



CITY POLLS

The four cities are vibrant with election campaigns

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CATASTROPHIC PARTITION

Take a look back at the division of the subcontinent

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ON FRIENDS AND FOES

Indian PM Manmohan says he has no issues with Sonia Gandhi

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PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

From left, Selim RF Hussain, managing director of IDLC Finance; Masuda Islam, chairman of Protina BD Foods; AMA Muhith, finance minister; MA Rahim Feroz, vice-chairman of DBL Group; Abu Sayed, general manager of Nasir Group of Industries; Desmond Quiah, country manager of DHL Express; and Malcolm Monteiro, senior vice president and area director for South Asia of DHL Express, pose for photographs at the Bangladesh Business Awards ceremony at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka yesterday.

Tougher agitation from mid-June

Opposition plans to mount pressure on govt before Ramadan to meet the demand for caretaker govt

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN

The BNP-led 18-party alliance plans to wage its "final-round agitation" after the end of O and A-level examinations in the second week of this month.

At a meeting recently, the opposition combine discussed strategy for the agitation to force the government to meet its demand for a non-party polls-time government, meeting sources told The Daily Star.

Hartals including ones lasting for a week, blockades and sieges may be enforced to paralyse the functioning of the government. The decision on the programmes would be finalised soon, added the sources.

At the meeting, held at BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office on Monday, the 18-party leaders observed that the movement must be stepped up before Ramadan, as it would not be possible to enforce any tougher programmes during the month of fasting, which begins in the second week of July. Then comes the rainy season, and it leaves little time for the movement to build up to a climax.

The next parliamentary election is supposed to be held anytime between October this year and January 24 next year.

The months of April and May have been frustrating for the main

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Laurels for business heroes

DHL, The Daily Star award four businessmen, institutions for their outstanding contributions to economic growth

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two individuals and two enterprises were honoured with Bangladesh Business Awards yesterday for their resounding successes that not only brought fortunes to their ventures but also created jobs and contributed to the economy.

The Daily Star, the country's leading English newspaper, and DHL Express, the world's top logistics company, awarded them at the 13th annual event, which has become the nation's best business recognition.

Nasiruddin Biswas, chairman of Nasir Group of Industries, won the Business Person of the Year trophy for his astounding success.

He entered the business world as a tobacco trader in the countryside four decades ago to eventually establish a conglomerate that now boasts an annual



turnover of Tk 2,000 crore and has created more than 23,000 jobs.

A pioneer and innovator, Nasiruddin now leads a group of nine industries, from local cigarettes to state-of-the-art float glass and energy-saving bulb manufacturing companies.

He, however, could not attend the programme to accept the award in person due to his medical treatment abroad. On his behalf, the company's General Manager Abu Syed received the trophy at a ceremony at Hotel Sonargaon in the capital.

IDLC Finance was recognised as the Best Financial Institution for rapid growth in business, compliance and ethical practices.

The non-bank financial institution's deposit almost doubled to Tk 2,200 crore

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SPECIAL ON DHL-STAR BUSINESS AWARDS - PAGE 10

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Pressure piles on US to end Dhaka's GSP

NEW YORK TIMES

After several deadly factory disasters in Bangladesh --- including the collapse of an eight-story garment factory last month that left at least 1,127 people dead -- labour advocates are stepping up pressure on the Obama administration, calling for it to convey its disapproval of working conditions in the country by revoking its special trade status.

But federal officials remain conflicted over the American government's responsibility for safer labour conditions overseas, and in meetings in recent weeks they disagreed over what combination of carrots and sticks would work

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PROPOSAL FOR NEXT BUDGET More tax on car owners

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government in the next fiscal year may impose tax at source on cars with lower capacity engines and 50 percent additional tax at source on ownership of more than one car.

The move aims to discourage sales of personal vehicles to reduce burden on roads choking from perennial traffic jams and boost revenue, an official of National Board of Revenue (NBR) told The Daily Star.

At present, the government deducts tax at source for cars above 1,500 cc during their registration and fitness renewal.

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CARS 1300-1500cc
PROBABLE TAX AT SOURCE
TK 10,000-12,000

MORE THAN
ONE CAR
50%



ADDITIONAL TAX AT SOURCE



LISTED MOBILE OPERATORS
CORPORATE TAX MAY RISE TO
40%

BANGLADESH RMG US retailers devise factory safety plan

NEW YORK TIMES

Feeling pressure from consumer and labour groups for not doing more to ensure factory safety in Bangladesh, Wal-Mart, Gap and numerous other retailers along with the nation's main retail federations are seeking to forge a new plan to promote safety in that country's apparel industry.

This effort, to be spearheaded by the Bipartisan Policy Center, a nonprofit group based in Washington, was announced on Thursday, two and a half weeks after dozens of retailers and apparel companies, almost all of them European, announced a far-reaching plan aimed at ensuring factory safety in Bangladesh.

As part of the new effort, the National Retail Federation, the American Apparel and Footwear Association as well as Gap, J.C. Penney, Sears,

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