

THE NATION'S  
LARGEST ROD  
MANUFACTURER  
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WITH MORE CAPACITY, WE ARE MORE READY  
TO BUILD TOMORROW'S BANGLADESH

BSRM  
building a safer nation

SHAH  
CEMENT

BANGLADESH'S  
NO. 1 CEMENT BRAND

Right to speech,  
vote needed to  
thwart autocracy  
Says Tarique on Ziaur  
Rahman's 89th birth anniv

UNB, Dhaka

The re-emergence of autocracy in Bangladesh can be prevented if freedom of expression and voting rights of people can be protected, said BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday.

"People's rights to vote must be ensured at any cost. Secondly, people should have the right to speak or express their opinions. These two rights cannot be violated. If we can agree on this, we will gradually be able to develop a system free from autocracy," he said at a discussion.

The Ziaur Rahman Foundation (ZRF) organised the programme titled "Martyred

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



A footpath is covered with umbrellas of makeshift stalls of street vendors. Despite strict warnings from police and city corporation, vendors continue to occupy the street in front of Shah Ali Super Market in Mirpur 1. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Roll back hiked  
VAT, duties  
BNP demands

UNB, Dhaka

The BNP yesterday demanded immediate rollback of recently hiked Value Added Tax and supplementary duties on more than 100 products, considering public suffering.

Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir made the demand to withdraw the decision to raise the VAT and duty or indirect taxes on the common people, calling it "imprudent and irresponsible."

He said at a press conference at the BNP chairperson's Gulshan office that

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5