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No polls now to DCC, local govt bodies

PANKAJ KARMAKAR and WASIM BIN HABIB

The Election Commission has finally decided not to hold elections to the bifurcated Dhaka City Corporation or any other local government bodies before the next national election.

Election Commissioner Shah Nawaz said yesterday the commission is unable to hold the DCC elections, as the LGRD ministry has not yet completed demarcation of boundaries of the split DCC.

"Since the Local Government Division [LGD] says it will take more time to complete demarcation, it is not possible to hold DCC election now," he told journalists at the EC Secretariat in the capital.

"We have decided in principle not to hold election to any local government bodies as the national election is nearing."

In reply to a query, Nawaz said, "The division [LGD] does not want election to these bodies now."

He went on, "As the commission holds elections to the local government bodies only on request from the LGD, we cannot hold the elections if it does not want."

The LGRD ministry last month asked the EC not to move to hold due elections to eight municipalities on the grounds that demarcation of these municipalities was incomplete.

Towards the end of last month, the ministry also asked the EC not to hold due elections to 33 upazila parishads, saying that it would not be right to hold these polls before the national election.

LGD Secretary Abu Alam Shahid Khan, however, denied the allegation of its unwillingness to hold elections to local government bodies, saying, "We definitely want election since polls to around 5,500 local government bodies were held during the tenure of the present government."

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



Labour unrest over pay hike caused huge traffic congestions across the capital yesterday. In this photo taken around 2:00pm, vehicles are seen stuck in an enormous traffic jam all along the Banani flyover.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

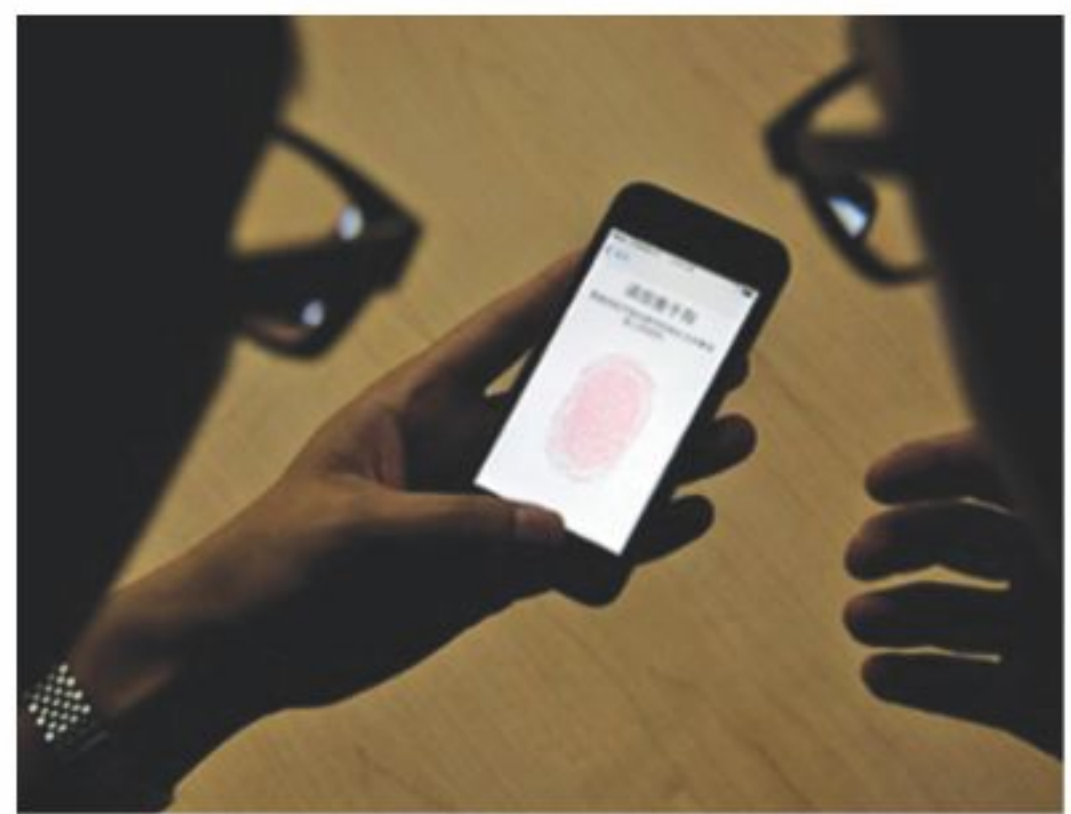
Fingerprint ID on iPhone hacked

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

Germany's Chaos Computer Club says it has cracked the protection around Apple's fingerprint sensor on its new iPhone 5S, just two days after the device went on sale worldwide.

In a post on their site, the group says that their biometric hacking team took a fingerprint of the user, photographed from a glass surface, and then created a "fake fingerprint" which could be put

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



Mueen, Ashraf led Al-Badr

In closing arguments, prosecution focuses on killing of intellectuals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution began their closing arguments yesterday trying to prove that Chowdhury Mueen Uddin and Ashrafuzzaman Khan had been leaders of Al-Badr force responsible for the planned intellectual killings towards the end of the Liberation War in December 1971.

Referring to a number of documentary evidence, mainly newspaper reports, Prosecutor Sahidur Rahman told the International Crimes Tribunal-2 that Mueen and Ashraf had also been leaders of Islami Chhatra Sangha, the then student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami which vehemently opposed the birth of Bangladesh.

He also placed evidence to establish that the duo had been involved in the abduction and killing of seven Dhaka University teachers and a physician, one of the charges brought against them. Sahidur cited testimonies of six prosecution witnesses, according to which Mueen and Ashraf

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Witness's delay in appearance irks tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The judges are sitting idle, waiting. The prosecutor is running back and forth and knocking on the door to another courtroom, searching for his witness who had lunch with him about an hour ago.

This was the picture at International Crimes Tribunal-1 after the lunch break yesterday.

Keeping the three judges waiting for about 15 minutes, 24th prosecution witness Azabuddin Mia, who gave his deposition on the seizure list documents in the war crimes case against Motiur Rahman Nizami, at last showed up.

Angered by his nonchalance, tribunal chairman Justice ATM Fazle Kabir

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

RMG workers locked in on 19-hour shifts

Finds BBC Panorama

A BBC investigation has found factory workers in Bangladesh forced to work 19-hour days in dangerous conditions.

Panorama secretly filmed workers making clothes for the supermarket Lidl, who were locked inside a factory in the middle of the night. They started work at 7:00am and were eventually let out at 2:30am. But when reporter Richard Bilton visited the factory posing as a western buyer, he was given timesheets that falsely claimed the shift ended nine hours earlier.

The programme found another factory,

making clothes for retailers like Gap and H&M, that was also hiding long working hours.

Most western retailers have codes of conduct that limit the number of working hours and they are supposed to be enforced with regular audits.

Kalpona Akter, from the Bangladesh Centre for Worker Solidarity, says many factories hide the truth about long hours from western retailers. "The factory owners, they keep two different books. So one they show to the buyers, the other they show to

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Egypt court bans Brotherhood

Orders seizure of its assets

REUTERS, Cairo

An Egyptian court yesterday banned any activity by ousted President Mohamed Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood and ordered its funds seized, a significant strike in the campaign to crush the Islamist movement.

The case was brought by a lawyer from the leftist Tagammu party on the grounds of protecting Egyptians from violence. It was not stated if he was acting at the instigation of the army-backed government.

"The court bans the activities of the Muslim Brotherhood organisation and its non-governmental organisation and all the activities that it participates in and any organisation

SEE PAGE 10 COL 8

2-yr-old boy in dock as accused!

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A child, aged two and a half years, was put in the dock in Comapnyganj, Sylhet, on Sunday because of sloppy investigation by an inspector.

He was even charged with selling adulterated oil.

It all began as Sanitary Inspector Shamsuddin raided "Aftab Store" in Shah Arefin Bazaar of Noakut village on February

SEE PAGE 10 COL 8

অভিনন্দন

বাংলাদেশ অ্যাসোসিয়েশন অব সফটওয়্যার এ্যান্ড ইনফরমেশন সার্ভিসেস (বেসিস) এর সভাপতি নির্বাচিত হওয়ায় অগ্রণী ব্যাংক লিমিটেডের পরিচালক, এখনই ডট কম এর প্রধান নির্বাহী ও বেসরকারি ইজেনারেশন লিং এর চেয়ারম্যান **জনাব শামীম আহসান** কে অগ্রণী ব্যাংক লিমিটেডের পরিচালনা পরিষদ ব্যবস্থাপনা কর্তৃপক্ষসহ সকল স্তরের কর্মকর্তা-কর্মচারীদের পক্ষ থেকে প্রাণঢালা শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন।

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ONLINE POLL

Do you think Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad will be able to broker dialogue among political parties to solve the present crisis?

Yes (10%)
No (90%)

TOTAL VOTES: 249

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think that the demand for a rise in minimum monthly wage to Tk 8,114 from Tk 3,000 of the RMG workers is justified?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING September 24

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-40	5-15
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-05	6-10
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

CONGRATULATIONS!!

We proudly congratulate our honourable Managing Director, Mr. Md Asadul Islam, for being adjudged as the highest tax payer of Narayanganj City Corporation for the tax year 2012-13. This is the third consecutive tax year that he has been honoured with this prestigious award. We are a Group thriving under his dynamic leadership and vision.

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