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Artistes of Rabirag embrace monsoon with music and dance

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Many poor people in India are duped into clinical drug trials

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Nothing to do with us

Observe AL's Gazipur grassroots, blame it on govt's failure on key national issues

SHAKHAWAT LITON and WASIM BIN HABIB

The Gazipur election looks similar to the June 15 polls to four other city corporations in outcome, but it is different in that the industrial city had always been an Awami League bastion while Rajshahi, Khulna and Barisal are considered BNP strongholds and Sylhet a swing constituency.

The AL suffered a humiliating defeat in the maiden Gazipur City Corporation polls on Saturday, as the opposition cashed in on the government's mishandling of critical national issues, said local leaders of the ruling party.

The present strategy of the party, they added, is outdated and if it is not changed, results in the upcoming parliamentary polls will be disastrous.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, some district-level leaders said the issues like stockmarket, Hall-Mark and railway-gate scandals and alleged Padma bridge graft had exposed poor governance and overshadowed the successes and clean image of party-backed mayoral candidate Ajmat Ullah Khan.

Moreover, they say, causing unnecessary trouble to

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AL not waking up to reality

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

In mid-June, the Awami League had described its humiliating defeat in the four city corporation elections as a wake-up call. But Saturday's stunning defeat in Gazipur, considered as the party's bastion, is a sign that the party is still sleeping.

In fact, since mid-June the ruling party did not send voters any message that it was correcting itself. It was business as usual everywhere.

Following the defeat in the four city polls on June 15, the AL high-ups, including AMA Muhiht, Matia Chowdhury and Obaidul Quader, said it was a wake-up call for the party to make a comeback in the Gazipur City Corporation polls.

But their speeches proved mere rhetoric as the party leadership paid little attention to this end. Instead of rejuvenating the grassroots, the party top brass tasked the central leadership with overseeing the polls campaign.

In the presence of central leaders, grassroots leaders in Gazipur felt they were sidelined and so they remained largely inactive in the campaign.

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UN MILLENNIUM GOALS

Bangladesh two years ahead

Hostile climate seen as major threat to progress

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has already achieved most targets of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) two years before the 2015 deadline, but climate change remains a threat to the country, says a government report.

Though developed nations didn't provide Bangladesh with their pledged assistance, the country achieved many of the

MDG targets, says the Planning Commission's progress report 2012 on the MDGs.

Dr Shamsul Alam, member of General Economics Division of the commission, presented the report at the National Economic Council auditorium in the capital yesterday.

"The threat of climate change can diminish the hard-earned beneficial impacts of

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MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS	INDICATORS	CURRENT STATUS	TARGET 2015
Eradicate extreme poverty	Proportion of people below national poverty line (%)	31.5 (2010)	29.0
Universal primary education	Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5 (%)	79.5(2011)	100.0
Promote gender equality	Ratio of girls to boys in primary education	1.02(2011)	1.0
Reduce child mortality	Infant (0-1 year) Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	35	31
Improve maternal health	Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100,000 live births)	194 (2010)	143

AL's Black Rose fails to bloom

Central's hectic campaign falls short of people

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The Awami League high command had set up its campaign office at the Black Rose hotel in the city's Uttara and made all-out efforts to secure win for the party mayoral favourite in the Gazipur city polls, but all in vain.

Leaders of AL and its different associated bodies swarmed the hotel, just 200 metres from the Gazipur City Corporation (GCC) area, either for campaign planning or to make their senior leaders happy, party insiders said.

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader and State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanak were the AL's campaign coordinators in the GCC polls.

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Murray ends long wait

REUTERS, London

Andy Murray wiped out 77 years of pain and hurt as he became the first British man since 1936 to win the men's title at Wimbledon with a 6-4 7-5 6-4 victory over world number one Novak Djokovic on Sunday.

Just why Britain had to

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SALUTE TO UNSUNG HEROES: Freedom fighter Abdul Mannan, left in the front row, and family members of nine martyrs pose holding crests presented by The Daily Star yesterday in recognition of their sacrifice for the motherland in 1971. Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman, litterateur Selina Hossain and The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam are also present.

PHOTO: STAR

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Star honours some unsung war heroes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While many sacrificed their lives for the motherland, Abdul Mannan accepted the fate of a landless farmer by giving up his only piece of land for burial of the villagers massacred by the Pakistani Army on October 9, 1971.

Yet, Mannan has no regrets, even though he had to fight with poverty every day of the last four decades.

"I could have been one of them. What would I have done with the land if I was killed? I thought the Almighty will take care of me so I gave my land to bury the dead," says Mannan of Khaghar in Brahmanbaria.

Stories of such unsung heroes of the Liberation War, collected and compiled by researcher Lt Col (ret'd) Kazi Sazzad Ali Zahir, Bir Pratik, are being published in The Daily Star since 2011.

Yesterday, 10 such heroes, who fought and sacrificed their lives or belongings, were honoured by The Daily Star at its office in the

Gazipur chooses clean councillors

STAR REPORT

Voters have largely rejected the councillor aspirants with criminal records in the first-ever Gazipur city polls on Saturday. But they lined up against Awami League-backed mayoral candidate Ajmat Ullah Khan who is widely known as a man with clean image.

Out of 57 councillors-elect, 42 are not facing any criminal records. Some of them had been accused in criminal cases that were eventually withdrawn or they were acquitted of the charges, according to affidavits submitted to the returning officer.

Also, none of 19 councillors-elect to reserved seats for women is facing any criminal cases.

As many as 108 candidates who face criminal cases had contested for 57 councillor posts in the polls. Five councillor aspirants and even mayor-elect MA Mannan have murder cases against them, according to their affidavits.

Mannan, with support of the BNP-led opposition alliance, defeated Ajmat by a margin of more than one lakh votes.

Local government expert Prof Tofail Ahmed told The Daily Star yesterday that voters, while picking councillors, have mostly looked for people with clean images.

But, he said, the situation was different regarding the election to the mayoral post. Political influence and national issues overshadowed the mayoral aspirants' backgrounds.

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GARMENT SAFETY IN BANGLADESH

Hope for rational accord

EU holds tripartite meeting in Geneva today

REFAAYET ULLAH MIRDHA and REZAUL KARIM

Bangladesh expects a workable building and fire safety accord from the international retailers and rights groups as the European Union holds a discussion in Geneva today to fix the action plan for the country's garment sector.

"The retailers and rights groups should not impose conditions which the industry won't be able to sustain,"

said Atiqul Islam, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

Talking to The Daily Star over the phone from London, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday said, "We will discuss all the issues under the tripartite action plan." She is scheduled to fly to Geneva today to join the discussion.

Former BGMEA president Shafiul Islam Mohiuddin and Ramesh

Chandra, general secretary of IndustriALL Bangladesh Council, have already left the country for Geneva to attend the discussion.

IndustriALL, a European rights group, initiated the building and fire safety accord for Bangladesh after the Rana Plaza disaster in Savar had claimed 1,132 lives on April 24. Seventy international retail brands have already agreed to sign the accord.

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ANDAMAN SHIP TILT

Back from jaws of death

Crew tells Star of his horror; 5 survivors reach home

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Ctg

It was a miracle for Abu Bakar Siddique, the mariner of Bangladeshi vessel MV Hope which tilted dangerously in the Andaman sea in the early hours of July 4, to return to life from the claws of death.

The 57-year old seaman, now undergoing treatment at Wachira Hospital



Abu Bakar

in Phuket, along with three other rescued crewmen, was narrating his plight over phone of the horrific day when the ship tilted dangerously.

Thai Navy officially called off the rescue operation at 6 pm yesterday urging fishermen to keep an eye for six missing Bangladeshis.

Five of the nine rescued crew

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Buoyed BNP to ride on the wave

RASHIDUL HASAN

BNP wants to move cautiously regarding its ongoing movement for a non-party caretaker government in the wake of "overwhelming support" of people it received in the Gazipur City Corporation polls, senior leaders of the party said yesterday.

"We want to retain till the next general elections the enthusiastic support

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