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SHAH CEMENT

# Liberal wins South Korea election

Exit polls show Moon Jae-in set to become next president

REUTERS, Seoul

Liberal politician Moon Jae-in won South Korea's presidential election yesterday, exit polls showed, an expected victory that would end nearly a decade of conservative rule and bring a more conciliatory approach toward North Korea.

Moon, 64, is expected to beat conservative challenger, former prosecutor Hong Joon-pyo, by 41.4 percent to 23.3 percent of the votes, exit polls conducted jointly by three network television stations showed.

A decisive win by Moon would end months of political turmoil stemming from a parliamentary vote in December to impeach former President Park Geun-hye over an extensive corruption scandal.

The Constitutional Court upheld her impeachment in March, making her the first democratically elected leader to be removed from office and triggering a snap election to choose her successor.

Wearing a dark blue suit with a blue tie, Moon was seen shaking hands with supporters and officials and smiling on his way to his Democratic Party building yesterday evening, TV footage shows.



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Tripura women with their babies wait for relief at Ruilui Para club in Sajek of Rangamati's Baghaichhari upazila on Monday. Soaring food price and lowered income has brought them here. The poor in Sajek have been hit by bad jhum harvest this season and a drop in bamboo price has made it worse for them. The Rangamati district administration gave away 20 kg rice and Tk 500 to each of the 300 families from 16 remote villages in the upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

## FOOD CRISIS 900 families given aid in Sajek

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

The Rangamati district administration on Monday gave 900 families of 76 remote villages in Baghaichhari's Sajek union money and rice.

Each of the families was given 20kg of rice and Tk 500 at Baghaich Bazar and Ruilui Para Club.

While distributing the rice and money among the people, Manzarul Manna, Rangamati deputy commissioner, said the government was always with the poor in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). If needed, they would provide more aid, he said.

The DC added that within a few days, they would provide rice and financial aid to the people of other remote areas in Sajek - Batling Para, Tuichui and Sialdow.

The poor in Sajek have been suffering from food crisis for over two months as their purchasing power

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## Buddha Purnima today

UNB, Dhaka

Buddha Purnima, the biggest religious festival of the Buddhist community, is being celebrated across the country today.

The festival marks Gautama Buddha's birth, enlightenment and death. It falls on the full moon day in May.

The day is a public holiday.

On this day in 563 BC, Buddha was born as Siddhartha Gautama in Kopolabostu at the foothill of the Himalayas.

He attained supreme enlightenment at the age of 35 and finally departed into "nirvana" at 80.

Buddhist organisations have drawn up various programmes to celebrate the day.

Bangladesh Bouddha Sangskritik Parishad will bring out a rally from in front of the National Museum in the city around 8:00am. Speaker Shirin

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## 'VISION 2030'

# BNP for making House stronger

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The BNP has drawn up a package of proposals to strengthen parliament. The proposals would be implemented if the party is voted to power in the next general election.

Senior party leaders said the proposals included plans to set a quota for opposition lawmakers to head parliamentary bodies, give each of the committee chiefs the status of a state minister and hold regular discussions in parliament on important national issues.

The post of the deputy speaker and the chairs of some important parliamentary standing committees, including the public accounts and public undertaking committees, might be given to opposition MPs, the leaders added.

These proposals are part of the BNP's "Vision 2030", a forerunner to its electoral manifesto for the next national election due in early 2019. BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is set to release the document at a press conference in the capital today.

"In the Vision 2030, we'll propose taking steps to empower parliament, ensure good governance and contain terrorism and fanaticism," BNP standing committee member Moudud Ahmed told The Daily Star.

All the steps would be taken to strengthen parliament. Besides, the party would make a pledge to keep a right balance of power for the country's chief executive, said the BNP leader.

Wishing anonymity, another senior BNP leader said not a single adjournment motion was discussed in parliament from 1991 to 2006, but the party's Vision 2030 was likely to include that all the adjournment motions would be discussed in the House.

The party would propose to allot more time to opposition lawmakers to

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## ALLIANCE FOR NEXT POLLS

# JP to 'play religion card' to woo voters

RASHIDUL HASAN

The Jatiya Party looks to get voters on its side by stoking religious sentiments, party insiders say.

It aims to divert "rightist" voters, who are believed to cast ballots in favour of the BNP-led 20-party alliance, to its side using religion card and that is why the party in the opposition in parliament has taken in at least 34 Islamist organisations, including Olama Mashaek Somonnoy Parishad and Islami Akida Sangrokkhon Party, in the JP-led United National Alliance, according to sources in the party.

Although the Islamist parties have no organisational strength, gathering Islamic leaders under one umbrella may help get "rightist voters' sympathy", JP leaders say.

There are five Islamic parties in the BNP-led alliance at present.

JP chief HM Ershad on Sunday came up with a new electoral alliance comprising name-only Islamist parties and two registered party.

The use of religion card to woo voters in election is not something new in the

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## S Lanka removes wasps ahead of Indian PM's visit

AFP, Colombo



Sri Lanka has taken the unusual step of clearing thousands of wasps from a tea plantation to ensure Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is not stung during his upcoming visit.

Police in Hatton, 125 kilometres (78 miles) east of Colombo, hired a private company to remove the wasps from its picturesque tea fields which Modi will tour with his entourage on Friday.

The private Bee Protection Organisation said they removed nests from two locations to ensure the Indian visitors could land in helicopters without stirring up trouble with the aggressive locals.

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## 2 'robbers' killed in 'gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Fariapur

Two suspected robbers were killed in a "gunfight" between two gangs on Nuru Mia Bypass Road in Piyerpur area under Sadar upazila in the early hours yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Pavel Munshi, 24, son of Abdul Karim of Shovarampur village, and Md Sabuj, 25, son of Arshaf Uddin Tara of Goalchamot

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PRAYER TIMING MAY 10  
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-15 12-45 5-00 6-34 8-00  
JAMAAT 4-50 1-15 5-15 6-38 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## ANANTA MURDER

# Court accepts revised charge sheet by CID

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Sylhet court on Monday accepted the revised charge sheet submitted by CID accusing six people and recommending acquittal of 10 others in a case filed in connection with the murder of blogger Ananta Bijoy Das.

Earlier on January 18, the Criminal Investigation Department of police submitted a revised charge sheet in the case.

The Court of Sylhet Metropolitan Sessions Judge Akbar Hossain Mridha on Monday accepted the charge sheet and set May 23 to hear on charge framing, said Advocate Moful Ali, public prosecutor of the court.

The charge-sheeted accused are Shafiqur Rahman Farabi, 30, Mannan Yahya alias Mannan Rahi, 24, Abul Khayer Rashid Ahmed, 24, Abul Hossain, 25, Harunur Rashid, 25, and Faisal Ahmed, 27.

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Several compact bulldozers wait in front of the capital's Osmani Memorial Auditorium yesterday. The Dhaka South City Corporation will use the machines to manage household garbage in the city's narrow streets inaccessible to bigger equipment.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## CONTEMPT OF COURT

# India's sitting judge jailed for 6 months

AGENCIES

India's Supreme Court created history yesterday by holding sitting Calcutta HC judge CS Karnan guilty of contempt of court, judiciary and judicial process and sentenced him to six months imprisonment.

This is the first time in the history of Indian judiciary that a sitting high court judge was sentenced to imprisonment by the Supreme Court on the charge of contempt.

A seven-judge constitution bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Chief Justice JS Khehar, said "we are of the unanimous view that Justice CS Karnan committed contempt of court, contempt of judiciary and the process of the gravest nature."

"The sentence shall be executed and he be taken into custody forthwith," the bench said. The SC also ordered West Bengal police to take into custody the disgraced judge.

Justice CS Karnan has been in the news ever since he was appointed judge on March 30, 2009. He has often gone public with his complaints about the judiciary. He first hit the national headlines in November 2011 when his complaint to the National Commission for Scheduled Castes, alleging that he was being harassed and victimised by other judges because he was a Dalit, became public. This year, he refused to stay out of the headlines with his tit-for-tat orders against Supreme Court judges.

The apex court yesterday ordered media not to publish the content of orders passed by Justice Karnan, who on

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