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# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



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**WITH TODAY'S ISSUE**  
**Showbiz**

**TIMES HAVE CHANGED**  
Indians tell US as State Department says no to case dropping demand  
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**GOOD BYE JUBORAJ**  
Gifted actor Khaled Khan passed away yesterday at 55  
PAGE 3

## Vegetable respite

*Bumper production keeps city happy during blockade*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Despite frequent strikes and blockades, the city's kitchen markets have still been afloat thanks to adequate vegetable supplies from adjacent districts. Though prices of key essentials have not seen a major change in the city markets, there prevails a significant price difference from one market to another. With most products, the price gap is hovering around Tk 5 to Tk 15 per kilogram and is almost double in some cases. Green chilli was trading at Tk 35 a kg at  
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Farmers of Sirajdikhan in Munshiganj water their cabbages. To keep up with demand, this is the second batch of the vegetables they are growing and planning to go for a third stint. They said production of vegetables have been really good this year. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## JAN 5 POLLS Deployment of army from Dec 26, for 15 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
The Army will remain deployed as the strike force for 15 days from Thursday to ensure peaceful conduct of January 5 polls in 146 out of 300 parliamentary constituencies. As for the rest 154 constituencies, the deployment would not be needed as the candidates there have already won unopposed. "An army camp will be set up in every district. The army and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) will act as strike forces accompanied by magistrates," said Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad yesterday emerging from a meeting that finalised the date for army deployment.  
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## ADMISSION IN SCHOOLS Upset by vicious politics

WASIM BIN HABIB  
Parents' worries over their children's admission to the state-run schools in the capital have multiplied this year as the students yesterday sat for admission tests amid a state of disorder and concerns caused by ongoing political unrest. School admission has always been a nerve-wracking issue for the parents since there are only a handful of good schools in the capital. This year things have taken a turn for the worse due to political unrest that has messed up the academic calendar of all educational institutions from primary school to university. A number of parents said their children did not get enough time to take preparation for admission tests as the school final examinations did not end in time. Exam dates for several papers were deferred several times thanks to the blockade and shutdowns. "The final examination of my son was supposed to be over in the first week of December, but it ended on December 11. He barely got a week for taking preparation. I don't think he will make it," said Afsana Rahman, a mother wishing to get her son admitted to class Three at Government Laboratory School in Dhanmondi. "After all, he is a kid and how much pressure can I put on him? He did not get the time for having a holiday trip as he had to take exams all through this month," she said. Many parents said they had taken their children to the admission centres amid fear of street violence. "Parental anxiety goes sky high whenever the school admission season  
SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



A volunteer takes admission-test examinees to the exam halls at Govt Laboratory School in the capital yesterday, the weekend. A series of blockades has ruined the little ones' preparation for the test as the year-end exams of many finished only a few days ago. PHOTO: STAR

## EU won't send polls observers Army to guard one-sided polls

NEWS ANALYSIS  
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT  
The European Union yesterday declined to send observers for the January 5 parliamentary elections, saying political forces in Bangladesh had failed to create conditions for credible polls despite many efforts, including that under UN auspices. "The EU remains nonetheless ready to observe the elections should the political conditions allow for the holding of transparent, inclusive and credible elections," the EU said in a statement.  
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SHAKHAWAT LITON  
Amid a volatile political situation, the army along with other law enforcement agencies has been given a huge responsibility to ensure a peaceful atmosphere for the January 5 parliamentary polls. The BNP-led 18-party opposition alliance has not only boycotted the ballots, but also announced that it would  
SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

## New govt to roll from Jan 27

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has told her ruling Awami League colleagues that the new government would start its journey on January 27. Hasina, also the AL president, made the suggestion at a meeting of the party's election steering committee at Gono Bhaban on Thursday night, meeting sources told The Daily Star yesterday. They added the new lawmakers would take oath of office on January 25 and the new cabinet on January 27. The tenure of the ninth parliament expires on January 24. The main opposition BNP and its 17 allies are boycotting the January 5 general election. The opposition demands that Hasina step down as the head of the polls-time government to make way for the formation of a nonparty government to oversee the election. At Thursday's meeting, Hasina reiterated her determination to hold the January 5 polls and form the next government even if the opposition camp continued its street agitation, sources said on condition of anonymity. She suggested that she would be open for holding a fresh election by dissolving the 10th parliament if the BNP shunned violence and cut off ties with the Jamaat-e-Islami and if a consensus was reached.  
SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

**CANCER DOESN'T DISCRIMINATE BETWEEN PEOPLE. WHY SHOULD TECHNOLOGY?**

GE's PET/CT scanners are making world-class cancer diagnostics more accessible in Bangladesh. By helping doctors with accurate information to stage, they are giving more and more people the hope of recovery.

GE imagination at work



## An era passes with her

Syeda Zohra Tajuddin (1933-2013)  
SYED BADRUL AHSAN  
There was stoicism in Syeda Zohra Tajuddin. Even when she suffered greatly, when grief painted her life and that of her family in all the thick dark hues of pain, she made it a point to let her emotions stay within the confines of her private world. No one has ever reported seeing her shed tears in public at the murder of her illustrious  
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## Rejoinder, our reply

In a rejoinder to The Daily Star report "The Genie Gave the Money" published on Wednesday, Environment and Forest Minister Hasan Mahmud claimed that the report was an attempt to defame him by miscalculating his wealth and distorting information. "The report calculated an escalation of the wealth of Dr Mahmud from 38.17 lakh to 15.46 crore compared to 2008. The monetary value of the shares of a number of limited companies amounting to more than Tk10 crore has been shown as cash value, while calculating the figures. In fact, formation of a limited company does not require any investment in cash. Therefore, this calculation is quite wrong,"