

# THE DAILY Star ON FRIDAY



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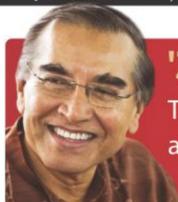
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ON INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY  
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## 'ZAWAHIRI'S CALL'

Taking it seriously, the nation must unite against extremism, Mahfuz Anam writes

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## FACEBOOK TO OWN WHATSAPP

The social network site will buy the mobile-messaging service at \$19b

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POLLS IN 97 UPAZILAS

# Turnout 62pc

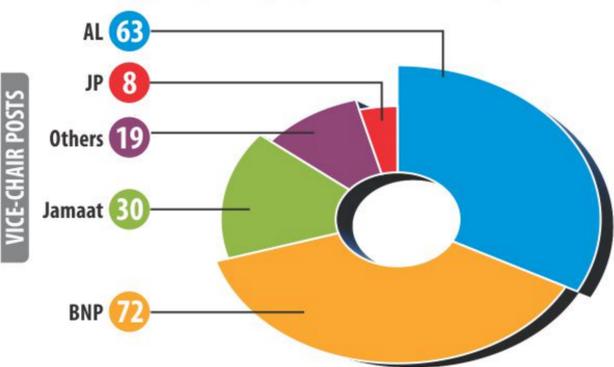
BNP-backed candidates win more vice-chairman posts than AL's

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-backed candidates have also won more vice-chairman posts than those backed by the ruling Awami League in the first phase of the upazila parishad election that saw an impressive turnout of 62.44 percent.

In Wednesday's polls, the BNP-blessed candidates won 72 of 192 vice-chairman posts, including those reserved for women. The AL-backed favourites secured 63 vice-chairman posts, according to results announced b

### NUMBERS OF WINNERS



## OUTRAGEOUS

Just a day before Ekushey February, a gang of around 20 masked men vandalised the Shaheed Minar at the century-old Jodubaira High School in Kumarkhali upazila of Kushtia. This is not the first time the memorial for the language martyrs, built in 1968, has been damaged. During the Liberation War, Razakars vandalised the memorial and it was rebuilt in 1972. A month ago, criminals desecrated another Shaheed Minar in the upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

## Nepal to host 18th Saarc Summit

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Nepal has officially proposed to host the 18th Saarc Summit in November this year in Kathmandu.

The country made the proposal during the 35th meeting of the Saarc Council of Foreign Ministers held in the Maldives yesterday.

This is the third time that Nepal will be hosting the South Asian Association for Regional

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## AL VERSUS BNP Both happy

RASHIDUL HASAN and PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Both the ruling Awami League and its archrival BNP appear happy over the first phase of upazila parishad elections.

The BNP, which boycotted the 10th parliamentary elections and ended up having no representation in parliament for the first time since 1991, has not only fared better than the AL but also has begun to "repair the collapsed communication bridge" between the central and the grassroots leaders, BNP insiders said.

On the other hand, the Awami League thinks that irrespective of the polls results, BNP's participation in this election is a major victory for the government, party sources said.

"The communications between the BNP central and its grassroots leaders almost collapsed after we failed to resist

## Today, Amar Ekushey

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

Abul Maal Abdul Muhith's work on the history of the language struggle -- State Language Movement in East Bengal 1947-1956 -- provides an insightful account of how events shaped up after February 21 and 22, 1952. On April 26, a non-communal organisation known as East Pakistan Students Union (EPSU) was formed. Sometime around mid-1952, a number of leading Bangalee intellectuals organised the Pakistan Shahitya Parishad.



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## Salute to language heroes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is Amar Ekushey. The country will observe the 62nd Language Martyrs' Day through various programmes.

In the first hour, President Abdul Hamid led the nation in paying tributes to those who laid down their lives for recognition of Bangla as the state language on this day 62 years ago.

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## Move on to save indigenous languages

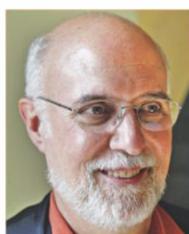
MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

The International Mother Language Institution has begun a survey on languages of indigenous communities to revitalise and preserve them through documentation.

It is expected to complete surveying at least four to five languages by the next International Mother Language Day that is observed every year worldwide on February 21 to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.

Every mother tongue or dialect has its

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The Daily Star will carry a four-part investigative report by internationally renowned journalist Lawrence Lifschultz on the murder of Maj Gen Abul Manzoor, Bir Uttam, starting tomorrow.



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Nasir Hossain drops Ashan Priyanjan at deep square leg. The let down eventually proved costly as Priyanjan put up 114 runs for the fourth wicket with centurion Kumar Sangakkara and Sri Lanka piled up a huge 289 that hosts Bangladesh failed to chase down in the second ODI at Mirpur yesterday. The Tigers lost the match by 61 runs. Story on Page 18

## Hajj pilgrims free to pick any airline

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for the hajj pilgrims to choose any airline while going to Saudi Arabia to perform hajj.

The court also declared illegal a government decision that said that the pilgrims must choose Biman Bangladesh or Saudi Arabian Airlines for pilgrimage.

An HC bench of Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury

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## Biman's highly costly goodbye to DC-10

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The McDonnell Douglas DC-10 of Biman yesterday left for Birmingham to operate scenic tours for aviation enthusiasts there but insiders say that the farewell for the last passenger-carrying workhorse could cost Biman dearly.

The DC-10 left Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday morning and it would take 13 hours to reach its destination with a stopover at Kuwait. It will then make nine scenic tours around Birmingham over three days and return direct to Dhaka empty.



Biman insiders claimed that the roundtrip, excluding the scenic tours, would alone cost around Tk 2.33 crore and there were only 29 fare paying passengers onboard the flight to England and Biman would get only Tk 32 lakh in revenue.

Biman could get about Tk 2 crore if all 144 seats in each of the scenic tour flights are sold out but it would cost Tk 91 lakh excluding airport charges which could run into lakhs, said Biman officials requesting anonymity.

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