City



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GAZIPUR CITY POLLS

JP 'neutral'

Ershad now claims to support none, but blesses both

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad has opted for not supporting any of the two frontrunner mayoral aspirants in the Gazipur City Corporation polls as a strategy to gain more political mileage out of the prevailing situation.

Party insiders claimed Ershad's strategy was working well as both the AL and BNP have been trying to get JP in their electoral alliance. This proved that the former president has emerged again as a factor in national politics, they said.

The way the two mayoral hopefuls backed by the Awami League and BNP have rushed to Ershad seeking his blessings and support in the battle of ballots has boosted the deposed military ruler and his close aides.

If the JP, a key component of the AL-led ruling grand alliance, extends its support to AL-backed mayoral candidate Ajmat Ullah Khan, Ershad might lose his bargaining strength with the ruling party in future, observed party insiders.

"If he [Ershad] extends JP's support to BNP-backed candidate MA Mannan, it would expose his position right now and the BNP-led alliance might not give him more SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



The army helicopter used for training pilots tried to make an emergency landing but crashed in a field in Dhamrai on the outskirts of the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: **RASHED SHUMON**

Army chopper crash landed

Pilot injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A pilot sustained injuries as a training helicopter of Bangladesh Army crash landed at Chouthan in Dhamrai upazila on the outskirts of the capital yesterday.

Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) in a press release said trainee pilot Major Syed Nazrul Islam along with co-pilot Lt Col Ariful Bari made an emergency landing due to technical fault while they were on a training flight.

Bari sustained injuries during the landing while Nazrul was "unhurt", said the ISPR.

It added that Bari was transferred to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka after receiving first aid at Savar's Enam Medical

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Toufiq wins by-polls

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Ruling Awami League candidate Rejwan Ahmed Toufiq won Kishoreganj-

4 by-election yesterday. Toufiq, eldest son of President Abdul Hamid, bagged 99,933 votes with the symbol "boat" in all 118 polling centres, said

The Baily Star

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Yes

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Cars entering Dhaka may have to pay tax

Proposal made in DNCC budget

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) yesterday announced a Tk 1,984.53 crore budget for 2013-2014 fiscal year, proposing to reintroduce a scheme of tax-collection from vehicles entering the capital.

Akhtar Hossain Bhuiyan, administrator of DNCC, unveiled the budget at a programme at Spectra Convention Centre with no rise in holding tax.

He said there was a system of collecting city tax from vehicles in 1980s. But it was later abolished after Tk 2.50 crore more was allotted for the city corporation's budget from the government's block allocation.

The allocation had been reduced in the last 30 years and currently it stands at Tk 80 lakh per year, Akhtar said.

The DNCC could earn more than Tk 100 crore every year from city tax is their proposal is approved by the government, he added.

The DNCC will speed up the collection process of holding tax, the single largest source of the city corporation's total revenue, the administrator said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 7

Social protection not enough

Bangladesh ranks low in Asia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh came in 28th out of the 35 Asian countries surveyed for its provision of social protection for its poor and vulnerable citizens.

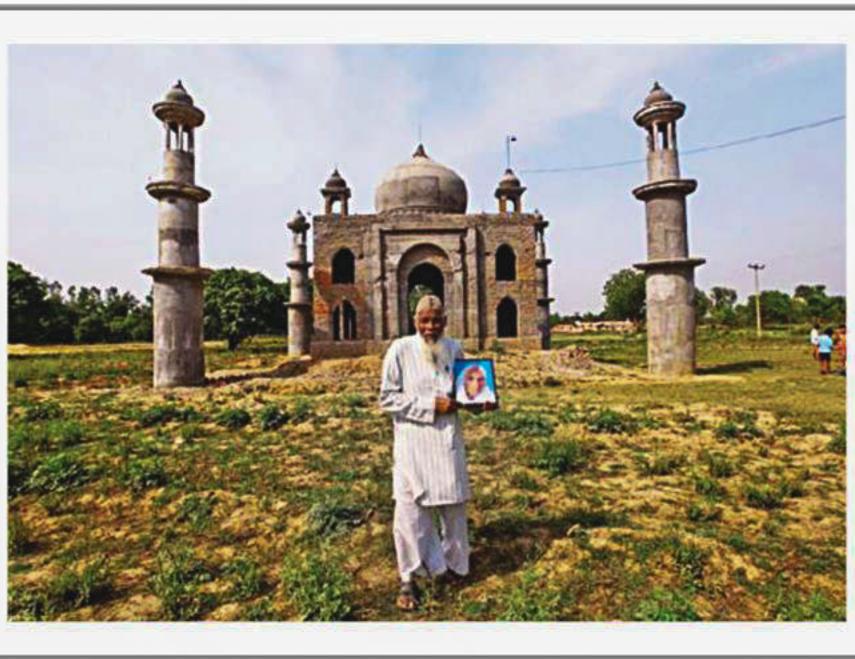
The neighbouring Nepal, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan fared better in the Social Protection Index (SPI) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The ranking is based on the availability of

social insurance, social assistance such as cash or in-kind transfers, child welfare, assistance to the elderly and disabled, and labour market programmes such as skills development and training.

The Manila-based anti-poverty organisation found the country to have spent only spent 1.4 percent of its gross domestic product for social safety net systems.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Shahjahan reborn

Widower builds replica Taj Mahal

ODDITYCENTRAL.COM

Faizul Hasan Kadari, a retired post-master from India, has put his entire life savings into building a replica of the world famous Taj Mahal in memory of his beloved wife who died in 2011.

The original Taj Mahal was built by the Mughal SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

New boundaries for 53 constituencies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission has redrawn the boundaries of 53 parliamentary constituencies in 19 districts, Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad said yesterday.

However, the number of constituencies in each district has remained unchanged as it was during the last parliamentary polls in 2008.

At a meeting yesterday, the EC finalised the boundaries of the constituencies for the next general election supposed to be held at

the end of this year.

"An official gazette on the redrawn boundaries of the parliamentary constituencies will be published today [yesterday] to this effect," the CEC told newsmen after the meeting.

The redrawn constituencies are Rangpur-1, 3; Kurigram-2,3,4; Bogra-1,5; Jessore-3, 4, 5, 6; Khulna-1, 6; Patuakhali-1,2,3; Pirojpur-1,2,3; Jamalpur-2,3; Mymensingh-2,3,4; Netrakona-2,5; Dhaka-14,19;

SEE PAGE 2 COL 7

GAZIPUR POLLS Concern over

waterlogging

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Forty-four out of 392 polling centres in Gazipur City Corporation (GCC) remain waterlogged due to heavy SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



TESTIMONY ON KILLING 33 IN B'BARIA

Mobarak helped Pak army during war

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A prosecution witness yesterday gave the International Crimes Tribunal-1 a detailed description of how war crimes accused Mobarak Hossain had allegedly abetted the Pakistani army to kill 33 villagers in Brahmanbaria during the Liberation War.

"They [33 villagers] were killed by gunshots and buried in a burrow. I heard their

crying from the mosque. Some of them were chanting 'La ilaha illallah'... [Kalimah of Allah]," said fifth prosecution witness Ali Akbar who luckily survived.

The witness, who was about 22 in 1971 and used to live at Tanmandyl village, said freedom fighters had demolished a bridge at Tin Lakh Peer on August 19 with the help of locals.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



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Credit Rating was done by the National Credit Rating Ltd. (NCR) on the basis of Audited Financial Statements as on 31.12.2012. The summary of the rating is presented below:

Long Term	Short Term
AA Double A (Very Strong Capacity & High Safety)	ST-1 Strongest Capacity
AA Double A (Very Strong Capacity & High Safety)	ST-1 Strongest Capacity
	AA Double A (Very Strong Capacity & High Safety) AA Double A (Very Strong Capacity

NCR has assigned AA (Pronounced Double AA) rating of Pubali Bank Limited in the Long Term and ST-1 in the Short Term. This level of rating indicates very strong capacity for timely servicing of financial obligations in Long Term and strongest capacity for timely payment of financial obligations in Short Term. NCR performed the present rating assignment based on the Audited Financial Statements of 31 December 2012 and other relevant information. The present rating takes into account among others, Bank's comfortable capital adequacy, improved asset quality, continued profitability and adequate liquidity.

