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## Yunus invites BNP for talks tomorrow

Says Salahuddin, slams govt for 'stalling reforms to delay the election'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP leader Salahuddin Ahmed yesterday alleged the government is offering nothing but empty gestures in the name of reform, while taking no concrete steps to ensure the national election is held by December.

The chief adviser invited the party for talks tomorrow.

"How many times will you inaugurate these reforms?" asked the Standing Committee member of the party. He was speaking at a discussion organised by Krishak Dal at the Institution of Diploma Engineers in the capital to mark the 44th death anniversary of party founder Ziaur Rahman.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 6



A farmer in Puthia, Rajshahi, shows his paddy crop damaged by recent downpours. He said he may not even find buyers for it. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

## 'Signs of new fascism' now being seen

Says Prof Anu Muhammad

DU CORRESPONDENT

Noted economist Prof Anu Muhammad yesterday said that signs of a new fascist order beginning to take shape are visible in the country.

"The current situation indicates the arrival of a new wave of fascism. A new fascist force seems to be stirring across the society once again, and it must be resisted," he said.

Anu Muhammad, a member of the Committee for Democratic Rights, made the remarks at a Nagarik Sanghati Rally at the altar of the Raju Sculpture at Dhaka University yesterday afternoon.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

## Push for polls by Dec threatening stability: Patwary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Insisting that the election "must be held by December" is tantamount to threatening the country's stability, said Nasiruddin Patwary, chief coordinator of the National Citizen Party, yesterday.

The youth will not accept the politics of intimidation, he told a workshop organised by NCP's Dhaka (north) unit at a hotel in the capital's Gulshan.

"We are still on the streets, and we will continue to be on the streets in the future."

The country will move towards a democratic process only after reforms are made and justice is delivered, Patwary said.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

## Misery persists in coastal areas

Thousands still marooned; one dies, 8 missing as trawler capsizes in Meghna

STAR REPORT

Though the downpour has subsided, flooding continues to affect thousands across coastal districts, following a deep depression over the Bay of Bengal.

At least two deaths have been reported since the depression hit the country on Thursday.

Seven out of 19 coastal districts experienced significant damage, according to the primary assessment by the Department of Disaster Management (DDM).

The Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) said that although the depression further weakened yesterday, the active monsoon is expected to bring light to moderate rainfall across the country over the next four days.

Meanwhile, the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) of the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) yesterday forecast flooding in

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

## Investor confidence dips amid absence of meaningful talks

Says Debapriya

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Investors have been grappling with uncertainty over the absence of meaningful discussion between political players and the interim government about the country's future fiscal direction, said Debapriya Bhattacharya, a distinguished fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

"Without political consensus and policy continuity, private investors will remain

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



## Mob kills two in city's Darus Salam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two suspected criminals were killed in a mob beating in the capital's Darus Salam area yesterday.

Locals chased them down and beat them to death, accusing them of being part of a gang that had recently been roaming with machetes, mugging pedestrians, and harassing women in the neighbourhood.

One of the deceased was identified as Tanvir, 25, while the other could not be identified immediately, said Darus Salam Police Station Officer-in-Charge Rakibul Islam.

The incident took place in the Haddipatti area of Ahmed Nagar around noon, hours after Darus Salam police arrested two alleged drug dealers from the area.

"Acting on a tip-off, Darus Salam police conducted an anti-narcotics drive in the area early yesterday, during which two people were arrested and five kilogrammes of

SEE PAGE 8 COL 6

Aarong Dairy

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