



SUPPLEMENT ON REAL ESTATE

Four colour pages illustrate the prospects and challenges of the sector

PAGE 51-54

SONGS OF SOUL AND SOIL

Joler Gaan offers musical soiree titled "Nobo Onner Ghran"

PAGE 9

CAMUS TODAY

Daughter says the writer will always be the outsider

PAGE 8

POLLS-TIME CABINET

Join, choose any ministry

PM urges Khaleda, meets AL nomination seekers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government is ready to offer any ministry to the BNP if the main opposition party joins the polls-time cabinet.

Urging opposition leader Khaleda Zia to participate in the upcoming general election, she said, "Give names [for cabinet berths]. We are ready to sacrifice anything for the welfare of the country and the people."

Hasina, also the ruling Awami League president, was addressing a gathering of those seeking party nomination for the 10th national polls.

Around 3,000 aspirants attended the programme at the Gono Bhaban. The AL chief gave them directions about preparations and campaign for the election and asked them

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

AL ASPIRANTS FEAR VIOLENCE - PAGE 2



A partially paralysed man is buried waist-deep, as a kabiraj (medicine man) performs rituals and chants to "cure" his illness at Fatehpur village in Brahmanbaria on Saturday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Iran, world powers strike nuclear deal

World leaders hail historic 'first step'; Israel says it's a 'historic mistake'

AGENCIES

Iran has struck a historic agreement with the US and five other world powers, accepting strict constraints on its nuclear programme for the first time in a decade in exchange for partial relief from sanctions.

The deal, signed at 4.30am yesterday morning, marks arguably the most significant foreign policy achievement of Barack Obama's presidency, amounting to the most significant agreement between Washington and Tehran since the 1979 Iranian revolution.

The move is intended as the first step in a six-month process aimed at a permanent resolution to the decade-old global impasse over Iran's nuclear programme, and heading off the threat of a new war in the Middle East.

Tehran boasted that the agreement, which offers Iran limited sanctions relief, recognised its right to enrich uranium -- which it says is for peaceful purposes -- but Washington denied the deal made any such reference.

Israel slammed the deal as a "historic mistake".

"What was achieved... in Geneva is not a historic agreement but rather a historic mistake," The Guardian quoted Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu telling his cabinet.

Iran's Gulf Arab adversaries, nervous of the rehabilitation of their long-standing regional rival, were tight-lipped about the agreement.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Talks on, so is confusion

CEC now says date for polls schedule not decided yet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Confusion runs high over a "secret dialogue" between Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam and BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir.

A day after the reported talks at a BNP leader's house in the capital's Gulshan, the main opposition party in a statement yesterday denied having any parleys with its archrival. The AL has yet to make any comment on the matter.

So far, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu is

the only person to publicly admit that the dialogue actually happened. "Such a meeting will help create an atmosphere conducive to holding a free and fair election. More of these meetings will be held."

The BNP statement came two hours after its Standing Committee Member ASM Hannan Shah acknowledged that the secretary general-level meeting took place, but failed to achieve anything.

However, in the statement signed by Joint Secretary General Rizvi Ahmed, Hannan claimed he was misquoted by the media.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

New ministers attend office

Manju made 11th adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several newly appointed ministers yesterday said the credibility of the next general election, due by January 24, will depend on voter turnout.

The main opposition BNP should contest the poll as participation of all parties would ensure a free, fair and neutral election, observed the ministers after assuming office.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

DEATH PENALTY FOR MOLLAH

Full SC verdict soon

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The full text of the Supreme Court judgment awarding death penalty to Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Quader Mollah for war crimes is likely to be released within a few days.

All the five apex court judges, who delivered the verdict by a majority view, have completed writing their parts of the judgement, court sources said, adding those will be compiled into a full-text verdict.

The release of the SC verdict may clear the way

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



Abdul Quader Mollah

CONGRATULATIONS



Like every year Popular Jute Exchange Limited achieved remarkable success in Raw Jute Export once again for the year 2010-2011. Mr. Hasan Ahmed, Managing Director of Popular Jute Exchange received the 'National Export Trophy (Gold)' from Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Govt. of People's Republic of Bangladesh. All the Directors, Employees & workers of Popular Group of Industries and Companies are delighted and proud to achieve such a recognition.



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Heartiest Congratulations



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To all shareholders & members of Paramount Textile for being awarded National Export Trophy.

