



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

TODAY'S ISSUE 20 PAGES



PHILIPS Plasma TV
42" Pixel Plus2 Plasma TV (42PF9946)
Price : 2,99,000/-
TRANSCOM ELECTRONICS
Customer Inquiry # 0172-805493
Dealer Inquiry # 0171-404501

COMMITTED TO
People's Right to Know

REGD. NO. DA 781 • VOL. XV NO. 346 • DHAKA THURSDAY JANUARY 5, 2006 • POUH 22, 1412 BS • JILHAJ 4, 1426 HURI • 20 PAGES PLUS RISING STARS PRICE: Tk 10.00

www.thedailystar.net

Revise present voter list

HC asks EC on writ petitions challenging fresh roll

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked the Election Commission (EC) to prepare a voter list based on the existing one amid heating up politics and debates for and against preparing a fresh electoral roll for the next parliamentary elections. The guidelines came when a division bench disposed of two writ petitions challenging the chief election commissioner's 'unilateral decision' to make a fresh voter list ignoring the two other election commissioners' suggestion for updating the present list. After four days' hearing of the petitions filed by three Awami League lawmakers, the court gave the directive making some observations on the activities of the EC and the preparation of the electoral roll, which began across the country on January 1. Legal experts think the EC

should comply with the HC observations and make a new voter list updating the existing one prepared in 2000. The HC observations include incorporating the names of people aged 18 or above in the new electoral roll and excluding the names of dead and insane voters from the existing list. Asked by reporters who were not allowed to enter the courtroom, the lawyers said the court has observed that the constitutional provisions entrusted the task of preparing the voter list solely to the EC and it is the EC, which will have to discharge the responsibilities as per the provisions of the Constitution and relevant laws. The court also observed it is expected that the Election Commission members, including the CEC, will take any decision through meetings and discussions,

not by exchanging notes. Difference of opinion is not unprecedented or unexpected and there is specific way of expressing difference of views. It was not proper for the election commissioners to express their difference of opinion through notes and interviews with the media, it said. The court said a fair voter list is the prerequisite of a free and fair election and if any confusion is created in public mind in this

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

A waste of Tk 60cr?

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Most of the Tk 60 crore from public exchequer already spent for preparing a fresh voter list may go wasted as the High Court (HC) observation yesterday came against the task unilaterally decided by the chief election commissioner (CEC). A large portion of the expenditure that began on January 1 will bring no result if the Election Commission (EC) ultimately goes for revising the existing list, many fear. The HC in an observation yesterday said the EC will have to prepare the voter list based on the existing electoral roll of 2000. Electoral experts said if the EC has to start preparing the voter list anew, it will incorporate new expenditures and preparations.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1



Thousands queue up at Kamalapur Railway Station in the city yesterday to secure advance tickets to go home for Eid celebrations. PHOTO: STAR

ADP projects turn slower than ever

Implementation in Jul-Oct 6pc points less than FY05's

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Frustrating government efforts in recent years to speed up Annual Development Programme (ADP) implementation, its pace has actually turned slower this fiscal year largely due to red-tapism. The ADP implementation in July to October, the first four months of FY2005-06, was 6 percentage points less than that in the corresponding period of FY05. Of the Tk 24,500 crore ADP of FY06, only Tk 3,783 crore or 15 percent was spent in July-October. The implementation percentage was 21 in the corresponding period of FY05. Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday sat with the planning ministry to review the implementation scenario of the foreign-funded ADP projects, which, too, was 3 percentage points slacker in the same period this year

than the previous year's. In the meeting Saifur expressed caustic dissatisfaction at the sluggish progress. When asked if bureaucratic tangle was the main reason for the belated pace of ADP implementation, the minister said, "Bureaucratic tangle is nothing new. Since its very inception, bureaucrats have been creating complications. That's why Mao Xe Dong did away with the Mandarins, but in vain, as [communist] party bureaucrats replaced them and created a new form of red-tapism." However, he observed, "No matter how much we reproach the bureaucrats, I have to depend on them. Because, I cannot do all the work by myself," adding the government has taken a number of steps to scale down such red-tapism. The local component of the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

30 killed in blast at Iraq funeral

13 others die in other violence

AP, Baghdad

A suicide bomber killed at least 30 people yesterday at the funeral for the nephew of a Shia politician, and 13 people were killed in other violence in Iraq, making Wednesday the deadliest day since the Dec 15

parliamentary elections. The attacks came as Iraq's three major political parties were close to forming a coalition government that would include Shias, Sunni Arabs and Kurds, a Shia politician said.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6



PHOTO: STAR

The two stolen newborn babies the police recovered from a housewife in Khilgaon on Tuesday.

Sangsad goes into session

Jan 23

AL may join

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad goes into opening session of the year on January 23 with a possibility of the return of the Awami League lawmakers, who are at risk of losing membership, after a year. The session, if joined by the AL

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Give no concession to bombers, patrons

PM asks cops at opening of Police Week

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday ordered the police force to take all measures to bring the bombers and their patrons to book. "A misguided quarter attacked the state institutions to thwart the nation's development. This misguided quarter wants to disrupt the stability of the country and push it backward using the name of Islam," she said while inaugurating the Police Week-2006 at Rajarbagh Police Lines. Calling the bombers and their masterminds enemies of the country, democracy and development, Khaleda said they want to destroy the constitution too. "I would like to tell you in clear terms to take all-out steps to bring the bombers and their patrons to book. Don't give them any concession," she said. The prime minister said the police have already arrested many

of the bombers, unearthed bomb-making dens and recovered arms. She said the task of the police has become more challenging and risky than any time in the past. She urged them to uphold the tradition and examples they have set through their patriotism and self-sacrifice. About allegations against the police, the prime minister said where public expectation from the police is high, there is also no limit to complaints. She, however, said no one wants to see the image of the police tarnished for only a few dishonest and corrupt members of the force. "If there is any allegation of wrongdoing and illegal activities, that must be taken into cognizance and the offender must be punished under the law," she said, adding that such action would restore people's confidence in the police. The prime minister announced

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

No question of general amnesty to bombers: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday ruled out the question of general amnesty for the bombers as she categorically said the "bomb terrorists" will not be pardoned anyway. "There is no question of general amnesty for the bombers... There is no place for bomb terrorists in Bangladesh," she said. The prime minister urged the freedom fighters to resist terrorism along with the people. "Unite people to resist the bombers as the freedom fighters liberated the country along with the people," she said in her call. The prime minister made her stand clear on the issue of bombings by suspected militants during a consultation with a delegation of freedom fighters as part of the ongoing national dialogue aimed at finding common ways to stop bomb terrorism. The prime minister thanked

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

Be closer together this EID!

CALL DAY & NIGHT FREE*

Huawei C218
TK. 2499*

UTStarcom C1160
TK. 3499*

Nokia 2112
TK. 3999*

* Call FREE to any CityCell phone from Aalap Super Plus during 1pm to 3pm & 12am to 6am

- Free Talk Time to be auto recharged in four equal monthly installments
- Conversion charge from Aalap Super and Aalap B to Aalap Super Plus Tk. 100 only (VAT applicable). Type SUPER and send to 1111 for conversion through SMS
- Handset warranty for 1 year (Conditions Apply)
- Offer valid till stock lasts

* Handset + Connection
• Conditions Apply

		আলাপ সুপার PLUS						Rate/ Pulse
		12am-6am	6am-8am	8am-1pm	1pm-3pm	3pm-11pm	11pm-12am	
Outgoing	To any CityCell mobile	Free*	Tk. 1.00	Tk. 1.50	Free* First 3 minutes	Tk. 1.50	Tk. 0.50	
	To other mobile	Tk. 1.00	Tk. 1.00	Tk. 2.00	Tk. 2.00	Tk. 2.00	Tk. 1.00	
Incoming	From any mobile	Free*	Tk. 0.50	Tk. 0.75	Free* First 3 minutes	Tk. 0.75	Tk. 0.25	
	From any mobile	Free						

* From April 01, 2006, Tk. 1/pulse for outgoing calls from 12am-6am and 1pm-3pm
* Rate after 1st free three minutes during 1pm-3pm Tk. 1/ pulse and Tk. 0.50/ pulse in OneOne facility
• 30 Second pulse from first minute
• Call to three preferred CityCell numbers (OneOne) at half rate

VAT Applicable

All CityCell Sales Centres will remain open 7 days a week throughout the campaign period

Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Limited, Pacific Centre, 14 Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka-1212, Phone: *121 (from CityCell Mobile), 011-121121 (from other Phone), website: www.citycell.com