



JOB MARKET IN RUSSIA
Several projects will create employment opportunities for Bangladeshi workers
PAGE B4

'KIDS THE IDEAL AUDIENCE'
The 5th Int'l Children's Film Festival begins simultaneously at seven divisional cities
PAGE 10

SOUTH CAROLINA PRIMARY
Republican White House hopeful Gingrich triumphs over frontrunner Romney
PAGE 7

Four to find right persons for EC

Search committee formed; BNP rejects move, CEC welcomes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The government yesterday formed a four-member search committee to recommend names to the president for appointment as election commissioners.
The committee will be headed by an Appellate Division judge and will also comprise a High Court judge, the controller and auditor general and the chairman of the Public Service Commission.
The Cabinet Division on Saturday issued a circular to that effect, Cabinet Secretary Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan told The Daily Star yesterday.
The chief justice will nominate the two

judges from the Appellate Division and the HC. The law ministry has already sent a letter to the chief justice's office, requesting necessary measures, ministry sources said.
This is for the first time that a search committee has been formed to appoint a chief election commissioner and other election commissioners. The tenure of the present commissioners will expire in mid-February.
The search committee will recommend the names to President Zillur Rahman within 10 working days of its formation, said the Cabinet Division circular.
SEE PAGE 19 COL 2



A devotee prays to the One and Only during the akheri munajat at Biswa Ijtema in Tongi. The munajat concluded this year's Biswa Ijtema, where thousands had thronged to take part in the final prayers yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Ijtema ends with call for peace

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Lakhs of devotees from home and abroad raised their hands in prayers seeking purification of the soul and peace, prosperity and unity of the Muslim Ummah as the three-day second and last phase of the Biswa Ijtema ended yesterday through Akheri Munajat (concluding prayers).
Leading the 18-minute prayers from 1:05 pm Moulana Zobayerul Hasan from India sought divine blessings for protecting and establishing the teachings of Islam.
Around 7,000 devotees
SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

Tax lawyer, son shot; mugged

Gang flees on motorbikes with Tk 11 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A father and his son knew little of the danger or the horror awaiting them as they headed out from their home yesterday morning to deposit money at a bank.



Nazir Ahmed Asif Ahmed

Income tax lawyer Nazir Ahmed, 55, and his son Asif Ahmed, 22, were shot and robbed of Tk 11 lakh in broad daylight yards from their home in Shantinagar in the capital.
"We only made a few yards from our home with the two bags of money. Three to four robbers showed up on

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

The BNP statement

The following statement was read out at a BNP press briefing on the recent incidents in the army:

Dear journalist friends, Assalamu Alaikum
A press briefing on Thursday spoke of a failed military coup. After knowing of the matter, like the people of the country the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) is also deeply concerned. Through you we want to inform all about our concern and the party's reaction. First of all, we thank Almighty Allah. By his infinite grace no bloodshed and clash occurred. The civil ad

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

BID TO TOPPLE GOVT Discipline, no anarchy

BNP cautions army, says govt giving incomplete info

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition BNP has asked the government to disclose all facts regarding the plot to topple it after conducting a fair probe into it.

The party has also urged all members of the armed forces to uphold unity, solidarity and discipline at any cost.
"The government has thrown its credibility into question by providing incomplete information before the completion of the probe and spewing propaganda against the opposition ahead of its Dhaka rally," said BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

He was speaking at a press conference at the party chairperson's political office at Gulshan in the city. It was

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

Hizb-ut shows its eerie presence



KAILASH SARKAR

Fifteen months after it was banned, the Islamist outfit Hizb-ut-Tahrir is once again in the spotlight after the army pointed to its involvement in the recent foiled plot to topple the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

WHEN EMERGENCY STRIKES

Just dial **10678**

from any corner of the country for the best emergency service

Apollo Hospitals
Dhaka



Probaho

Bringing smiles to 70,000 people everyday.

BAT Bangladesh's CSR initiative 'Probaho' is providing rural people with safe drinking water in arsenic prone areas. Through 27 community based water filtration plants, 'Probaho' is ensuring 140,000 litres of safe drinking water free from arsenic and other impurities in different parts of the country everyday.

Partnering with communities. Enabling progress.

BRITISH AMERICAN TOBACCO BANGLADESH