

THE DAILY Star ON FRIDAY



www.thedailystar.net

REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXVII No. 332 | POUH 8, 1424 BS | RABIUS SANI 3, 1439 HIJRI | Your Right to Know | 24 PAGES PLUS THE STAR PRICE : Tk 12.00

WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

GIRLS TRUMP INDIA 3-0
Bangladesh excel in the dress rehearsal before Sunday's SAFF U-15 Women's Championship final
PAGE 19

MAY'S DEPUTY RESIGNS
The British PM left weakened by Green's departure for acting dishonestly
PAGE 9

JP wins big in bastion

Mostafa elected Rangpur city mayor in peaceful voting



JP	1,60,489
AL	62,400
BNP	35,136

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA and KONGKON KARMAKER from Rangpur

Jatiya Party mayoral candidate Mostafizar Rahman Mostafa is leading by a wide margin in Rangpur City Corporation polls held peacefully amid tight security yesterday.

According to the unofficial results from all the 193 polling centres, Mostafa got 1,60,489 votes. His nearest rival from the ruling Awami League Sharfuddin Ahmed Jhantu bagged 62,400 votes while BNP candidate Kawsar Zaman Babla secured 35,136 votes.

Mostafa's win can be seen as a revenge for his defeat to Jhantu five years ago in the maiden RCC election held on non-partisan basis. Yesterday's election was held along the party line.

"The people of Rangpur have made the right decision. I am overwhelmed by their love and the trust they have in me. I will give my maximum effort ... to make the city beautiful," he told The Daily Star.

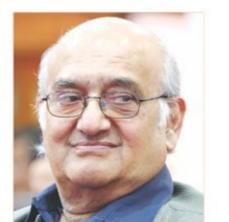
Asked about the factors contributing to his victory,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



A man carries his grandmother to a polling centre at Tamaj Pragati High School to help her cast vote during yesterday's Rangpur City Corporation polls.

PHOTO: KONGKON KARMAKER



ILLS IN SOCIETY
Prof Sobhan blames political patronage
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political patronage and erosion of ethics has led to the culture of defaulting on loans in Bangladesh, said noted economist Rehman Sobhan yesterday.

Sobhan and a couple of young researchers had identified the crisis of ethics in the banking sector in the 80's.

"This problem has been perpetuating over successive regimes -- and down to the present day. In fact, you have got into a situation now where perpetuation of debt default is ingrained in business practices," he said.

The comments came at the opening of 20th biennial conference of the Bangladesh Economic Association held at the Institution of Diploma Engineers Bangladesh in Dhaka.

SEE DETAILS IN STAR BUSINESS

JERUSALEM AS ISRAELI CAPITAL UN rejects Trump's recognition

General Assembly votes 128-9 to approve draft resolution; 35 countries abstain from voting

AFP, United Nations

Defying President Donald Trump's threat to cut off funding, the United Nations overwhelmingly approved yesterday a motion rejecting the US decision to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

The 193-member General Assembly adopted the motion by 128 to nine with 35 abstentions, in what Palestinian UN envoy Riyad Mansour called a "massive setback" for the United States. Bangladesh co-sponsored the resolution and voted for the motion yesterday.

Guatemala, Honduras, Israel, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau

and Togo joined the United States in opposing the measure.

Among the countries that abstained were Argentina, Australia, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Mexico, the Philippines, Poland, Romania and Rwanda.

"One hundred twenty-eight versus nine -- that's a massive setback for the United States of America,"

PALESTINIANS' AMBASSADOR TO THE UN RYAD MANSOUR

Speaking ahead of the emergency session, US Ambassador Nikki Haley warned the General Assembly that the United States "will remember this day."

"America will put our embassy in Jerusalem," Haley said in defence of the US move, which broke with international consensus and unleashed protests across the Muslim world.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Designed to harm Khaleda's political career

Defence lawyer argues before court in Zia Orphanage Trust case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A defence lawyer yesterday told a Dhaka court that the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case was filed against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to hamper her political career.



Abdur Rezak Khan, one of Khaleda's lawyers, made the comment while placing his closing arguments in the case for the second day.

He also said the dignity and honour of Khaleda and her family was linked to the case.

Saying that the case was false, the lawyer appealed to the court to dispose of

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

AB Bank board restructured

Chairman, 2 directors resign amid allegation of money laundering

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

AB Bank Chairman M Wahidul Haque, along with its vice chairman and a director, resigned from the bank's board of directors yesterday amid allegations of money laundering by the bank.

Wahidul, Vice Chairman Salim Ahmed and Director Faheemul Huq tendered their resignations to the board which approved those at the bank's annual general meeting (AGM) in the city's Le Meridien hotel.

Wahidul was absent from the AGM which was deferred by around four months. However, Salim and Faheemul were present.

The development comes at a time when the bank faces criticism over its alleged laundering of around Tk 165 crore (\$20 million) to the United Arab Emirates through two shady organisations in the name of investment.

A Bangladesh Bank inspection team, which recently unearthed the scam, recommended Wahidul's removal from the bank's board.

Seeking anonymity, a BB official told The Daily Star yesterday that the central bank verbally asked Wahidul to resign from the board as early as possible due to his alleged involvement in the money laundering.

Mahadev Sarker, company secretary of AB Bank, told this correspondent that the bank is yet to elect a new chairman and vice chairman.

The board will make the decisions at its next meeting, he said.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

Won't bend knee to seek second term

Says top UN rights official, a staunch critic of Trump

AFP, United Nations

The UN's top human rights official, a sharp critic of US President Donald Trump, said yesterday that he will not tone down his message to seek re-election in his post.

Zeid Al Hussein, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, told staff in an email he would not bargain away his agency's integrity when his job comes up for renewal in August.

Earlier this week, in an interview with AFP, the Jordanian prince had rejected the idea of "wheeling and dealing" with political players to secure a second four-year term in Geneva.

And in an email to staff, seen by AFP, he wrote: "After reflection, I have decided not



Zeid Al Hussein

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

NEW LUX PERFUMED SOAP COLLECTION
FOR FRAGRANCES THAT STAY WITH YOU*

Unilever Care Line 09-666-999-666

*Up to 8 hours. Results are based on consumer tests carried out in a controlled environment.