

## Return

FROM PAGE 1

invested Tk 8.40 lakh in the cooperative in two equal instalments in 2008 and 2009.

The DMCSL member, who works as a physician at an international NGO in Bangladesh, said one of his former colleagues convinced him and several others to make the investments. Now, they are doubtful whether they will get back their principal amount, let alone dividends.

"When I paid them [Destiny Cooperative] Tk 4.20 lakh under a package, they gave me Tk 52,000 as benefit of network expansion. I was inspired and invested another Tk 4.20 lakh the following year. DMCSL then gave me Tk 53,000 as benefit," said the doctor.

Many of the DMCSL members have expressed disappointment over lack of initiative from the government agency concerned to help them get back their money.

"Shareholders have to claim their money from the DMCSL's present committee [ad hoc]. If the committee fails to pay back, they can inform us," said Iqbal Hossain of the DoC.

**Campaign posters of the Gazipur City Corporation polls hide the sky at Tongi Bazar yesterday as candidates turn up the heat in their quest to become mayor and councilors. Inset, a councilor candidate uses a rickshaw and a megaphone to make sure her message is getting to the voters.**

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



## City polls results

FROM PAGE 16

M Hafizuddin Khan, former adviser to a caretaker government, told The Daily Star: "We had thought the two rival camps would soften their stance on the mode of an election-time government. But they have taken a hard line after the city polls."

Prof Dilara Chowdhury, who teaches political science, echoed Hafizuddin's view and said she was fearful of bitter political confrontations in the coming days if the two camps did not soften their stance.

To justify her apprehension, she cited the use of indecent language by AL and BNP lawmakers against each

other in parliament over the last few days.

Senior BNP leader Lt Gen (ret'd) Mahbubur Rahman supported their views, saying the results of the four city polls had shut the door for talks.

"The election results have put the two sides in an unbending position. It also opened the window for new polarisation in the national politics," said Mahbub, a member of BNP's standing committee.

A senior leader of the AL-led alliance said the city polls results had made it clear that the AL would not make any compromise with the BNP on the issue of a polls-time government.

AL Presidium Member Kazi Zafarullah said the city polls had been a boost for the BNP.

"They [BNP] should now keep confidence in the present government that it does not interfere in or influence elections. It has been proved once again in the city polls," he added.

Rashed Khan Menon, chief of Workers Party, a component of AL-led alliance, said the BNP won the city polls, but its demand for a polls-time government suffered a defeat.

Both Menon and Zafarullah defended the premier's latest stance on the caretaker government.

But Hafizuddin Khan differs, and recalls the political stalemate that led to the declaration of the state of emergency on January 11, 2007, and the subsequent installation of an army-backed caretaker government.

He said the armed forces had intervened only when the country was sliding into a political crisis arising from the rigid stance of the two main parties.

"And if the prime minister thinks the masterminds behind the declaration of the state of emergency are still active, why doesn't her government take action against them?" he said.

## Mass protests

FROM PAGE 16

The announcement Wednesday that the controversial fare hikes would be canceled in Rio and Sao Paulo, Brazil's two most populous cities, did nothing to placate the protesters.

The movement has no political hue and no clearly identified leadership.

More than 1.25 million people marched Thursday in more than 100 cities across this country of 194 million people, according to police and experts quoted by the local media.

In Rio, riot police fired tear gas and rubber bullets, then charged a large crowd of protesters after a smaller group hurled rocks at the officers.

Some 300,000 protesters marched to City Hall in Rio de Janeiro to vent their anger.

In Brasilia, where 30,000 people protested, one group broke through the police barrier surrounding Brazil's foreign ministry and hurled home-made firebombs at the building.

At least 35 people were wounded, three seriously, as law enforcement struggled to keep the crowd at bay, police said.

The first fatality of the protest was an 18 year-old man who was struck by a car while he protested in the southeastern city of Ribeirao Preto, police said.

Most of the protesters are middle-class, educated youths marching to express their outrage at the high cost of living and the poor quality of public services.

Protesters say they want higher funding for education, health and housing. They are also railing against what they view as rampant corruption within the political class.

Social media networks have been key to the organization of the mass protests, with demonstrators using the slogan "It's more than just 20 cents" -- a reference to the bus fare hikes -- to rally people to their cause.

## Disappearance of Jahangir

FROM PAGE 1

In Tongi area Jahangir was picked up and taken away in a vehicle by some former Chhatra League leaders, according to locals.

Since then he has remained traceless.

A few hours after the incident, news spread that he had met AL chief and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and decided to withdraw from the race and work for AL-backed candidate Ajmat Ullah.

Ajmat is the secretary of Gazipur district unit Awami League.

Jahangir's supporters said, moments before his disappearance Jahangir had asked them to continue with the electioneering, although his party high command had repeatedly been asking

him to stand aside.

Former vice-president of pro-AL student body Chhatra League, Jahangir resigned as the vice-chairman of Gazipur sadar upazila to contest the GCC polls.

His maternal uncle Mohammad Alamgir yesterday told The Daily Star over the phone that moments after Jahangir had been picked up, his mother received a phone call from party high-ups asking to urge her son to withdraw the candidature.

During yesterday's visit, The Daily Star found no family member of Jahangir in their rented house, except for a caretaker and a few house helps. The family members could neither be reached over the phone.

Contacted, officer-in-

charge of Tongi police station said they had not received any complaint about Jahangir's disappearance.

Supporters at Jahangir's house alleged that Ajmat might have been behind the incident.

They said Jahangir had been preparing for the polls over the last few years and that he had even assigned three representatives to coordinate campaigning for him in all 57 wards of the GCC. He also made contributions in academic and religious institutions there.

Preferring anonymity, a supporter of Jahangir said, "The AL high ups gave nomination to Ajmat ignoring opinions of the grassroots level which will result adversely for the party."

## OMS starts tomorrow

FROM PAGE 16

"It is also a part of our Ramadan plan. The first instalment will be released on Monday while another in the middle of Ramadan," the TCB chief said.

The essentials would be sold through TCB's sales centres in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Barisal and Sylhet, TCB

sources said.

Anyone can buy soybean oil at Tk 121 and Tk 105 per litre from the sales centres.

Palm oil will be sold at Tk 75 per litre while sugar at Tk 44 per kg, pulse at Tk 70 per kg and chickpea at Tk 60 per kg.

Over 170 trucks will remain engaged in selling the essentials across the country,

TCB sources said.

Some 1,000 kg sugar, 200 kg pulse and chickpea, 200 litres of soybean oil will be sold from each truck everyday.

Meanwhile, the commerce ministry has put a ban on export of green chilli, eggplant, cucumber and coriander leaf to ensure their smooth supply in local

market during Ramadan.

Commerce Secretary Mahbub Ahmed said the order on banning their export would come seven days ahead of Ramadan.

The ban may continue for at least a month as the demand for these essentials goes up during Ramadan, the ministry sources said.



Gas gushing out of the Titus river burns near Bakail High School in Brahmanbaria yesterday afternoon. Locals allegedly lit the gas. Between Bakail and Shyampur on the Titus, there are hundreds of places where gas is bubbling out and has been ignited in at least one other place.

PHOTO: STAR

## Women suffer violence mostly

FROM PAGE 16

Of the women who suffer violence, 42 percent sustain injuries, which can bring them to the attention of healthcare staff. That, says the report, is often the first opportunity for violence in the home to be detected and for the woman to be offered help.

Violence has a profound effect on women's health. Some arrive at hospital with broken bones, while others suffer pregnancy-related complications and mental illness.

The two reports from the WHO -- one on the preva-

lence of violence, the other offering guidelines to healthcare staff on helping women -- are the work of Dr Claudia Garcia-Moreno, lead specialist in gender, reproductive rights, sexual health and adolescence at WHO, and Professor Charlotte Watts, an epidemiologist who specialises in gender, violence and health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Even in high-income countries, 23.2 percent of women will suffer physical

and/or sexual violence from a partner in their lives, their data from 81 countries shows. The global figure for women attacked by partners was 30 percent.

More sexual assaults and rapes by acquaintances or strangers are reported in high-income countries than elsewhere -- the report says that 12.6 percent of women in wealthy countries will be sexually attacked by a non-partner in their life, which is higher than the African rate of 11.9 percent. But the data on such crimes is not well

collected in all regions.

The authors say that their previous research shows that better-educated women are less likely to suffer violence, as are those who have jobs, although not in all regions.

The new WHO clinical and policy guidelines recommend training for healthcare staff in recognising the signs of domestic violence and sexual assault, but they rule out general screening -- there is not a case for asking every woman who arrives in a clinic whether she has been subjected to violence.

## Guard shoots Jew dead at Jerusalem's Western Wall

AFP, Jerusalem

An Israeli security guard shot dead a Jewish visitor at Jerusalem's Western Wall, the holiest site where Jews can pray, yesterday, apparently mistaking him for a Palestinian militant.

Public radio said that police were seeking to have the guard remanded in custody.

Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said that he was being taken in front of a magistrate, but had no further details.

"There was a Jewish guy, an Israeli guy, who was in the bathroom area," Rosenfeld told AFP.

## Govt bid draws flak

FROM PAGE 1

to the statement.

Meanwhile, US Representative for New Jersey's 12th congressional district Rush Holt in a statement said, "It is past time for the government of Bangladesh to cease its efforts to destroy one of the true economic marvels of our age: Grameen Bank. I call upon Secretary of State Kerry to make it clear to officials in Dhaka that America supports Grameen Bank and its work for the poor in Bangladesh and elsewhere in the world."

Rush Holt said, "If the government of Bangladesh persists in its attacks on

the bank and Prof Muhammad Yunus [Nobel laureate who founded the bank], our government should re-evaluate the wisdom of our current push to deepen political and security ties to the current government.

"Bangladesh needs more institutions like Grameen, and more pioneers like Muhammad Yunus. It is past time for the government of Bangladesh to recognise those facts and work with Prof Yunus, not against him."

Accusing the government of conspiring to destroy Grameen Bank, BNP acting secretary general Mirza

Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday in a press statement said the main agenda of the government was to insult Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus, who ran the bank for almost 30 years.

The BNP secretary general said the government had removed Prof Yunus from the post of managing director and was in its final push to ruin the bank.

Fakhrul protested the proposals of the commission, a government backed institution, and said if the proposals were implemented, the microcredit bank would be destroyed, pushing the poor in big trouble.

## BNP trashes reports

FROM PAGE 16

she visited the country for treatment of her teeth and other complications and returned home on March 1.

At a press conference on the night of March 1, Khaleda had announced to go for a one-point movement to oust the present government.

Citing the news item,

Rizvi yesterday said some media houses had published that Khaleda Zia met her elder son Tarique Rahman in Singapore.

While others reported that she would go to Saudi Arabia to meet Tarique after getting her treatment in Singapore.

In both the cases, the news report had no relation with the reality, he said.

About Khaleda-Ershad meeting, Rizvi said "If they had any interest of holding a meeting, why would they go for this [meeting] in secret in Singapore?"

The news was released to confuse people, he claimed.

Ershad went to Singapore for treatment on June 10 and returned home on June 18 while Khaleda Zia was still there for medical treatment.