



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

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# Tensions soar over Lebanon

President asks Saudi Arabia for explanation on PM's absence as US warns against proxy wars

Lebanon's president yesterday urged Saudi Arabia to explain why Saad Hariri had not returned to Beirut since his surprise resignation as prime minister a week ago.

Hariri announced on November 4 in a televised statement from Riyadh that he would be stepping down from the post, sending shock waves through Lebanese politics.

The premier has yet to return to Lebanon and rumours have swirled that he is being held in Saudi Arabia against his will.

President Michel Aoun yesterday called on the kingdom to "clarify the reasons that have prevented the return of PM Hariri to Lebanon to be among his people and supporters."

"The obscurity surrounding the condition of PM Saad Hariri since his resignation a week ago means that all positions and actions declared by him or attributed to him do not reflect the truth," Aoun added.

"They are instead a result of the ambiguous and obscure conditions (under which) PM Hariri is living in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia."

Aoun has yet to formally accept Hariri's resignation and has criticised the circumstances surrounding it as "unacceptable."

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Rezia walks with the help of her daughter at DMCH yesterday. Inset, she could barely move with the enormously swollen leg when she was brought to the hospital in August.

PHOTOS: SHAHEEN MOLLAH

## Rezia walks again

For five years, she could not move as her right leg weighed 60kgs due to a rare medical condition; DMCH docs successfully operated on her in September

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

For the first time in five years, Rezia can walk.

The 40-year-old woman had been struggling with her severely swollen right leg that weighed almost 60kg for years. She did not think that she would walk again.

"It feels incredible to walk with my daughter again," she told this correspondent at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday.

The wife of a landless farmer in Sylhet had been suffer-

ing from elephantiasis, commonly known as elephant's foot disease, doctors said.

Physicians had been able to get rid of much of the swelling through surgeries. The leg is still swollen, but doctors hope the condition would improve.

Rezia was like any other ordinary hardworking woman in her village. It was after she gave birth to her second daughter 18 years ago that she noticed something was wrong with her right leg.

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## RALLY AT SUHRAWARDY UDYAN BNP gets nod on 23 conditions

UNB, Dhaka

The BNP yesterday said it received a conditional permission from the authorities concerned to hold a public rally in the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan today.

Party Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said they were allowed to hold the rally on 23 conditions.

"We've taken all out preparations to make our rally a success," Fakhrul said.

He was speaking at a press conference at the party's Nayapaltan central office.

Mentioning that they were granted permission just 12 hours before such a programme in the past, he thanked the

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## Nasa finds '10 planets like earth'

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Nasa scientists announced the discovery of 219 new objects beyond our solar system that are almost certainly planets.

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## RANGPUR CITY POLLS Sharfuddin wins the AL nomination

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Incumbent Mayor Sharfuddin Ahmed Jhantu has got the ruling Awami League's nomination to run for mayor in Rangpur City Corporation polls scheduled for December 21.

A meeting of the AL's Local Government Nomination Board yesterday unanimously decided this. The meeting was held at Gono Bhaban with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair, says a party statement.

Jhantu, adviser of Rangpur district unit AL, secured victory in the maiden RCC election held on December 20, 2012. He ran as an independent back then.

The board has interviewed 16 nomination seekers and selected Jhantu as the AL candidate.

Jhantu has a long career as a public representative.

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**SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center**

**PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 12**

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-00 12-45 3-45 5-22 7-00

JAMAAT 5-35 1-15 4-00 5-25 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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ACI is pleased to announce that it has launched its marketing and sales operations of pharmaceutical products in the USA through ACI Healthcare USA Inc., a subsidiary of ACI Healthcare Limited. ACI is the first Bangladeshi company that has been licensed to market, sell and distribute pharmaceutical products in all the states of the USA. This is a milestone in Bangladesh's journey for the development of pharmaceutical industry since our independence.

