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TAKA FALLS FURTHER

Local currency depreciates as demand for dollar rises

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ISLAMIST WAVE

"Political Islam" may prove to be one of the most lasting legacies of the Arab spring

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UPBEAT BARÇA

Fabregas-inspired Barcelona slam five past Levante ahead of El Clásico

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Polls in 90 days not possible

EC says in initial response as LGRD ministry appoints 2 administrators for split-DCC, asks it to hold elections

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It will not be possible for the Election Commission to hold polls to the just-split Dhaka City Corporation within 90 days as asked for by the government, Election Commissioner M Sohul Hussain said yesterday.

"The tenure of the two election commissioners and the chief election commissioner will expire before the stipulated 90 days. Even if we start the election process, we won't be able to hold the polls," he said.

Jahangir Kabir Nanak, state minister for LGRD, said a letter asking the commission to take necessary steps to hold elections to DCC North and DCC South by the end of February next year was sent to it yesterday.

Briefing journalists at the commission secretariat, Sohul Hussain, however, said even if the EC started preparations now, it would not be able to hold the polls within the 90-day time frame.

Besides, the next commission may not adhere to the decision made by the existing

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A hartal supporter slams a brick on a bike rider's chest while another tries to force him off his motorbike. The incident took place in the court area in Old Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



Hartal called to save war criminals Says Ashraf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP's hartal was not to oppose the splitting of Dhaka City Corporation but to foil the trial of war criminals, LGRD Minister Syed Ashraf Islam said yesterday.

Speaking at a press conference at the ruling Awami League's Dhanmondi office, he described BNP as the main party of the war criminals and Jamaat-e-

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See the Sports Page for SAFF Football Championship news



NEWS ANALYSIS

BNP in its new avatar

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

BNP has finally thrown down the gauntlet. After months of what clearly was a skirting around the bush, the main opposition party has now made its position on the question of the 1971 war crimes trial unequivocally clear.

And it has done so at a time and in a manner that can only leave a whole lot of questions about its perceptions of the Liberation War in need of credible answers. Observe.

The party has demanded that the proceedings of the International Crimes Tribunal be put an immediate stop to because of what it believes is a violation of the rights of the accused on the part of the tribunal itself.

From the perspective of strict legality as also from its own assessment of conditions in so far as existing circumstances vis-à-vis the trials are concerned, the party can certainly raise questions about the modalities on

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Khoka held, freed

Sporadic violence marks hartal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sporadic clashes over Sadeque Hossain Khoka's brief detention marked yesterday's daylong hartal enforced by the main opposition BNP to protest the split of Dhaka City Corporation.

Pickets clashed with law enforcers when they were barred from bringing out pro-hartal processions in several areas of the city, including Old Dhaka.

Mirza Fakhru Islam, acting secretary general of BNP, alleged that Awami League cadres had stabbed immediate past DCC mayor Khoka in police custody after he had been detained at the District Judge's Court premises in Old Dhaka.

Police, however, said they had picked up the BNP leader for reasons of his safety, and dropped him off at his Gulshan residence.

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Rail, ICT new ministries

Portfolio distribution, cabinet reshuffle likely today; Abul tipped to be eased out from communications to ICT as Padma Bridge solution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government, which created two new ministries yesterday, is likely to distribute portfolios to the newly sworn in ministers and reshuffle the cabinet today.

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Stop Tipai project

Human chain asks India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tipaimukh Dam would destroy biodiversity, ruin livelihoods of people and cause economic disaster in Bangladesh and north-eastern regions of India, which could lead to regional conflicts, speakers said yesterday.

At a human chain in the capital, they also urged the government to take a tough stance against the dam project.

Two organisations including Save the Environment Movement

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CONGRATULATIONS

We express our heartfelt congratulations and thanks to **Mr. Salahuddin Alamgir (CIP)**, Honourable Chairman and **Mrs. Sultana Jahan**, Vice Chairman "Labib Group" for receiving "**Gold and Silver Trophy**" respectively from **H E Sheikh Hasina**, Honourable Prime Minister, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, for outstanding contribution in "**Export Business for fiscal year 2009-2010**" by "**Nice Cotton Limited**" and "**Labib Dyeing Mills Limited**" (Sister Concern of Labib Group).

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Dutch-Bangla Bank awarded by eASiA-2011 for Driving Economy through Mobile Banking

Dutch-Bangla Bank Mobile Banking has been awarded the best 'Driving Economy' award by eASiA. This international award was presented by Prof. V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Former Vice-Chancellor, Indira Gandhi National Open University to Mr. Sayem Ahmed, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Bank. This is the 3rd time Dutch-Bangla Bank has received an award for facilitating banking for the unbanked rural masses through Mobile Banking.

While receiving the award, Mr. Sayem Ahmed said "Using the Mobile Banking system of the bank, the rural unbanked population of our country can enjoy all banking facilities through their mobile phones anywhere in Bangladesh. This achievement of Dutch-Bangla Bank would not be possible without the support of the Government's Digital Bangladesh initiative, the Prime Minister's Office's Access to Information (A2I), Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh Bank, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), Citycell, Banglalink, Airtel, and our valued mobile banking agents and customers. This award shows what Digital Bangladesh can achieve for our country".

Dutch-Bangla Bank

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