



KEEP EYE ON BANKS
MCCI urges govt to pay special attention to banking sector in next budget
PAGE B1

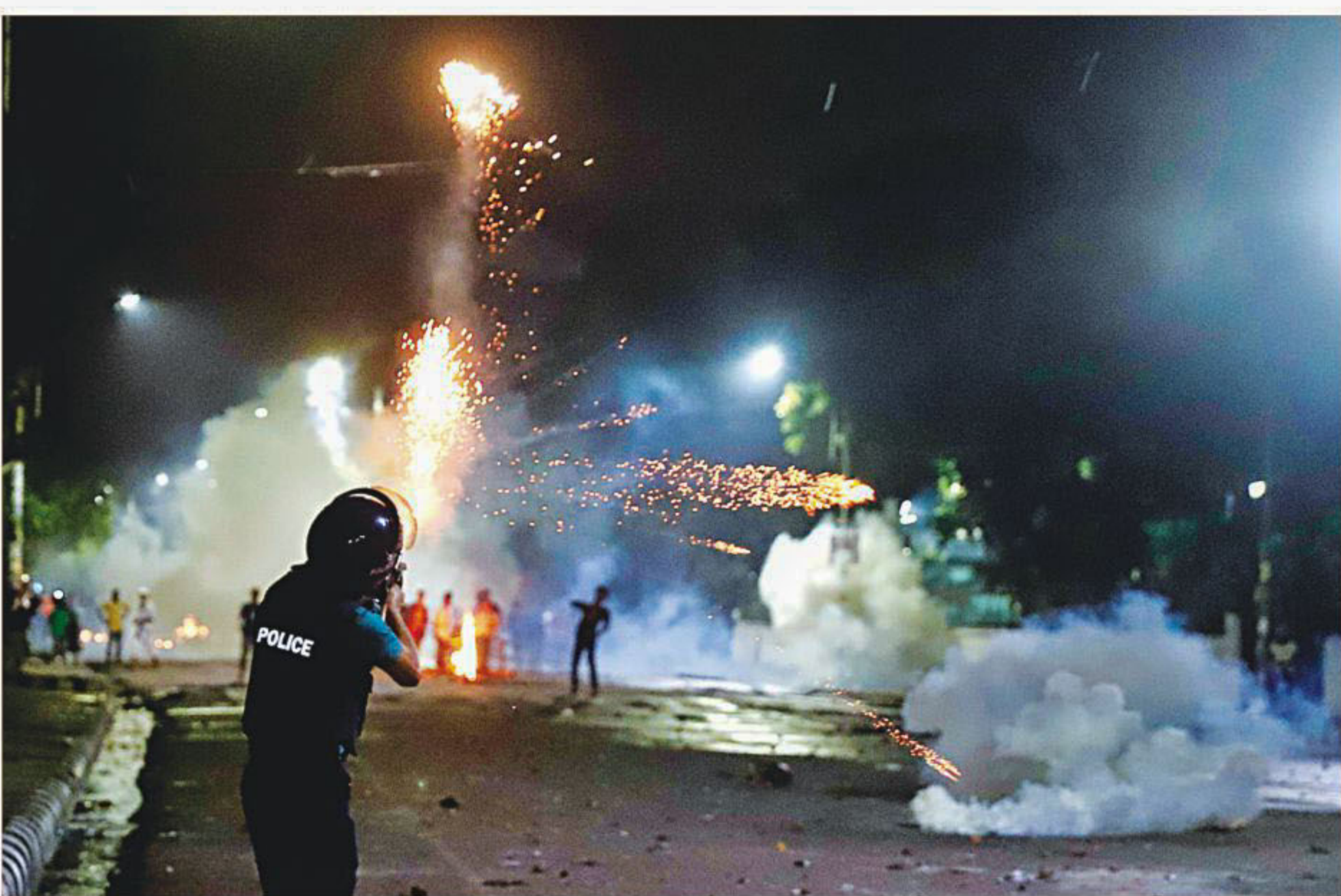
BAKI'S SILVER LINING
The Bangladesh shooter defended his silver medal at the C'wealth Games
PAGE 14

GAZA VIOLENCE
Israel defence minister defends troops after the killing of 30 Palestinians
PAGE 8

Shahbagh aflame with quota demo

75 injured; police use rubber bullets, teargas; DU VC's residence vandalised, 3 cars torched; clash continues for hours after midnight

STAR REPORT
At least 75 people were injured yesterday as police clashed with students demanding reforms in the quota system in public service, turning the capital's Shahbagh intersection and its adjacent areas into a battlefield.
Police fired several hundred teargas shells and rubber bullets, used water cannons and charged batons to disperse the demonstrators who blocked the intersection for over five hours since 2:30pm.
A section of the protesters broke the main gate of the residence of the Dhaka University vice chancellor around 1:45am today. They vandalised furniture and other belongings, and also torched three cars inside the compound, according to witnesses and fire service personnel.
About half-an-hour later, BCL men swooped on the protesters and chased them away from the VC's residence. Several gunshots were heard at that time, added the witnesses.
Another group of demonstrators took position near the DU mosque and continued to chant slogans. Around a hundred yards away, law enforcers took position in front of the Public Library.
Talking to reporters in front of the national museum around 1:45am, Awami League lawmaker Jahangir Kabir Nanak said party General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader will sit with the protesters around 11:00am today.
He, however, did not mention the venue of the meeting.
Earlier around 8:00pm, the law enforcers cleared the busy intersection and chased the demonstrators into the Dhaka University campus. Both sides threw brickbats at each other in the TSC area, witnesses said.



Police fire teargas shells on demonstrators at a rally for quota reforms at Shahbagh intersection in the capital yesterday. Clockwise from top, a section of demonstrators march down a road in front of Aziz Supermarket. Bottom, students gather near Shahbagh, with some carrying makeshift torches. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN/ PALASH KHAN

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

AL FINALISES CANDIDATES Khaleque in Khulna, Jahangir in Gazipur



Abdul Khaleque

Jahangir Alam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The ruling Awami League last night nominated Talukder Abdul Khaleque and Jahangir Alam as the party's mayoral candidates for Khulna and Gazipur city corporation polls respectively.
Awami League Local Government Nomination Board made the decision during a meeting at the Gono Bhaban with party president Sheikh Hasina in the chair.
AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader briefed reporters after the meeting. He said, "They [Khaleque and Jahangir] have the potential to win the polls. They have acceptability and surveys show that they are in good positions. We selected them taking all these aspects into consideration."
Meanwhile, the BNP's nomination board yesterday

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

ROHINGYA CRISIS India considers it a security concern, wants early solution

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
India sincerely wants an early solution to the current Rohingya crisis as it considers it a serious security concern.
The country already conveyed its wish that Myanmar should come forward to solve the crisis and take back its nationals who took shelter in Bangladesh amid a military crackdown in Rakhine State which began on August 25 of last year. The UN termed the military action as a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing."
This was stated by visiting Indian Foreign Secretary Vijay Keshav Gokhale during a close-door interaction with 10 important personalities, including politicians,

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Dozens 'killed in Syria gas attack'

Trump warns of 'big price' for 'mindless' attack; Russia, Iran blasts 'fabricated' reports

REUTERS, Beirut/Washington/Moscow
US President Donald Trump said there would be a "big price to pay" for a chemical attack against a besieged rebel-held town in Syria where medical aid groups reported dozens of people were killed by poison gas.
The Syrian state denied government forces had launched any chemical attack and Russia, President Bashar al-Assad's most powerful ally, called the reports bogus.
A joint statement by the medical relief organisation Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS) and the civil defence service, which operates in rebel-held areas, said 49 people had died in the attack late on Saturday in the town of Douma. Others put the toll even higher.
"Many dead, including women and children, in mindless CHEMICAL attack in Syria. Area of atrocity is in lockdown and encircled by Syrian Army, making it completely inaccessible to outside world."



President Putin, Russia and Iran are responsible for backing Animal Assad. Big price to pay," Trump wrote on Twitter.
The Russian Foreign Ministry warned against any military action on the basis of "invented and fabricated excuses", saying this could lead to severe consequences.
The United States launched a cruise missile strike on a Syrian air base last year in response to a sarin gas attack in northwestern Syria blamed on Assad.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

1 gets death for killing Aminul

Labour leader's family, RMG activists reject verdict, say plotters let off

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A Tangail court yesterday sentenced a man to death for the 2012 murder of labour rights leader Aminul Islam, an incident that had sparked protests and criticism at home and abroad.
Convict Mustafizur Rahman, himself a labour leader who allegedly became a source of an intelligence agency and industrial police, has been tried and sentenced in absentia. He went into hiding soon after the sensational murder.
Tangail Special Court Judge Waheduzzaman Shikder passed the order after hearing 25 witnesses and examining case documents, Tangail Special Public Prosecutor Multan Uddin told The Daily Star.
The victim's family and activists of Bangladesh Centre for Worker's Solidarity (BCWS) where Aminul worked rejected the verdict.
"The verdict only implicates the person who was used to abduct Aminul. The ones who plotted his murder have not yet been caught," said Kalpana Akhter of the BCWS.
The BCWS and Aminul's family have long alleged that



Aminul

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

MPs fume over road condition

Govt assures them of a 'crash programme' to repair roads before the general election

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Lawmakers expressed deep resentment over the road conditions in the country and said it hurt their image.
The legislators made the remarks at a meeting on the country's road condition held at the Ministry of Planning in the capital.
LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Khandker Mosharruf Hossain, chairmen and members of parliamentary standing committees on planning, road transports and bridges and LGRD ministries and their engineers took part in the meeting.
The relevant representatives said they would immediately launch a crash programme to repair roads across the country ahead of the next general election slated for December.
The lawmakers said they often faced embarrassment when they visited their constituencies and people even raised questions about their integrity as the roads were damaged within a few months of construction.
After the meeting, AL lawmaker Mohibur Rahman Manik told reporters that massive road repair work would start soon keeping the next parliamentary elections in mind.
Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal said as an immediate step, directives had been given to start repair works and bring the roads back to shape.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



A bus dangerously tilts to one side while negotiating a broken and water-logged road in Gazipur. Numerous roads around the country fall into disrepair sometimes less than a year into their construction. Lawmakers at a meeting yesterday demanded roads be repaired before the election in a way that their lifespan is extended. PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

PARLIAMENTARY POLLS CEC for troops deployment

Decision rests with govt, not EC, says Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda yesterday said he personally believed army should be deployed in the upcoming parliamentary polls, but added the decision rested with the Election Commission.
He came up with the comment while replying to queries from reporters at a programme titled "Introducing Overseas Voting in Bangladesh: Issues and Challenges" organised by Election Working Group at the Cirdap Auditorium in the capital.
"In the past, army was deployed during the national elections. I am not saying army will not be deployed this time. Army can be deployed... It is the decision of the Election Commission. I cannot make the decision alone," he said.
The CEC added they do not support deployment of army in the local government polls.
Meantime, AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said the EC has no jurisdiction to deploy army in the general elections.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2