিমাণ হেক্সিসল® হাতে নিয়ে ভালভাবে ঘষুন
- ১৫-২০ সেকেন্ডে হাত হবে সম্পূর্ণরূপে জীবনযুক্ত

**HEXISOL®**  
Hand Rub

250 ml