

## KORAIL SLUM FIRE Many left homeless, penniless

AKRAM HOSEN and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Holding their little babies, women, mostly garment workers, huddled together in small groups to stay warm. The ground beneath them was wet and the sky was the only thing above in the winter night.

When they left for work in the morning yesterday, each of them had a home, some small savings and valuables. But when they returned in the evening they saw their neighbourhood was reduced to ashes with smoke still swirling from it.

"Everything I had is gone. I only hope my baby doesn't become sick from

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Smoke billows from Korail slum in the capital yesterday afternoon as a fire rages through homes. At least 500 houses were destroyed leaving about 2,000 people homeless.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## VIVA FIDEL!

Cuban leader laid to rest alongside national heroes



AFP, Santiago De Cuba

Fidel Castro's ashes were buried alongside national heroes in the cradle of his revolution yesterday, as Cuba opens a new era without the communist leader who ruled the island for decades.

Capping a week of tributes and mass rallies, Castro was laid to rest near the mausoleum of 19th century independence icon Jose Marti and comrades of his rebellion in the eastern city of Santiago de Cuba.

A small group of guests attended the ceremony, which was

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

## ZILA PARISHAD HC questions polls system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned the legality of three provisions of district council law that allow an electoral body to cast vote in the district council elections.

The court also issued a rule upon the authorities concerned to explain within four weeks as to why sections 4(2) and 17 of the Zila Parishad Ain (District Council Act), 2000, and section 5 of the Zila Parishad (Amendment) Ain, 2016, should not be declared illegal as they permit an electoral body to vote in the district council polls.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

## REMITTANCE AT NEW LOW

# Inflow slides on oil price

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Remittance inflow fell by \$1.3 billion in the last 11 months this year compared to the same period last year due to low oil prices on the global market and transfer of money from abroad through *hundi*, an illegal way to transfer funds.

The central bank statistics show remittance inflow was \$12.65 billion from January to November this year, while it was \$13.95 billion in the same period last year.

Last month's remittance totalled \$951.37 million, which was \$1142.49 million in the same month last year.

Except for a month or two, remittance has been on the slide every month

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## HC clears EC after CEC apologised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday exonerated the Election Commission from a contempt of court rule after the EC offered an unconditional apology.

The HC bench of Justice M Moazzam Husain and Justice Md Badruzzaman passed the order after accepting the apology tendered by the chief election commissioner, four election commissioners

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

## NEWS ANALYSIS

### EC APPOINTMENTS

# Nobody wants hands tied

SHAKHAWAT LITON

It seems whoever becomes head of government, s/he wants to enjoy absolute power in forming the Election Commission. Reluctance of successive governments to make a law on the formation of EC indicates so.

The article 118 (1) of the constitution categorically says, "The appointment of the chief election commissioner and other election commissioners shall, subject to the provisions

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

EC FORMATION IN SAARC COUNTRIES -- PAGE 2



## Khulna thru' at Rangpur's expense

SPORTS REPORTER

A three-wicket haul from Junaid Khan and two crucial knocks from Hasanuzzaman and Mahmudullah Riyad helped the Khulna Titans

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1



The dark murky water of the Turag river near Tongi-Abdullahpur. Experts say the water of the river is beyond treatment for drinking. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## 6 RIVERS AROUND DHAKA

# Water turning untreatable?

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Water quality of six major rivers flowing around Dhaka gets polluted, particularly in the dry season, to the extent that it cannot be treated for drinking, experts say.

However, the quality slightly improves during the monsoon, they

observe.

None of the rivers was found to have "blue" category water suitable for drinking after disinfection as evident from the water quality analysis, said Prof Amir H Khan, chief scientist of Plasma Plus laboratory.

He was speaking at a seminar on "Pollution Profile of Major Rivers

around Dhaka" organised jointly by Plasma Plus, a private scientific research laboratory, and Brotee, a non-government organisation, at Cirdap Auditorium in the capital yesterday.

On behalf of Dhaka Wasa, Plasma Plus conducted a study on the pollution

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

## SINGER LED TVs

Upgrade your lifestyle to the highest resolution

- 0% Interest up to 6 Months
- Minimum 15% Down Payment
- Easy Installments up to 15 Months
- Interest Free 12 Months through Credit Cards\*\*

\*\* Major Banks

SINGER HELP LINE 16482



More than 20 Models

Achievement Inspired by Your TRUST & CONFIDENCE

NO.1  
CEMENT BRAND 2016



Shah Cement was recently awarded the Best Cement Brand, yet again, in a gala event hosted by Bangladesh Brand Forum. The award is given based on the joint survey conducted by Bangladesh Brand Forum and market research agency Kantar Millward Brown.

Most Trusted Cement Brand

SHAH CEMENT

shahcementbd

+shahcementbd

www.shahcement.com