City





Kumari Puja celebrated

UNB, Dhaka

Thousands of Hindu devotees flocked to puja mandaps across the country yesterday to celebrate Kumari Puja.

The celebrations marked the triumph of good over evil. The rituals began in the

morning where girls were worshipped as the goddess at puja mandaps, including the capital's Ramkrishna Mission.

The worshipped girl symbolises the power that regulates creation, stability and destruction on earth.

The goddess is bathed symbolically and dressed for the final battle. It is believed that on this day, Durga killed the demon.

In old days, a buffalo was offered as sacrifice to the goddess. These days, bananas, pumpkins and cucumbers replaced the animal.

Also known as Maha Ashtami, the day holds special significance in the social and religious calendar of the Hindus.

Bangladeshis In Foreign Jails

No step yet to get them released

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPLOB

More than 2,000 Bangladeshi workers who have been languishing in foreign prisons are spending their days in frustration, as the Bangladesh government is yet to take any steps to have them released.

The prisoners are in Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Jordan, Libya and Italy, according to reports of Bangladesh's missions in the countries.

The labour counsellors of the missions submitted the reports to the government at a labour attaché conference held in Dhaka last month. Over 1,000 Bangladeshis are behind bars in Malaysia

alone, on charges of illegal entry, violation of labour laws, murder, theft and some other crimes. Saudi Arabia comes second, with at least 598 Bangladeshis in its prisons. The missions' officials urged the Bangladesh foreign

SEE PAGE 2 COL 8



A cattle market has sprung up on a street in the capital's Nayabazar, leading to traffic chaos in the locality. Similar markets are seen across the city ahead of Eidul-Azha when Muslims sacrifice animals, mostly cows and goats.

PHOTO: STAR

India braces for super cyclone

Half a million evacuated as major damages feared

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Around half a million people living in coastal villages fled to safer areas as a deadly cyclone bore day, packing winds of up 220 kilo-

metres an hour threatening to cut a swathe of devastation through farmland and fishing hamlets.

In the first reported deaths, six people were killed by falling trees down on India's east coast yester- even before the Cyclone Phailin

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

ALCWC meets today to

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

discuss polls

Awami League Central Working Committee sits today to discuss ways to hold the next parliamentary elections without dissolving parliament, and the country's political situation.

The committee, the highest decision-making SEE PAGE 11 COL 1 PM's Special Assistant

Hanif 'removed'

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Following an exchange of words over his running in the next parliamentary elections, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has relieved her Special Assistant Mahbubul Alam Hanif of his duties, Awami League insiders said.

Even though there was no official notification from the Prime Minister's Office in this regard, several Awami League sources confirmed Hanif's removal.

Hanif, also a joint general secretary of the ruling party, said he was unaware of the matter.

Awami League insiders said Hanif engaged in an unusual exchange of words with party president Hasina at a

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

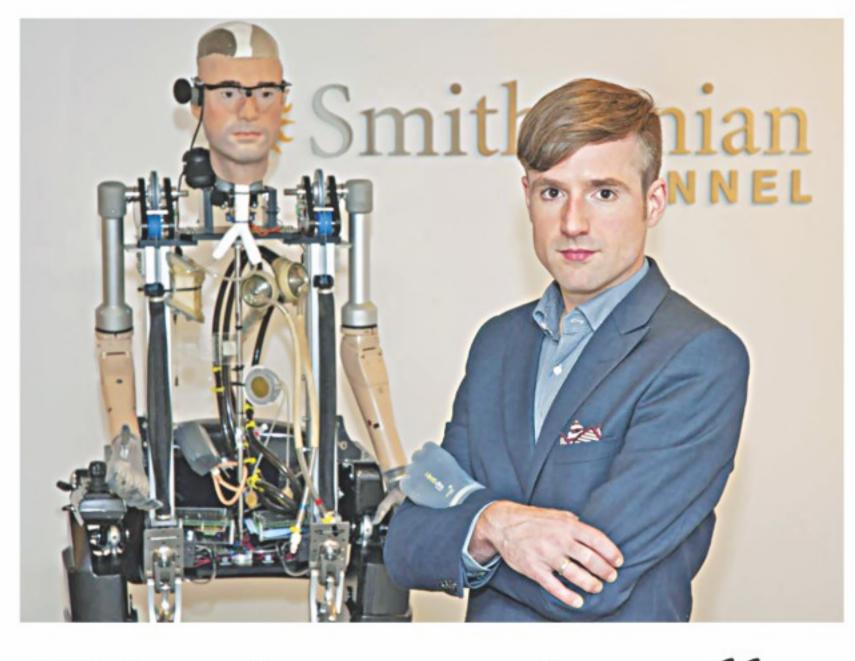
Horror strikes family before Eid

Reckless driving kills mother in front of daughter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Reckless driving has turned a family's Eid into a nightmare, as a mother was crushed to death by a bus in front of her daughter in the capital's Kamalapur yesterday.

Eighteen days back, another woman SEE PAGE 11 COL 6



'Bionic man' walks

AP, New York

Gentlemen, we can rebuild him, after all. We have the technology.

The term "bionic man" was the stuff of science fiction in the 1970s, when a popular TV show called "The Six Million Dollar Man" chronicled the adventures of Steve Austin, a former astronaut whose body was rebuilt using artificial parts after he nearly died.

Now, a team of engineers has assembled a robot using artificial organs, limbs and other body parts that comes tantalizingly close to a true "bionic man." For SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



ONLINE POLL Do you think it will be justified for the Election Commission to register Bangladesh Nationalist Front (BNF) as a political party despite strong criticism from different quarters?

Yes TOTAL VOTES: 290 TODAY'S POLL

Do you think it is necessary to continue the parliament session after October 24? PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING Azan Jamaat 4-45 5-20 12-45 1-15 4-15 4-30 Maghrib 5-45 5-50 7-15 7-45_ Source: Islamic Foundation

It's a ploy to foil anti-govt movement

Farroque says about keeping JS session on after Oct 24

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The move to prolong the parliament's concluding session after October 24 was a government ploy to resist the opposition movement, opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Farroque said yesterday. The reaction came as some senior leaders of ruling

Awami League (AL), including Suranjit Sengupta and Tofail Ahmed, had requested the Speaker to continue the parliament session until December 30.

Earlier, AL leaders including Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had said the parliament would be dissolved on October 24.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



ব্যাংক নোটের ব্যবহার সম্পর্কে সচেতন হোন

নোট জালকারীচক্রের প্রতারণা থেকে নিজেকে রক্ষা করুন এবং এ সকল নোট জালকারীকে ধরিয়ে দিন

আসল নোটের নিরাপত্তা বৈশিষ্ট্য সম্পর্কে নিজে জানুন এবং অপরকে জানতে সহায়তা করুন ॥



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