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Gazi Tank pacer Rubel returns career-best
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CAPITAL DEFICIT
Govt to ask for WB funds to meet shortfall at state banks
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OF ATTACK ON SYRIA
Kerry's gaffe may stop armed US attack on Syria
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Tension over Syria eases

Damascus accepts Russian proposal on chemical weapons; Obama, Hollande want to keep 'all options open'

AGENCIES
Syria accepted a Russian proposal yesterday to give up chemical weapons and win a reprieve from US military strikes, while major western powers began working on a United Nations resolution to create a timetable and process for ensuring it happens.
Syrian Prime Minister Wael al-Halki accepted the Russian proposal "to spare Syrian blood," state television reported.
The United States and its allies remained sceptical and President Barack Obama sought to keep the pressure on Syria by maintaining his drive for congressional backing for a possible military strike while exploring a diplomatic alternative.
The US, UK and France all stressed that they would not allow Russia or Damascus to play for time, reports The Guardian.
The US secretary of state, John Kerry, told a hearing of the House of Representatives armed services committee the US was waiting for details of the Russian proposal, "but we're not waiting for long".
He said: "President Obama will take a hard look at it. But it has to be swift, it has to be real, it has to be verifiable."
"We have to show Syria, Russia and the world we are not going to fall for stalling tactics."
David Cameron delivered the same message in Westminster saying the UK did not want the Russian disarmament proposal to be "some delaying tactic, some ruse to buy time for a regime that must act on chemical weapons".
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The Karnaphuli, the most important river in Chittagong, gets polluted by liquid and toxic waste through this pipe. No efforts seem to be there to save this river despite news reports and campaigns drawing the authorities' attention to the Karnaphuli pollution. The photo was taken at Bridge Ghat area of Firingee Bazar in the port city recently.
PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

No consensus, no observers

International community takes stance on next JS polls

REZAUL KARIM
The international community appears resolved not to send observers to monitor the next general election in Bangladesh unless the polls are to be inclusive and there is consensus about the election-time government.
Foreign countries are annoyed and concerned over the political stalemate in Bangladesh and will not send polls observers to endorse any election without the participation of the major political parties, diplomatic sources in Dhaka have told The Daily Star.
"We'll definitely take a tough position for the sake of a free, fair, credible and participatory election," said a diplomat seeking anonymity.
Foreign nations do not wish to see any more uncertainty and street violence in Bangladesh, he said.
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MEETING WITH BNP EU presses for dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The visiting European Union delegation yesterday called upon the government and the opposition to immediately sit in a dialogue to find a solution to the crisis over the polls-time government.
"We really think this is the time to sit for a dialogue," EU Ambassador to Bangladesh William Hanna told journalists after a meeting between BNP leaders and the Election Exploratory Mission of the EU.
"We have called on the government and the opposition to engage to resolve the present crisis over holding the election," said Hanna, who accompanied the EU delegation at the meeting.
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AL stays rigid

Wants holding of polls as per constitution despite int'l call for dialogue, consensus

HASAN JAHID TUSHER
The ruling Awami League remains rigid in its stance that the next parliamentary elections must be held in line with current constitutional guidelines, without paying much heed to the international community's call for a consensus over a polls-time government.
The party, however, will hold discussions if the main opposition BNP places any proposals in parliament over the formation of an interim government comprised of elected people, AL insiders have told The Daily Star.
The ruling party has already decided that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will be at the helm of the polls-time government.
Though it might discuss the BNP's proposals in parliament over an interim government, it will not accept any proposal that conflicts with the constitution.
"In no circumstances will we move from our position in favour of holding the next election according to constitutional guidelines," acting AL general secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif told The Daily Star.
"We can have discussions with the BNP only about the formation of an interim government."
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A road in Phulbaria, Gulistan, in Dhaka, is in a pathetic condition. When it rains, the road becomes muddy, making travelling through it a terrible experience for pedestrians and drivers.
PHOTO: STAR

PM decides to attend UNGA

UNB, Dhaka
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will attend the 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to be held later this month in New York, although there have been reports that she would not participate in the event.
"The prime minister will join the 68th session of the UN general assembly and deliver her speech in Bangla," PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad told UNB last night.
The prime minister in her speech will highlight various achievements of her government in different fields, he added.
She will also have bilateral meetings with several world leaders.

Padma bridge tender draws little interest

Bid submission deadline extended by 2 months
M ABUL KALAM AZAD
The construction of Padma bridge will face further delay as the communications ministry last week extended time for submitting bids for the main bridge component by almost two months.
The last date for submitting bid for the \$ 1.3 billion main bridge is now November 4 this year. The previous deadline was September 9.
"We will try to finalise the bid by the end of January next year," said Shafiqul Islam, project director of the Padma bridge scheme.
He, however, gave no idea about when the construction would start. Sources in the Bridges Division said it would not be possible before August-September next year.
Sources in the Bridges Division and pre-qualified bidders said three out of four pre-qualified bidders were not willing to bid for the main bridge component due to uncertainty of fund given the country's political volatility.
Only China Major Bridge Engineering Co Ltd had shown interest.
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SC JUDGE APPOINTMENT CRITERIA JS body for passage of bill in next session

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A parliamentary body yesterday decided to recommend passage of a bill setting criteria for appointment as Supreme Court judges in efforts to stop politicisation of the process.
The parliamentary standing committee on the private members' bills and resolutions took the decision after scrutinising the bill placed in parliament by a Jatiya Party lawmaker in July last year.
"We will place our report in the upcoming parliamentary session recommending passage of the bill," Abdul Matin Khasru, chief of the parliamentary body, told The Daily Star yesterday.
The Jatiya Sangsad goes into session tomorrow.
He said if the House passed the bill, it would be possible to free the appointment of Supreme Court judges from controversy over politicisation.
The proposed legislation seeks to curtail the government's absolute authority in appointing judges to the SC.
It proposed forming a Superior Judicial Commission led by the chief justice to recommend appointments.
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USE OF DRONES Dhaka seeks clarification from Delhi

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
Dhaka has sought clarification from New Delhi regarding India's plan to deploy unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), popularly known as drones, along its border with Bangladesh.
"From our own communications we've come to know that India's Border Security Force (BSF) is contemplating to deploy UAVs along its border with Bangladesh."
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