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BNP unlikely to take part

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The BNP is unlikely to participate in the upcoming district council elections scheduled for December, as the party has a few elected public representatives in different local government bodies.

According to the District Council (Amendment) Bill, 2016, only the elected representatives of local government bodies -- city corporations, upazila parishads and union parishads -- will vote to elect a chairman, 15 general and five women members in each district council.

Party insiders say most of its elected representatives in local government bodies are either behind bars or on the run.

Although the BNP boycotted the January 5, 2014, national election, it contested all the local government elections held later.

The party also alleged that fair election was not possible under the incumbent Election Commission and therefore, the chance of its participation in the district council elections was very slim.

"The chance of participating in the election is very slim as the election conducting system is faulty. But the final decision [in this regard] would be made at the party's standing committee meeting soon," BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir told The Daily Star yesterday.

Firstly, he said, the voters of district council elections are the elected representatives of local government bodies, and they are mostly from the ruling party.

Secondly, the incumbent Election Commission has failed to conduct a fair election so far, the BNP spokesperson added.

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A Greek policeman plays with a child of a family from the Syrian city of Aleppo upon their arrival at the train station of Didymoteicho, some 400km North-East from Thessaloniki near the Greek-Turkish border, on Wednesday. Story on Aleppo conflict on page 15. PHOTO: AFP

Don't take WB loan to fight climate change

TIB urges govt to seek compensation from countries responsible

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should not take \$2 billion loan from the World Bank for tackling climate change, Transparency International Bangladesh said yesterday.

"It won't be wise to take the loan. We should rather seek compensations from the countries responsible for climate change as Bangladesh is the worst-affected country," TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman told journalists at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

"World Bank will not give the loan interest-free. So, we cannot allow the bank to do business here. We should not put more loan burden on the affected people, but provide them with compensations," he added.

The TIB, Committee of Concerned Citizens, and Coastal Livelihood and Environmental Action Network (Clean) jointly organised the press conference on "Climate Equity Week 2016".

To mark the week, the three organisations hosted different programmes in 15 districts, including nine in coastal areas, from October 22-28.

On October 19, the WB pledged to provide Bangladesh with \$2 billion over the next three years to

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



Feel like a prisoner

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Have you ever wanted to find out what life in prison is like? If you have, and that too without breaking any law, you might find this useful.

The authorities of the now vacated Dhaka Central Jail on Nazimuddin Road is thinking about giving people the "opportunity" to have a taste of life behind bars for a day or two for a nominal fee.

"Many of the common people love adventure. Sometimes, many might think how it feels to stay in jail. We can give them the opportunity to have that feeling," Inspector General of Prisons Brig Gen Syed Iftekhar Uddin said at a press conference at the jail building yesterday.

Asked, he said it was just "at the level of an idea" and it might take at least three years to turn it into a reality.

There are many countries in the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

'Just cancel the election'

Trump attacks Hillary on trade, says he should be handed victory

REUTERS, Ohio; North Carolina

US Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump criticized Democrat Hillary Clinton on Thursday over her trade policies, saying she would handle trade deals so badly that the country should "just cancel the election" and name him the victor.

Speaking to supporters in Toledo, Ohio, Trump said the North American Free Trade Agreement signed by Clinton's husband, former President Bill Clinton, had led to the outsourcing of thousands of Ohio jobs to Mexico, a practice he vowed to stop if elected president on November 8.

"We should just cancel the election and just give it to Trump, right?" he said. "What are we even having it for? Her policies are so bad."

Trump said he believed Clinton would seek passage of the 12-nation Trans Pacific Partnership, President Barack Obama's signature Asian trade deal, which she now opposes.

Trump's remarks came as the New York businessman tries to steady rocky poll numbers amid a series of controversies and self-inflicted wounds.

He has struggled to handle the fallout from the release of a 2005 "Access Hollywood" video that showed the then-reality TV star talking on an open microphone about groping women and trying to seduce a married woman. The video was taped only months after Trump married his third wife, Melania.

Trump said on Thursday it was "certainly illegal" for NBC to release the tape and he left open the option of seeking legal action against the network after the election.

Since the video's release, a series of women have accused Trump of groping them or kissing them without their consent. Trump has called the allegations "absolutely false."

The latest RealClearPolitics poll average showed Clinton with a nearly

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TROUBLE BREWS FOR CLINTON -- PAGE 15



WAR ON DRUGS 10 killed in Philippines shootout

Mayor, 9 bodyguards among the dead

AFP, Kidapawan

A Philippine mayor accused of drug trafficking was killed along with nine bodyguards in a shoot-out with police yesterday, authorities said, hours after President Rodrigo Duterte threatened to intensify his crackdown on crime.

Samsudin Dimaukom, the mayor of the southern town of Saudi Ampatuan, was one of more than 150 local government officials, judges and police identified by Duterte earlier this year as being involved in the illegal drug trade.

The deadly crime war has claimed more than 3,800 lives and drawn criticism from the United States, the United Nations and international rights groups who have accused police of summarily executing suspects.

Police spokesman Superintendent Romeo Galgo said that Dimaukom and his security personnel opened fire after

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World's biggest marine reserve



AFP, Sydney

The world's largest marine reserve aimed at protecting the pristine wilderness of Antarctica will be created after a "momentous" agreement was finally reached yesterday, with Russia dropping its long-held opposition.

The deal, sealed by the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) at an annual meeting in Hobart after years of negotiations, will

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*Matters related to the event are subject to change without prior notice.