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## All eyes on Narayanganj

Clean mayoral candidates, healthy campaign raise hope for fair polls in N'ganj today

SHAKHAWAT LITON and PANKAG KARMAKAR

With archrivals the Awami League and the BNP going head to head, the country's attention today would be on Narayanganj city, which goes to polls to elect its mayor and 36 councillors.

When compared to national polls, which involves around 10 crore voters, the Narayanganj City Corporation polls is tiny, with just about 4.74 lakh voters.

Yet, it has generated a lot of hoopla in national politics as ruling Awami League and the BNP are trying to get their person elected as mayor.

Peaceful and clean electioneering of the two main mayor candidates raised hopes for a good election today. The campaigns were free from mudslinging as well.

If the polls atmosphere remains agreeable the whole day, Narayanganj City Corporation polls may become the best election held in the last three years. If so, this may be a solace for the Election Commission which is at the end of its tenure.

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## 32 thrust sectors could fetch billions

*Main challenge is how Bangladesh can tap the investment potential, UK analyst tells conference on new economic thinking*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has 32 thrust sectors that have the potential to fetch billions of dollars in investment and export earnings, an analyst said yesterday.

But the main challenge will be how the country will exploit the potential, said Joseph DiVanna, managing director of Maris Strategies, UK.

He presented a keynote at a session on "the next billion dollar opportunities in Bangladesh" on the sidelines of a daylong conference -- new economic thinking:

### SOME PROMISING SECTORS

Apparel	Frozen food
Agriculture	Energy
ICT	Handicrafts
Light engineering	Ceramics
Pharmaceuticals	Tourism
Infrastructure	Healthcare

Bangladesh 2030 and beyond -- organised by Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry at Radisson hotel in the capital.

Kazi M Aminul Islam, executive chairman of Bangladesh Investment Development Authority, moderated the session.

"All the 32 sectors have the potential to become the next billion dollar investment opportunities in Bangladesh," DiVanna said.

The sectors include apparel, agriculture,

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PHOTO: SANJOY KUMAR BARUA

An illegal brick kiln next to the reserve forest in Taracha of Bandarban's Rowangchhari. Inset, piles of logs lay beside the brick kiln. Cutting of trees for such illegal kilns goes unabated in the area. The photo was taken a week ago.

PHOTO: SANJOY KUMAR BARUA

An illegal brick kiln next to the reserve forest in Taracha of Bandarban's Rowangchhari. Inset, piles of logs lay beside the brick kiln. Cutting of trees for such illegal kilns goes unabated in the area. The photo was taken a week ago.



Osmans' role could be a crucial factor

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA from N'ganj

Ruling party lawmaker Shamim Osman is still at the centre of discussion in Narayanganj and there are speculations among the people as to what he and his men might or might not do in today's polls.

Despite not being in the race, the controversial lawmaker remains a key character in Narayanganj as the Osman family has a vote bank in the city corporation area.

Following the electoral code of conduct, the Narayanganj-4 lawmaker did not take part in the campaign, but what his followers might do on election day is a matter of concern for both the Awami League and BNP-nominated mayor candidates.

"Many ward councillors [candidates] are his followers. To ensure their victory, Shamim's men might do something and this might create a chaotic situation, especially in Siddhirganj area," Mahmud Mia, a trader of Shiddhirganj, told The Daily Star.

Though Shamim publicly extended

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জীবন তো একটাই। এক জীবনে কতোই না স্পু!

বিদ্যু থেকে শুরু হয়ে, ছোট বড় অর্জনেই জীবন পায় পূর্ণতা।

আবিরাম স্টেরির সন্তুষ্ণায় চলো জেনে উঠি উচ্ছাসে।

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ইডাস্ট্রিয়াল প্রোমোশন এড ডেভলপমেন্ট কোম্পানি অব বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড (আইপিডিসি) এখন

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