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GAZIPUR CITY POLLS

Most councillor aspirants did not pass school

PANKAJ KARMAKAR and ABU BAKAR SIDDIQUE AKAND, from Gazipur

Over half the councillor candidates in the polls to Gazipur City Corporation do not have secondary school diplomas, disappointing experts who believe well-educated councillors are a prerequisite to a strong local government.

A whopping 206 out of 449 councillor candidates in 57 wards of Gazipur have not passed their Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations. It is even worse in the reserved seats for women where 90 out of 128 councillor candidates have no secondary school diploma.

According to the affidavits the candidates submitted to the returning officers in Gazipur, 147 councillor aspirants, out of 243 candidates who have passed the SSC, also have high school diplomas (HSC). Ninety candidates went on to get undergraduate and postgraduate degrees.

In the case of reserved seats for women, 21 women candidates, out of 38 who have secondary school diplomas, also completed their HSC and 14 have undergraduate and postgraduate degrees.

There are seven mayoral candidates and four of them have undergraduate and postgraduate degrees. Two have high school diplomas and one has a secondary school diploma.

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Tangail district administration yesterday demolishes the three roads sand traders had built across the New Dhaleshwari at Beltia and Shamsoil villages in Kalihati upazila. The Daily Star had published a photo of one of the roads yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



Use of nuke power to rise in Asia, Middle East

Experts tell int'l conference in St Petersburg

SHARIER KHAN, from St Petersburg

The use of nuclear power will continue to increase around the world, especially in growing Asian nations like China and India, and also the Middle East.

The observation came yesterday in St Petersburg at the opening of a three-day ministerial-level international conference on nuclear power in the 21st century.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has organised the conference while Russia is hosting the event attended by 89 nations.

Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (Baec) Chairman ASM Firoz is representing Bangladesh.

"The 2011 Fukushima nuclear power plant disaster has changed a lot of things. But as a result of the accident, the global safety features of nuclear power plants have been enhanced," said IAEA Director General Y Amano at the inaugural ceremony.

He noted that a total of 434 nuclear power plants were in operation across

the globe while 69 new ones under implementation. Another 80 to 90 plants would be built in the next two decades.

Bangladesh, Jordan, Nigeria, Turkey and Algeria are the new entrants in the nuclear power sector. The countries are working on setting up their nuclear plants.

According to the IAEA, the demand for nuclear power will continue to surge in the next two decades in China, India and the Middle East. The oil-rich

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NUKE POWER PLANT Deal signed with Russia for study

SHARIER KHAN, from St Petersburg

Bangladesh yesterday signed a contract with Russian state corporation Rosatom to conduct three vital studies to complete preparation for the construction of Rooppur nuclear power project.

To be implemented in 18 months, the contract was signed on the sideline of the "International Conference on Nuclear Power for 21st Century"

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Couple, son die in Khilgaon fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A former deputy director of the education ministry, his wife and 26-year-old son died while another 20-year-old son sustained minor injuries in a fire in their Riazbagh flat in the capital's Khilgaon early yesterday.

Mohammad Siraj Ullah, 55, a Japan International Cooperation Agency consultant, succumbed to his injuries at around 1:00pm at Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of Dhaka Medical College Hospital's burn unit.

As the trio, with nearly 100 percent burns, were rushed to the hospital around 7:15am, doctors declared the wife, Kaniz Fatema Koli, 45, dead.

Of the sons, Rashidul Hasan Sifat, an engineer, suffering 95 percent burns died in the ICU at around 8:30pm while Masudul Hasan Shihab was given first aid.

The fire, breaking out on their first-floor flat at the seven-storey building around 6:00am, might have originated

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Nine get life term for killing journo

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced nine people to life term imprisonment for killing a journalist in Faridpur eight years ago.

Gautam Das, 30, Faridpur bureau chief of the daily Samakal, was brutally killed at his office on November 17, 2005.

According to the case

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Gautam Das

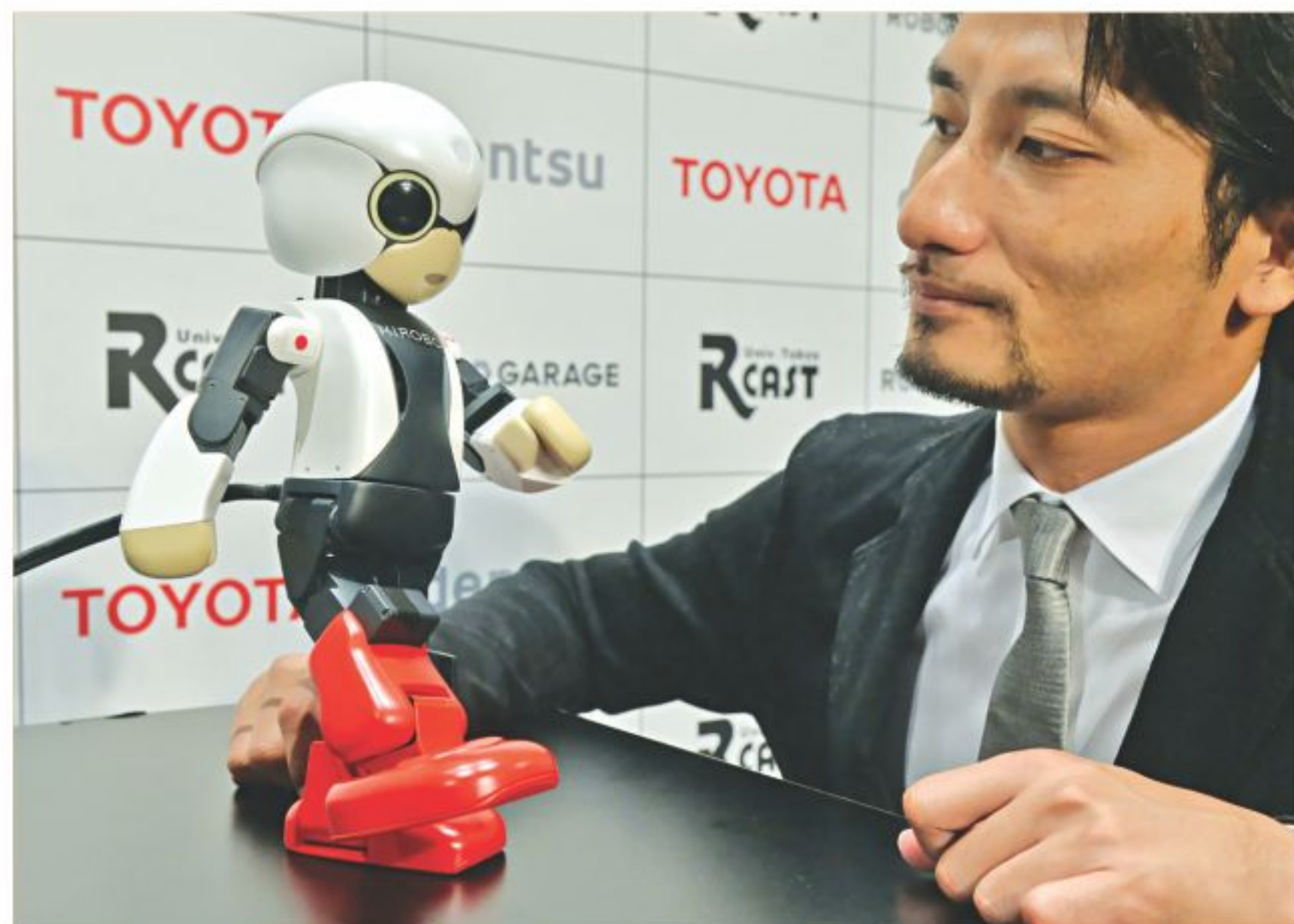


PHOTO: AFP

Tomotaka Takahashi demonstrates humanoid robot Kirobo, which reacts to his voice and speaks with gestures, in Tokyo on Wednesday.

Giant leap for Robot

AFP, Tokyo

A talking robot that will accompany a Japanese astronaut in space this summer says the cosmic tour will be one giant leap for androids everywhere.

In a scene straight out of Star Wars, the pint-sized KIROBO fielded questions from curious journalists who

asked what it was going to do in space.

"This may look a small step, but it will be a big stride as a robot," the black-and-white humanoid robot outfitted with bright red boots told a press briefing in Tokyo.

Its creators said they were sending the robot into space to act as a chatting

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First verdict in Facebook threat case

Buet teacher jailed for threatening PM

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a Buet teacher to seven years in prison for issuing a death threat against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Facebook.

Convict Hafizur Rahman Rana is a lecturer in mechanical engineering at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

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FOREIGN WORKERS IN SAUDI ARABIA

3 lakh Bangladeshis yet to accept amnesty

PORIMOL PALMA

Around three lakh irregular Bangladeshi workers in Saudi Arabia are yet to take advantage of an amnesty that expires on July 3.

"Some 2.12 lakh workers benefited from the amnesty until Tuesday.... We estimate three lakh more are yet to do so," Emdadul Haque, labour minister of the Bangladesh embassy in Riyadh, told The Daily Star on Wednesday.

Declared in a royal decree last month, the amnesty allows irregular foreign workers to legalise their status, transfer jobs or return to the home country without facing any pen-

alty.

It warned that the irregular migrants staying in the kingdom after the grace period would be fined heavily and jailed for two years.

"We are working day and night, with additional staff from Dhaka. We hope Saudi authorities will extend the grace," the minister said, adding that an extension was crucial.

Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of irregular workers from different countries are worrying that they may miss the opportunity offered by the kingdom, which

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL

Do you think ruling Awami League will take strong steps against Jubo League and Chhatra League after killing two people, including an eight-year-old boy in a gunfight in Chittagong?

Yes (10%)
No (90%)

TOTAL VOTES: 512

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think it was justified for BNP to demand resignation of the National Human Rights Commission chairman for asking Limon's family to withdraw the case filed against Rab personnel?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net
YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT [facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews)

PRAYER TIMING June 28

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-52	6-55
Esha	8-17	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation