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## 'JAGO HUA SAVERA' IN KOLKATA

A show of the 1959 Pakistani film marks the birth anniversary of poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz

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## 'NO HIGHER HONOR'

Reviewing Condoleezza Rice's memoirs of her years as a diplomat

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## LEAKING TO WIKILEAKS

US tribunal recommends court martial for Army Private Bradley Manning

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# GOOD GOVERNANCE, EFFECTIVE JS Pre-polls pledges largely unfulfilled

New promises made in sixth 5-year plan; AL-led govt has 2yrs to make some progress

SHAKHAWAT LITON and SOHEL PARVEZ

The government has come up with more promises to ensure good governance in next four years whereas ruling Awami League's electoral pledges for the same purpose have remained largely unfulfilled in the last three years.

In the sixth five-year plan document released on December 28, the Awami League-led government announced that it would take more measures to make parliament effective, strengthen local government institutions, reform public services, and enhance steps to fight corruption.

It also promised to appoint an Ombudsman, reform the judiciary with the introduction of transparent criteria of appointment of judges, and also set up a mechanism for selection of members to

form the Election Commission.

In the run up to the December 29, 2008, parliamentary elections, the ruling Awami League had made almost the same promises in its electoral manifesto styled "A Charter for Change".

But in the last three years, the government seems to have forgotten the electoral pledges resulting in deterioration of governance in some areas and the situation remains unchanged in some other cases, observed analysts working on governance.

"Unless there is improvement in overall governance, poor people will suffer from deprivation, service delivery will remain poor, and economic opportunities will be limited," stated the planning ministry in the sixth five-year plan document.

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Thousands of devotees yesterday pray at the Biswa Ijtema ground in Tongi, some on trawlers unable to find space anywhere else, as the second largest congregation in the Muslim world begins.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Medical board says Ghulam Azam 'stable'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The medical board, formed to check the physical condition of arrested former Jamaat-e-Islami ameer Ghulam Azam, is of the opinion that he is stable and does not need to be in hospital.

"His physical condition is stable and well. He has been given the diet for VIP patients and he has no problems now," BSMMU Director Brig Gen Abdul Majid Bhuiyan told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said the opinion of the medical board is that he can receive the treatment he needs staying anywhere. The board thinks it is not necessary for him to stay in hospital.

International Crimes Tribunal sent Ghulam Azam to jail on Wednesday in connection with crimes against

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# JU crisis deepens

2 factions of teachers face off over class boycott; university admin won't remove proctorial body

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPOLO

The ongoing crisis in Jahangirnagar University, following the killing of a student allegedly by Chhatra League activists, deepens with the administration taking a rigid stance against the removal of its proctor body, a major demand of agitating students and teachers.

"I am not considering at this moment their demand for sacking the proctor," JU Vice-Chancellor Prof Sharif Enamul Kabir told The Daily Star yesterday.

From today, a group of pro-BNP, pro-Awami League and left leaning teachers under the banner of "Shikkhak Samaj" start boycotting classes while teachers loyal to the vice-chancellor vow to run academic activities.

"We will not attend classes or take part in other professional activities until our demands are fulfilled," Sharif Uddin, general secretary of Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association (Juta), told The Daily Star yesterday.

The Shikkhak Samaj on Thursday took the class-boycott decision after an alleged assault on Juta President AA Mamun by Proctor Prof Arzu Miah soon

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## PADMA BRIDGE PROBE ACC report in a week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) is likely to submit its report on the World Bank graft allegation regarding Padma Bridge project in a week.

Five foreign companies, which pre-qualified for the construction of the main bridge, have already replied in the negative against the allegation in the \$2.97 billion project.

The pre-qualified companies are: Samsung C&T Corporation, China Zhongtie Major Bridge Engineering Group Co. Ltd, Daelim Industrial Company Ltd, Vinci-HCC Joint Venture of India-France, and China Communications Construction Company Ltd.

The commission is now waiting for a reply from the last party.

ACC chairman Ghulam

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## COMMENTARY

# Underlying meaning of war crimes trial

Giving Sheikh Hasina her due

MAHFUZ ANAM

The arrest of Ghulam Azam marks a significant step forward in the trial of those accused of crimes against humanity. It is our hope and expectation that the trial will meet the highest standards of law and fairness. For this, as a Bangalee, and as someone who had the honour of being one among millions to have joined the Liberation War in 1971, I am, and I am sure millions like me, are most deeply grateful to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and proud of what she has done.

Those of us, who had the singular privilege of being involved in the independence war, are witness to the fact that with the assassination of Bangabandhu in 1975 a deliberate deconstruction of the history of our independence war was set afoot.

To justify Sheikh Mujib's assassination, what he stood for and what he achieved -- the biggest of which was founding the state of Bangladesh -- had to be destroyed,

or at the minimum, distorted. As dismantling the new born state was neither possible nor would it be acceptable to the people, so a state sponsored campaign was launched to distort the history of the greatest moment of the nation's existence, and the most treasured moment of the lives of those who participated in it -- namely our Liberation War.

Perhaps the most painful distortion was to deprive ourselves and our children from knowing about the great mass struggle that led to our birth, and about which country and whose army carried out the most heinous genocide of our people. So the name of Pakistan simply disappeared from the narratives of Liberation War. The soldiers who killed our people were termed "hanadar bahini" (attacking army) without any identification of who they were and where they came from. As if they dropped from the sky without any cultural, national, or political identity. Not only the identity but also the full

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## Biswa Ijtema begins

6 devotees die

HELEMUL ALAM

Prayers and sermons marked the first day of Biswa Ijtema -- one of the largest congregations of Muslims -- as it opened on the banks of the river Turag at Tongi yesterday morning.

Six participants died of cardiac arrest and old age complications on Thursday night and early yesterday, organisers said, as the Ijtema opened after Fajr prayers.

Lakhs of devotees from home and abroad are attending the congregation being held in two phases. The banks of Turag -- 20 km from the capital -- turned into a sea of humans as they assembled for Jumm'a prayers at noon.

Maulana Qwari Zobayer, Imam of Kakrail mosque, led the prayers.

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Poor condition of the Meghna-Gumti Bridge results in slowing down of vehicles on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway. This often grinds the flow to a halt, inset, and sometimes the tailbacks stretch for miles.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

# Plan to build 3 new bridges

Worn out Kanchpur, Meghna, Meghna-Gumti bridges disrupt smooth traffic between Dhaka and Ctg

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Poor condition of Kanchpur, Meghna and Meghna-Gumti bridges has compelled the government to speed up efforts to build three bridges alongside the old ones to ensure uninterrupted traffic movement on Dhaka-Chittagong highway.

It will require an estimated Tk 2,500 crore to construct the three bridges with four lanes. The one alongside the Kanchpur bridge will cost about Tk 900 crore, while the new Meghna bridge nearly Tk 830 crore and the new Meghna-Gumti bridge about Tk 700 crore.

The bridges will be constructed under three projects that will include renovation of the three old bridges, said communications ministry officials.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) has showed interest in financing the projects, they said.

China has also proposed financing a new two-lane Meghna bridge. But the government is not considering the proposal because a four-lane bridge is required to handle the huge traffic on Dhaka-Chittagong highway.

"A Jica team arrived in Dhaka on December 26 last year.

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