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PALLI SANCHAY BANK

BHADRA 28, 1420 BS

Govt plans to float Grameen-like specialised bank for the poor

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Your Right to Know

RUSSIA-IRAN MEET

Putin may offer Tehran arms, second nuclear power reactor

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CRISIS OVER NEXT POLLS

Little hope of solution in JS

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The ninth Jatiya Sangsad goes into its last session today with little hope of bringing any solution to the growing political crisis over a polls-time government.

There is even no prospect of any discussions in parlia-

ment on the crucial issue, as both the ruling party and the opposition remain rigid on their stances over holding a dialogue on it. The ruling Awami League has been urging the BNP to

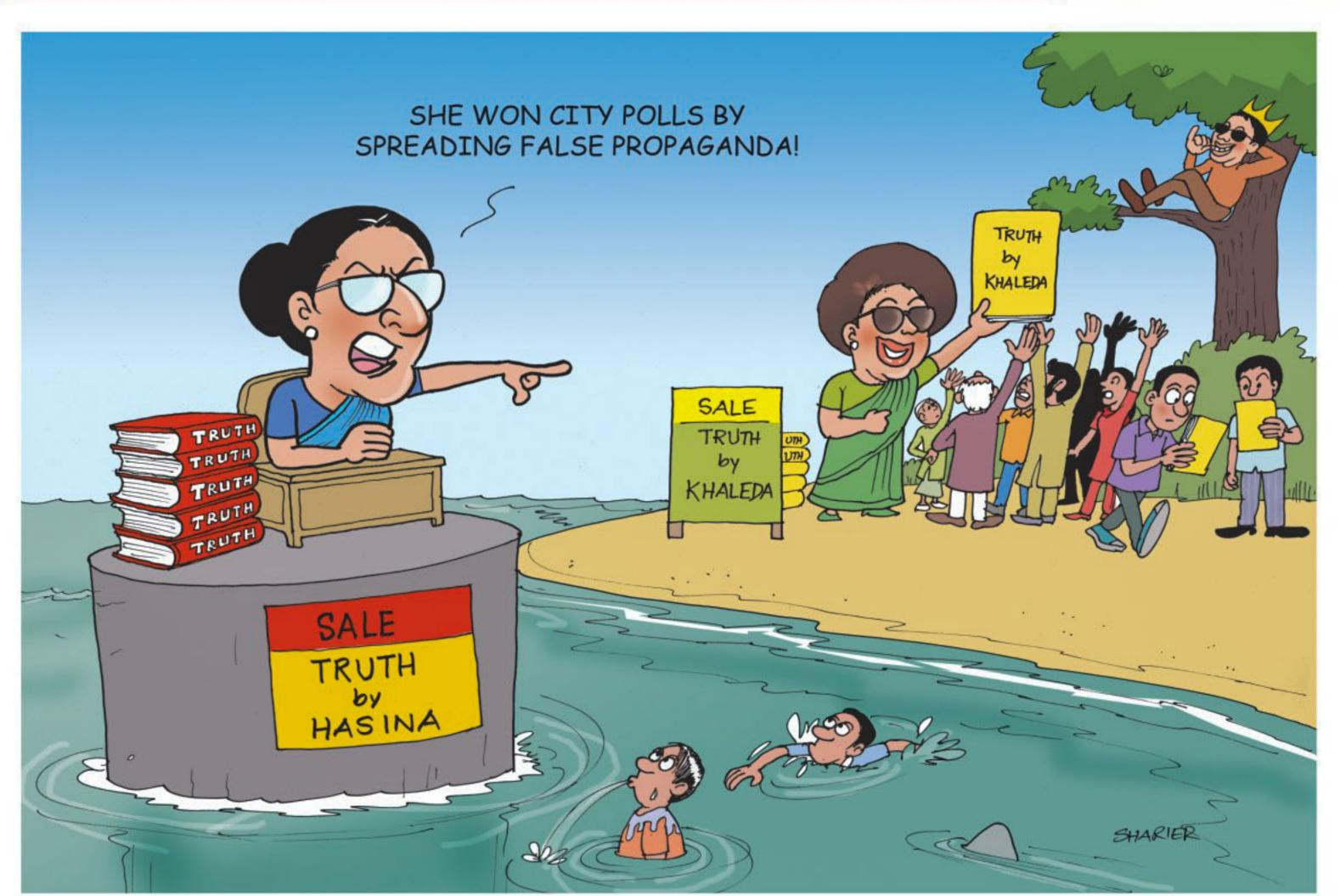
place proposals if it has any on the formation of the pollstime government in line with the constitution. The BNP-led opposition lawmakers, who may join this

session, have refused to respond to the call from their rivals. AL presidium member Nooh-Ul-Alam Lenin told The Daily Star yesterday, "We will not initiate any discussion in parliament on the issue. However, we will have discussions if the BNP places any proposal in the House."

Moudud Ahmed, a member of the BNP standing committee, said, "We will never place any proposal [on the election-time government] in parliament."

The current JS itself has given birth to the crisis by scrapping the provision for the non-partisan caretaker government system through the 15th amendment to the constitution in 2011.

All signs indicate that if no major development takes SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Felani's father seeks justice Writes to Indian High Commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Felani's father yesterday posted a letter to the Indian High Commission in Bangladesh seeking justice

for his daughter's murder by the BSF. In the letter, Mohammad Nurul Islam said no BSF member accused of killing her daughter has received any sort of punishment ever since the murder was com-

mitted on January 7, 2011. "As a Bangladeshi citizen, I believe that since the members of Indian Border Security Force are directly involved in the murder of my daughter, the Indian government and its people are liable for it. I demand the Indian government and its people must ensure proper punishment to those involved in the

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Work together for credible polls

US again asks major parties; UN talks move sees no response

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The US has reiterated its call upon the major political parties of Bangladesh to work together for a free, fair and credible general election.

The fresh call came on Tuesday, two days after US Secretary of State John

Kerry wrote to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Opposition Leader Khaleda Zia, requesting them to engage in talks without wasting time to resolve the political standoff over the polls-time administration. "We have repeatedly urged the leaders of the major parties in Bangladesh

to come together and agree on a way forward that will ensure free, fair and credible elections in the coming months," a spokesperson of the US State: Department said on Tuesday.

In reply to a question, the office of the spokesperson in Washington DC · Commissioner Kazi said: "What the way forward looks like is for the parties of Bangladesh to : Rakibuddin Ahmad at the SEE PAGE 10 COL 3 :

: HOLDING JS POLLS

EU happy with EC readiness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The visiting European Union delegation yesterday said the Election Commission is prepared for holding the upcoming general election.

"I believe the Election Commission is ready [for the election]," William Hanna, head of the EU delegation to Bangladesh, told reporters after meeting Chief Election

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Syria crisis sees silver lining

Russia hands weapon surrender plan to US as Obama puts strike plan on hold

AGENCIES

Russia yesterday said it had given the US a plan to put Syria's chemical weapons under international control, raising hopes of a diplomatic solution to the crisis.

The move came a day after threatened US-led strikes against President Bashar al-Assad's regime were put on ice in response to Russia's offer to oversee Syria giving up its arsenal after Washington accused Damascus of using deadly sarin gas against its own people last month.

Until Tuesday morning, Obama's government had been lobbying hard for support in Congress for military strikes.

But surveys of politicians had shown he was unlikely to win the planned

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Treat Yunus fairly:US

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US has expressed concern over recent reports that the government of Bangladesh may pursue a tax evasion case against Prof Muhammad Yunus. It urged for fair treatment of the Nobel laureate.

The United States had long admired and supported Prof Yunus' significant achievements in improving the lives of Bangladesh's most vulnerable citizens,

particularly women, said the US State Department. "We urge the government of Bangladesh to treat Dr

Yunus in a fair and transparent manner, in keeping with Bangladeshi law and the principles of due process," said the office of the spokesperson of the state department in

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