

BE SAFE

BSRM

After a house is built
You Cannot Change Everything!

Easy to Change

Impossible to Change

Be sure about the steel used inside.

Life is precious. Be Safe.

BSRM Xtreme

Feel safe with Xtreme Inside

With Ambilight

40PFL6605

Philips 40" LED TV at Tk. 8,056*

Up to 18 Equal Monthly Installments available at 0% Interest

0% interest

12 Months

18 Months

FlexiBuy interest

12 Months

For More Information:

9855366-8, 01712-665463

TRANSKOM

DIGITAL

think electronics... think DIGITAL

*Conditions apply

Mayor hopefuls littering Dhaka

STAR REPORT

Leaders of the ruling Awami League-led alliance and some non-partisan individuals are already gearing up their campaign for the polls to the Dhaka City Corporation north and south.

They have begun spending money on printing posters and digital banners and pasting and hanging them to publicise their desire to contest in the polls. City walls and other public and private structures are being made to bear the brunt of their desires.

However, almost all of them claimed that they did not spend a single penny from their own pocket in the ongoing campaign. Well-wishers, relatives, friends and party men are spending the money, they claimed.

Leaders of the BNP-led opposition parties, however, are not involved as the opposition is against the bifurcation of the DCC. The BNP had announced that it would cancel the split of the DCC, when it is voted back to power.

Ignoring protests, parliament on November 29 last year split the DCC into two and brought in provisions for holding the polls by February by amending the city corporation law.

The outgoing Election Commission has declined to conduct the long due polls to the DCC within the 90 days' timeframe that expires on February 28. Now the government has decided to amend the law to extend this time by 90 more days.

Uncertainty looms large over the fate of the polls and

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN
Leaders wishing to be city father litter the streets with hoardings and posters in their bid to stay in the public eye in the Dhaka City Corporation races. Not even uncertainty over when the polls will be held holds them back from their desire to become mayor.

No poster, no graffiti on walls
Bill passed with provision for designated spots

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliament yesterday passed a bill imposing a ban on sticking posters on walls or putting them up on any structures and scrawling graffiti on walls across the country.

The legislation titled "Graffiti Writing and Poster Sticking Control Act, 2012" allows local authorities to designate places for sticking posters or scrawling graffiti. Individuals and organisations willing to use those spots will have to pay fees and abide by some conditions.

Once the new law is in force, the government can issue an order specifying a time frame for removal of posters and scrubbing away graffiti.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

'Non-political' govt can oversee polls

BNP says it is not hung up about caretaker tag, ready for talks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP high-ups have now fixed their eyes on formation of a non-political government to oversee the next parliamentary elections.

The party had previously insisted on holding the polls only under a caretaker government.

Several senior BNP leaders believe

this stance of the party would create an opportunity for the government to initiate a dialogue and avoid a probable political deadlock centring on the caretaker government issue.

Talking to The Daily Star, they said they are ready to accept the proposal if the government takes an initiative to hold talks for a neutral non-

partisan government.

"Our prime target is to ensure an election under a non-political government and we will not compromise on this. But we have no say over the name of that government," said MK Anwar, member of BNP standing committee.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

ASSAULTING COPS Arrest order against Haji Selim

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants against former Awami League lawmaker Haji Mohammad Selim and 20 others in connection with a case filed for assaulting police and preventing them from discharging their duties in 2004.

Metropolitan Magistrate Keshab Roy

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

MURDERED FOR PROTESTING STALKING 2 get life for killing teacher Mizan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A Rajshahi court yesterday sentenced two people to life term imprisonment for killing a Natore college teacher after he had protested stalking of his students.

The court also fined the convicts Abdul Awal Rajon and Mamunur Rashid Asif Tk 50,000 each, in default of which, both have to suffer one year more in jail.



Mizanur Rashid

On October 12, 2010, Rajon and Asif ran a motorcycle into Mizanur Rashid, a chemistry teacher of Lokmanpur College in Bagatipara upazila, and beat him up with iron rods for protesting stalking of college girls.

Rashid succumbed to his injuries at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University on October 24.

The convicts were present on the court's dock when Judge Ekramul Haque

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

14-party vows to complete war trial

Forms 20km human chain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League-led 14-party alliance yesterday formed a 20-kilometre-long human chain in the capital protesting "conspiracies and subversive activities" to hinder the ongoing war crimes trial and the democratic process.

Addressing the programme at different points from Gabtoli to Jatrabari, senior leaders of the ruling AL and other parties in the alliance vowed to complete the trial, saying "the government is pledged-bound" to this.

The one-hour-long human chain that began at 3:00pm passed through Shyamoli, Asad Gate, Russell Square, Panthapath, Sonargoan Hotel crossing, Shahbagh, Jatiya Press Club, Gulistan, Ittefaq crossing, Sayedabad, Jatrabari and Baridhara Biswa Road crossing.

"People have already given their verdict against the war criminals. Now, court's verdict against the war criminals will be implemented as soon as it is given," said AL Presidium Member Matia Chowdhury, who joined



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ
Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad, an organisation of doctors, brings out a procession at Shahbagh in the capital yesterday demanding the quick trial of people accused of crimes against humanity during the Liberation War of 1971.

Stocks bounce back strongly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Stock prices bounced back yesterday, pushing the key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) up by nine percent, the strongest rally since January last year.

The general index of DSE stood at 3,945 points at the close of the day's trading, recouping 329 of 670 points that it had lost over the last four days.

The index or share prices have not seen a nine percent rise since January 11 of last year when it jumped by 15 percent on a single day's trading.

Experts see the turnaround as a result of the central bank's sudden move on

lessening lending and deposit rates.

Besides, they said, the parliamentary discussion on the stock market on Tuesday also induced the rise in share prices.

The seriousness of lawmakers of the Awami League-led alliance about stabilising the market helped investors regain confidence, the experts said, adding that the investors went on a buying spree yesterday as they thought that the central bank might reduce the interest rate on deposits.

On Monday, treasury bench member Tofail Ahmed, on a point of order, initiated

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Trader gunned down in Tongi

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Unidentified criminals shot dead a Jhut (garment waste) trader in the capital's Tongi Monday night.

Ismail Hossain, officer-in-charge of Tongi Police Station, identified the victim as Mohammad Ishrafil, 35, son of Abdul Karim of Dattapara in Tongi.

A few days before his death, Ishrafil filed a general diary with Tongi Police Station alleging that his business rivals had been sending him death threats.

Sathi, the victim's wife,

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

13 JS bodies reshuffled

Oli loses chairmanship of standing committee on planning ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Liberal Democratic Party chief Oli Ahmed was removed from the helm of the parliamentary standing committee on the planning ministry as the House yesterday reshuffled 13 parliamentary bodies.

Oli's removal is believed to be linked to his party's move to join the BNP-led alliance to wage a movement against the Awami League-led government.

Besides, his recent "derogatory remarks" on a ruling AL lawmaker from the reserved seats for women may also have something to do with the removal. A number of

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

Cops sued for killing Shafiqul

3 docs also accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Nine policemen and three doctors were sued at a district court yesterday afternoon over the killing of the Jamaat-e-Islami activist Shafiqul Islam, during the violence on January 30 in Rajshahi city.

Neela Khatun, wife of

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do agree with ATM Shamsul Huda that a free and fair parliamentary election under a political government is not possible in the current situation?

Yes

92.3%

No

6.9%

No Comments

0.8%

TOTAL VOTES: 648

TODAY'S POLL

Are you satisfied with the search committee's proposed names for chief election commissioner?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT [facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews)

PRAYER TIMING

February 8

Fajr	5:30	6:05
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	4:15	4:30
Maghrib	5:52	5:56
Esha	7:15	7:45

Sources: Islamic Foundation