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The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

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24 PAGES PRICE: Tk 10.00



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Germany is keen to help Bangladesh build a deep-sea port

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The nation is yet to do justice over the killing of three freedom fighters

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'ENTIRELY LEGITIMATE'

Cameron defends British arms sales to Gulf countries

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Americans vote in nailbiting finish

AGENCIES

Americans went to the polls yesterday to decide whether to give President Barack Obama a second term or to replace him with Mitt Romney after a long, hard-fought campaign that centred on who would heal the battered economy and what role government should play in the 21st century.

From makeshift voting sites in East Coast communities devastated by Hurricane Sandy to the more typical voting booths set up in school gyms, libraries and town halls across the rest of the country, people began lining up before dawn to cast their ballots -- collectively writing the ending to a bitter, expensive presidential campaign in which the candidates, parties, and well-heeled outside groups were on pace to spend some \$2.6 billion.

At the polling place at the Elk's Club in Fairfax, Virginia, outside Washington, DC, voters braved temperatures in the low 30s to stand in an hour-long line to vote at 7:00am, reports New York Times.

Obama cast his ballot on October 25 in Chicago -- becoming one of more

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Last-minute early votes trend Democratic

POLITICO

An independent analysis of early voting indicates that late arriving ballots are trending Democratic, adding to President Barack Obama's desperately needed early vote advantage in critical battleground states.

In 2008, Obama won four battleground states because he

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Popular vote, electoral vote

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

As The Daily Star goes to press, Americans have begun voting in what by all projections appears to be one of the most contested US presidential elections in history.

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FIRING PEOPLE

Romney's January 9 comment that he "likes being able to fire people" brought immediate attacks from his rivals and even a mocking

SEE MORE ON PAGE 19 COL 2



Voters wait outside the polling station to cast their ballots at Metropolitan AME Church in Washington, DC, yesterday. Americans headed to the polls after a burst of last-minute campaigning by President Barack Obama and Mitt Romney in a nail-biting contest unlikely to heal a deeply polarized nation.

PHOTO: AFP



An activist of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami hitting a cop with the rifle snatched from him at Zero Point in Rajshahi city yesterday. (inset) Another Jamaat activist snatching the rifle from a policeman. PHOTO: STAR

No shift in India policy

Clarifies BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's recent visit to India did not bring any change in the party's earlier stance on relations with the country, standing committee member of the party Tariqul Islam said yesterday.

"The party still maintains the same view as in the past on different bilateral issues with India," Tariqul said at a press briefing at the party chief's Gulshan office in the capital.

The briefing was organised to clarify the main opposition party's position in the wake of reports on its "change of policy" towards India following the October 28 -November 3 India tour of Khaleda.

Tariqul faced a volley of questions from journalists about the much-talked-about change in BNP's "anti-India stance". He,

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Jamaat men on the rampage

Attack cops in several districts, clashes on second consecutive day leave 86 cops, 85 activists, 2 journos injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Activists of the Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir fiercely clashed with police in Dhaka and elsewhere in the country for a second consecutive day yesterday.

In several districts outside the capital, the Jamaat-Shibir men attacked the law enforcers with sticks, brickbats and hand-made cocktails. At least 86 policemen and two journalists were injured in their attacks across the country.

The unruly Islamist party men also

looted a shotgun from a policeman in Noakhali and a rifle from another policeman in Rajshahi, police said.

The clashes began as the law enforcers tried to intercept the processions the Jamaat-Shibir men brought out demanding the immediate release of their leaders, including the nine arrested on war crimes charges.

Besides Dhaka, Rajshahi and Noakhali, clashes also took place in Chittagong, Sylhet, Bogra, Pabna, Sirajganj,

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LEGALISING HOUSING SCHEMES

JS body finds anomalies

Sub-committee formed for probe

TAWFIQUE ALI and RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary body has alleged that the government recently approved half a dozen private housing schemes without adhering to rules.

The parliamentary standing committee on the housing ministry formed a five-member sub-committee yesterday to probe the entire approval process, Noor-E-Alam Chowdhury, a member of the committee, said after a meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

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Ramu attack was well-planned

Says govt probe report submitted to HC; 205 people involved

ASHUTOSH SARKAR and WASIM BIN HABIB

The mayhem in Ramu on September 29 night was a well-planned attack on the Buddhist community designed at least ten days ahead, claimed a government probe report.

The plan was executed in four phases, it said. The probe body, however, could not find out how the plan was made and by whom, where, and when as it was

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Rajeeb Samdani

Managing Director, Golden Harvest Group
Director, Nippon Express Bangladesh Ltd.
Founder, Samdani Art Foundation
Co-Founder, Dhaka Art Summit

Our Heartiest Congratulations on your appointment as the founding committee member of **TATE** Museum, United Kingdom, South Asian Acquisition Committee.




WE DEEPLY MOURN

We deeply mourn the sad and sudden demise of Mr. Aktaruzzaman Chowdhury MP, former President of FBCCI, former President Chittagong Chamber of Commerce, Ex-leader of 77-Nation Trade Body, Chairman of UCBL and a renowned industrialist and business icon. Conveying our deepest condolences for the bereaved family, we, on behalf of the President, Executive Body and General Members of Bangladesh Inland Container Depots Association (BICDA), pray to the Almighty Allah with the purest of our hearts for the salvation of the departed soul.

May the Almighty Allah bestow everlasting peace upon him besides granting the bereaved family members the strength to bear this irreparable grave loss.

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