



BANKS TO ISSUE BONDS

Some public and private banks may go for the option to plug their capital shortfall

PAGE B1

FIRST INTERNATIONAL TRIUMPH

Bangladesh volleyball team beat Kyrgyzstan in 3-0 sets in final

PAGE 15

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Thousand's gather at the Mexican girl's party after father's invitation went viral

PAGE 8

Jica-funded projects on track again

Japanese consultants, contractors rejoining work in Bangladesh after a lull following terror attacks

M ABUL KALAM AZAD and REJAUL KARIM BYRON

With "satisfactory" improvement in law and order, Japanese consultants and contractors are rejoining projects in Bangladesh which they had left following a string of terror attacks, especially after the one on Gulshan cafe on July 1.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) assists in 35 projects and all of those had either stalled or slowed down due to the absence of consultants and contractors, project officials said.

They said work on some projects was in full swing with the return of the Japanese while progress was slow in some in their absence.

The government's security arrangements at the project sites and for the protection of the foreign consultants and contractors was the reason behind their return. In the last two months, the government lobbied hard to convince Japan that the measures were adequate to ensure security of its nationals here.

"We [officials of the projects, ministries concerned and law enforcement agencies] held a series of meetings with Japanese officials so that their confidence could be gained

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



The construction work of a new bridge along the existing Kanchpur Bridge in Narayanganj's Siddhirganj is underway with funds from Japan International Cooperation Agency. Japan is also funding the construction of two more bridges beside the Meghna and Meghna-Gumti bridges on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway. Four Japanese firms have been tasked with the jobs. The photos were taken near the Kanchpur Bridge last week.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

EC FORMATION Workers Party proposes constitutional council

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The Workers Party of Bangladesh urged President Abdul Hamid to form a constitutional council that will propose names for the posts of chief election commissioner and election commissioners.

The council would be comprised of the prime minister, opposition leader, Speaker, chief justice, and attorney general. The president will appoint the chief election commissioner and his deputies from the names suggested by the council.

A law is to be enacted in this regard.

An ally of the ruling Awami League-led alliance, Workers Party made the proposal as its 10-member delegation led by party President Rashed Khan Menon met the president at Bangabhaban yesterday to discuss the formation of the next Election Commission.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2
PHOTO ON PAGE 3

MAIDEN ZILA PARISHAD POLLS TODAY

Not much enthusiasm, plenty of controversies

SHAKHAWAT LITON and PANKAG KARMAKAR

The zila parishads are going to the first-ever polls today but the results have already been determined.

The grassroots leaders of the ruling Awami League are about to win most of the chairman and member posts in the long overdue election. Over a third of the 61 district council chairmen has already been elected unopposed.

The grassroots leaders of BNP did not enter the electoral race as they do not have the electorate needed to win the polls.

Some leaders of the Jatiya Party, the main opposition in parliament, and other small parties are contesting for chairman and member posts. But it is unlikely for them to score significantly as most of the voters belong to the AL camp.

Not the general people but the elected representatives of other local government bodies – upazila parishads, union parishads, municipalities and city corporations – are the electorate of the zila parishad polls.

The electorate is entitled to exercise their franchise to elect a chairman and 20 members, including five for the reserved seats for women, to form a zila parishad in a district.

ELECTIONS	61 DISTRICTS
Voting	59 districts
Chairman aspirants	146
Chairman elected unopposed	21
Member posts	1,220
Member aspirants	4,792
Voters	63,143
Voting hour	9:00am -2:00pm

The election will, however, be competitive for the ruling party dissidents who defied the high-command decision and challenged the party-backed aspirants in around 30 chairman and one-fourth of the member posts.

The AL high command has made hectic efforts to keep the dissidents away from the electoral race but failed.

The competition already turned unhealthy in the run-up to the polling. Intense rivalries among the ruling party men have given rise to fear of violence on the election day.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

FEMALE 'NEO JMB' MEMBERS 'Dragged into militancy by husbands'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Female members of "Neo JMB" got involved in militant activities under pressure from their militant husbands, Chief of Counter Terrorism Unit Monirul Islam said yesterday.

Police have no information about women joining the outfit willingly, he told reporters at the media centre of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

"Females of local militant groups mainly provide service to their families, take care of their children and motivate them to join the outfit," he said.

Referring to statements of several suspected female "Neo JMB" members arrested recently, Monirul said some of them accompanied their husbands as they were worried about how the society would treat them if their husbands' involvement in militant activities came to light.

Abedatul Fatema, widow of Tanvir Kaderi, who was arrested during the Azimpur drive on September 10, in her confessional statement said she joined the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Defiant Israel pushes for more settlements

'Reduces' ties with UNSC states that supported landmark UN resolution

AGENCIES

Israel could advance plans this week for thousands more settlement homes in annexed east Jerusalem in defiance of a landmark UN resolution demanding an end to such activity.

It would mark the first such approvals since Friday's UN Security Council vote demanding a halt to Israeli settlement building in Palestinian territory.

The resolution, which passed after the United States took the rare move of abstaining, infuriated Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who lashed out at President Barack Obama and vowed not to abide by it.

Israel has accused US of orchestrating a "gang-up" against Israel on the UN settlement vote.

A Jerusalem planning committee is set to discuss issuing building permits for 618 housing units today in the mainly Palestinian eastern sector of the city, according to the Ir Amim NGO, which monitors settlement building.

Jerusalem deputy mayor Meir Turjeman, who also heads the committee, has reportedly also spoken of seeking to advance plans for some 5,600 other units.

Yesterday, he told AFP there were no plans to call off

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



"The United Nations has such great potential but right now it is just a club for people to get together, talk and have a good time. So sad!"

DONALD TRUMP
US PRESIDENT-ELECT
REFERRING TO UN VOTE ON
ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS

Can Nelson inspire Tigers?

SPORTS REPORTER

As Bangladesh get set to play their second ODI against the Black Caps in Nelson tomorrow there will be two aspects that their fans will hope they can draw some encouragement from.

For starters, the last time Bangladesh played here, they chased down Scotland's 318 in 48.1 overs and created a record. Till date, that victory stands as the second highest successful chase completed by any team in a World Cup game.

The victory was especially sweet since that win had essentially brought back all of Bangladesh's lost confidence. They had a horrible 2014, a year which saw them go down to Afghanistan and Hong Kong. Winning that game against Scotland, against all the odds, gave them the belief that they needed and it eventually helped them

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



WINTER DELIGHTS

Although the city weather is yet to turn wintry, its residents are already getting the taste of delicious pithas at small makeshift shops. Seasonal traders prepare chittoi, bhapa and poa pitha which are popular. With pithas, street sellers offer customers mouth-watering pickle and chutney from afternoon until around midnight everyday. The photos were taken in the capital's Farmgate area on Monday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN