OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangai

Elections to the newly formed Basail municipality in Tangail will be held today with six candidates contesting for the single mayor post, 10 for three reserved seats for female councillors and 40 for nine councillor

The candidates expressed anxiety over the correct use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) in all nine wards on which the municipality's 14,329 voters --6,851 male and 7478 female -- will cast votes.

The mayor aspirants comprise Basail upazila unit's current and former political leaders -- Enamul Karim Atol (BNP general secretary), Ohidur Rahman Mostofa (former Jubo Dal convener), Moshiur Rahman Apel (Awami League joint secretary), Rahat Hasan Tipu (Jubo Andolon president), Sanwar Hossain Makhon (former AL leader) and Mozibor Rahman (former

chairman). The election's Returning Officer Shahin Ara Begum said use of EVMs would ensure free and fair polls and all preparations were taken to maintain law and order.

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BURN TREATMENT AT DMCH

Cost worries victims

Though treatment and medicines are free at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), patients,

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and AKRAM HOSEN

mostly poor, are often forced to buy expensive medicines and dressing materials, as the 50-bed unit accommodates people five to seven times its capacity. A patient with major burns-- at least 15 percent--needs a dressing bandage, which

costs Tk 3,000-Tk 3,500 and is required three times a week. As the healing time is far longer, families of most of these patients end up being overburdened with debts or selling out property. "Our family is completely broke pay-

ing for the antibiotic cream, bandages and dressing materials for my little brother's treatment here," said Ayub Ali, brother of a 10-year-old boy who had suffered 15 percent burns to his body and had been admitted for a couple of weeks.

"We have already incurred massive debts and are trying to mortgage our house but I don't think we'll be able to pay the money back and eventually end up losing our house."

Doctors say a major burn patient needs to stay in hospital for one to six months and to spend at least Tk 30,000, excluding the costs of surgery.

A rickshaw puller, Ayub, said his landless peasant family in Habiganj had already borrowed Tk 20,000 from a village loan shark and did not know how to manage an additional Tk 30,000-40,000 needed during and after his brother's opera-

"We had no idea that we would have to spend so much in the hospital and lose everything we have so quickly. The

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future of our family is absolutely bleak,

Hashi Begum, a patient, who had been treated in the hospital for seven months, said she had spent Tk 3 lakh, and her family had mortgaged their home in order to collect the money.

The DMCH burn unit receives fund for only 50 beds, while patients admitted there number between 250 and 350 on a given day, said Dr Samanta Lal Sen, coordinator of all burn units in Bangladesh. During winter, the number rises to 400 or even higher, he told The Daily Star. A source in the hospital said almost all

of the medicines in the unit were spent in the emergency ward and outdoors, so the inpatients got almost nothing. According to families of some patients, the situation has got so worse that the unit provides nothing except a few antacids and sedatives.

On average, 50 patients turn up in the unit for emergency and outdoor services every day, said Dr Sen.

Seeking anonymity, a doctor said the irony was that most of the burn patients who went to DMCH hoping free treatment were poor while the medication was very expensive.

Dr Sen said more than 30,000 people got burnt in Bangladesh every year, while 7,000-8,000 of them died.

He suggested that the government open burn units, containing 30-40 bed each, in all district level hospitals alongside all medical college hospitals to reduce the casualties.

Currently, only DMCH and Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) have burn units with the latter containing 20

FBCCI seeks duty-free access of goods to Iran

UNB, Dhaka

Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) President Kazi Akram Uddin Ahmed yesterday sought duty-free access of all Bangladeshi products to Iran under the Preferential Trade Agreement.

The apex trade body chief also stressed more flexible visa regime between the two countries to boost bilateral business.

He sought the initiatives during a breakfast meeting with Iranian Minister for Industry, Mine and Trade Dr Mehdi Ghazanfari. The Iranian minister

said in pursuant to signing of MoU and formation of joint business council, both countries need to put a lot more effort in promoting trade and investment. The FBCCI and the Iran

Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Mines signed a MoU in 1987 and the joint business council was formed in May 2000 to promote trade and investment.

Iranian Ambassador to Bangladesh Hossein Aminian Toussi and FBCCI Director AKM Shahed Reza, among others, were present at the meeting.

C-634

EXTRAMARITAL AFFAIRS InU staff kills colleague

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fourth class employee of Jagannath University (JnU) was stabbed to death by another staff over an extramarital affair issue on the campus in the capital yesterday.

The victim Kamal Hossain, 30, a peon at JnU registrar building, died hours after he was stabbed by Iqbal Hossain, general secretary of fourth class employee union at the university.

Police said Iqbal stabbed Kamal over sequel of a previous enmity in front of university canteen at 10:30am. Assistant imam of the university mosque Anwar Hossain

who took the victim to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said there was an enmity between Kamal and Iqbal over an extramarital affair with wife of another staff of the university. Kamal, and the other staff were neighbours. They were

living on the campus, he said adding that Kamal suspected that Iqbal had an extra marital affair with wife of the staff. Earlier, they locked in conflict over the issue for several

Kotwali Police Station Sub-Inspector Jahidul Islam said they arrested Iqbal, and a knife was recovered from the spot.

JnU Vice-Chancellor Prof Mizanur Rahman said they were looking into the matter. A five-member probe committee headed by law faculty dean was formed, and the committee was asked to submit its report soon, he said.

Farmer dies in attack over trivial matter

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

A farmer was stabbed to death and five other people were injured in an attack over a trivial matter at Dakpara in Islampur upazila of Jamalpur yesterday. The deceased is

Badiuzzaman Badi, 55.

Masud and his men, of adjacent Chandanpur village, stabbed Badi in the stomach with a sharp weapon as they claimed that Badi's goat was damaging Masud's jute field, said Islampur police.

Five of the neighbours who came to rescue Badi got injured. They were admitted to Jamalpur General Hospital. Police sent the body to the hospital morgue for an autopsy.

Badi's son Manik filed a murder case with Islampur Police Station against Masud and several others.

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Vacancies Announcement The Egyptian Embassy in Dhaka is seeking qualified individuals for the following vacancies: 1) Office Secretary. (2) Office Boy. Qualifications:* Excellent command of English (writing and speaking). * Experience for at least 3 years. * Foreigners those residing in Dhaka can apply. * A personal CV should be sent to the following E-mail Address: egypt.emb.dhaka@mfa.gov.eg Road-90, House-9, Gulshan-2,

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কিন্তিতে ফ্ল্যুটি আকর্ষণীয় গোকেশনে মগবাঞ্চার ডান্ডার গলিতে সকল সুবিধাসহ ১৩৫০, ১৪৫৫ ও ১৯১৫ বর্গফুটের পাক্সারী ফ্ল্যাট

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ANNOUNCEMENT **FROM FOREIGN AND JOINT BUSINESS CHAMBERS**

The foreign and joint business chambers of Bangladesh are non-political institutions and our aim is to promote the bilateral trade relations and support foreign direct investment (FDI).

According to the constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh strikes ("hartals") are a fundamental right. However the business chambers agreed unanimously that any violence in the name of a strike is not acceptable.

The business chambers are pleased that Bangladesh is by constitution a secular country. Unfortunately the political turmoil is harming the business and investment potential and the image of the country.









Construction Design Build Services

The U.S. Embassy in Dhaka is requesting information from interested and legally eligible Design, Engineering and Construction design firms who can provide The information construction services. gathered will be used to tender future construction contracts in Bangladesh.

Interested contractors are responsible for all costs and fees associated with preparation of the requested tender materials.

To obtain more information, interested and eligible contractors should email Mr. Olen Northern at olen.r.northern@usace.army.mil or ctha.asia@usace.army.mil. In the email please provide your company name and contact information. After your point of contact information is received, you will be given an information packet to complete.

A pre-proposal conference will be held in Dhaka at a time and location to be announced.

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2. HR Operations: 2.1) Implement HR policies and processes (employment, hand book, leave, attendance, discipline, exit, etc.); 2.2) keep and update employee files

3. Compensation & Benefits: 3.1) Assists the Head of Finance, HR & Admin with development of Salary Structure, Job Grade, Market Survey, augmented with market benchmark data to ensure Herma's competitive positioning in talent attraction, employee rewards and retention;

4. Manage office security & staff safety; office facilities, fixed assets. Also make sure and look

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