



**THE COLOSSUS RISES OUT OF THE MIGHTY PADMA**

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AL, BNP IN 6 CITY ELECTIONS

# A crucial test before nat'l polls

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The Awami League and its archrival BNP look to summon all their strength to ensure victory in the upcoming mayoral polls to six important city corporations as the elections will be a crucial test of their popularity ahead of the parliamentary polls.

The parties believe win in those elections would also boost their morale to a great extent and they would be able to go for the Jatiya Sangsad polls, scheduled for late next year, with an upbeat.

Starting with the polls in Rangpur next month, elections to Rajshahi, Khulna, Sylhet, Barisal and Gazipur city corporations are lined up to take place by mid-2018.

Currently, the mayors of all the city corporations, except the one in Rangpur, are BNP leaders and the party would do its best to retain the posts. On the other hand, the AL would leave no stone unturned to ensure that their leaders secure victory.

The AL is doing some groundwork, including resolving intra-party feuds and trying to assess the popularity of possible candidates. The BNP may bank on the current mayors taking their popularity and acceptance among voters into consideration, said insiders in the parties.

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It looks like the concrete blocks are left on this foot bridge over the Kamalapur Railway Station for people to trip over. But they are actually protecting pedestrians from going through the gaping holes in the rusty floor on the eastern side of the bridge. The lone foot bridge in the station's vicinity remains busy throughout the day, inset.



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## 16TH AMENDMENT Govt to seek verdict review this month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to seek review of the entire verdict that scrapped the 16th amendment to the constitution.

"We will submit a petition within this month," Law Minister Anisul Huq told journalists after a meeting at the attorney general's office at the Supreme Court yesterday.

An 11-member committee formed last month to file the review took part in the around-two-hour-long meeting. Headed by the attorney general, the committee includes additional and deputy attorney generals, among others.

"We met to discuss the grounds [for seeking review] and have finalised those. We are now preparing to file the review and that will be done within this month," the minister said.

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# UN offers to work on cutting polls violence

Sends 5 proposals to EC, outlines a UNDP project

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The UN has expressed willingness to work with the Election Commission to reduce the risk of electoral violence in the next parliamentary polls scheduled to be held late next year.

After receiving a report from its Needs Assessment Mission, the UN recently sent a five-point proposal to the EC for providing assistance.

According to an EC document, the UN's development arm UNDP will take up a project to provide technical assistance to the commission on voter registration, public outreach strategy, development and implementation of a conflict mitigation strategy, strengthening the commission's ability to promote inclusive participation and focusing on gender and other underrepresented groups.

Welcoming the move, former chief election commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda said, "Local commu-

nity people in developed countries are involved in the process to avert any untoward situation. I think the Election Commission should welcome the UN proposals if those include plans to involve local community people in mitigating conflicts."

He said violence might take place in any closely contested election. "So it will be better not to rely solely on the law enforcers to maintain law and order. The Election Commissioner should rather engage community people," Huda told The Daily Star.

Election Commissioner Brig Gen (ret'd) Shahadat Hossain Chowdhury said in every election some polling centres are identified either as "important" or "very important".

"With the UNDP's technical support, the Election Commission may adopt necessary technology to monitor the 'important' and 'very important' polling centres," he told this correspondent yesterday.

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## Man who 'killed mother, son' held

Double murder in Kakrail was out of revenge, claims Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Al Amin Johnny, one of the key accused in the Kakrail double murder case, stabbed Shamsun Nahar Karim and her son to death inside their residence on Wednesday, Rab claimed yesterday hours after his arrest.



Johnny

After accomplishing the murders, Al Amin changed his blood smeared clothes in a nearby abandoned building and took shelter at a relative's house in Gopalganj's Moksdepur upazila. A Rab-3 team arrested him from there yesterday morning, Mufti Mahmud Khan, Rab's legal and media wing director, told reporters at a press conference in Rab media centre.

With Al Amin, all of the three named accused in the case -- Shamsun Nahar's

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## JFK killer had 'no CIA links'

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Newly released files about John F Kennedy's assassination dismiss theories that shooter Lee Harvey Oswald was linked to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

A 1975 CIA memo says a thorough search of agency records in and outside the United States was conducted to determine whether the assassin had been used by the agency or connected with it in "any conceivable way."

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## Boy rescued seven hours after kidnap

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tausifur's parents were shopping at Police Plaza Concord when they realised that the six-year-old seen moments ago was not with them.

The anxious parents looked for him everywhere in the shopping mall in vain on Friday night.

They later saw their son being picked up by a stranger in the mall's CCTV footage and informed police around 9:30pm.

About an hour later, a man called Tausifur's father Momin Ahmed and demanded Tk 10 lakh ransom.

After seven hours of frantic effort, police rescued

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Ishrat Nahar Erina talks reproductive health to adolescents at Buds Residential Model School in Moulvibazar's Sreemangal upazila. For many, her seminars have been eye-opening. She made the list of the 120 next generation family planning leaders worldwide prepared by the Bill and Melinda Gates Institute of Population and Reproductive Health.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

# Taking on taboos

Moulvibazar woman gets int'l accolade for efforts on sex education, mental health

MINTU DESHWARA with ANDREW EAGLE

Topics like sex education and mental health are still considered taboo in many parts of the country. But twenty-four-year-old Ishrat Nahar Erina from Sreemangal in Moulvibazar has taken up the challenge of fostering open dialogue on the matters. She's been researching the link between sex education and mental health. Her research has attracted international recognition.

"As a student I worked in the development sector. I visited schools, colleges and villages," Erina explains. "I saw that while many people thought much about issues like career, they rarely consider mental health. In addition, in Bangladesh many aspects of upbringing are unreflective of science. For example, we are taught to be shy of discussing natural uncertainties felt during pubescence."

In July 2016 Erina, who graduated with a

pharmacy degree from BRAC University and has completed an internship with Beximco pharmaceuticals, embarked upon her own pilot project, Prescription Bangladesh. "I've visited schools, colleges, madrasas and slums," she says. "I surveyed around 3,000 individuals, interacting with many more online."

Her research efforts have recently been recognised by the Bill and Melinda Gates Institute of

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## CPA conf'ce begins today

PM to open the meet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fighting corruption, empowering women and ensuring transparency in the activities of top officials of Commonwealth countries are likely to feature prominently at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association conference that formally begins in the city today.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the vice patron of the 63rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, is scheduled to inaugurate the annual mega event at the South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban at 10:30am.

Over 550 delegates from 144 national and provincial parliaments of 44 countries will join the conference. A total of 52 countries are members of CPA.

The CPA and Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad are jointly hosting the conference with the theme: Continuing to enhance the

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## Missile intercepted close to Riyadh

Saudi media reports; no damage

AFP, Riyadh

Saudi Arabia yesterday intercepted and destroyed a "ballistic missile" close to the capital Riyadh after it was launched from Yemen, state media reported.

"Saudi air Defence intercepts ballistic missile northeast of Riyadh," Saudi state TV said.

State-run news channel Al-Ekhabriya said the missile "was of limited size (and) no injuries or damage" were reported.

The missile was destroyed near Riyadh's King Khaled international airport, which was functioning normally, it added.

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Joy Bangla Joy Bangabandhu




### Congratulations

Our Heartiest Congratulations on the recognition of the historic speech of 7th March, 1971 of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for the inclusion in the **Memory of the World International Register**, a list of world's important documentary heritage maintained by UNESCO.

This achievement has filled us with extreme joy and pride. The wonderful news did not come as a surprise to us as we always believe this iconic speech of Bangabandhu is one of the greatest speeches in the world which is an everlasting inspiration for the people of Bangladesh to gain strength, fight injustice and live with the head high.

Moreover, with this recognition, the image of Bangladesh will be further glorified.

This also signifies winning of another laurel by Bangladesh in international arena under the dynamic and strong leadership of the daughter of the Father of the Nation, our beloved Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

Khandaker Mashiozzaman (Romel) President  
Bangladesh Petroleum Tanker Owners Association