

REGD. NO. DA 781

DHAKA TUESDAY JANUARY 17, 2006

People's Right to Know

MAGH 4, 1412 BS

JILHAJ 16, 1426 HIJRI

16 PAGES PRICE: TK 7.00

#### National mourning day today

UNB, Dhaka

The government has declared National Mourning Day today in Bangladesh at the death of Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmad al-

The national flag will be kept at half-mast atop all government, semi-government, non-governmental institutions and buildings and at all Bangladesh missions abroad, said an official handout.

#### 11 'guns' seized from truck at Ctg port

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Eleven 'firearms' were recovered from a truck and a container laden with imported cargo while passing out of the restricted area of Chittagong Port vesterday.

Police said the guns are replica but can be used for training

#### BSF kills 2

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) killed two Bangladeshi youths on Sunday evening

The two youths were identified as Koysor, 18, son of Isak Ali and Haris Ali, 20, son of Toimus Ali of Gonokiya village under Pritimpasha union of Kulaura upazila in

The two youths along with other people went to collect bamboo and

# 2 commissioners appointed to give CEC majority

EC secretary, retired judge get posts in clever govt move

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the wake of an impasse over preparing a fresh voter list, the government in a hasty move yesterday appointed two more election commissioners apparently to win the chief election commissioner (CEC) the majority in the commis-

The CEC, who has been alone in the EC with the other two members opposing the preparation of a fresh roll, has verbally requested the government to appoint two new election commissioners as they will presumably favour the CEC's move for the fresh list, sources said. On the government's advice,



Newly appointed election commissioners Justice Mahfuzur Rahman, left, and SM Zakaria walk out of the High Court after taking oath yesterday.

President Iajuddin Ahmed yester-day appointed former judge of High Court (HC) Justice Mahfuzur Rahman and the immediate past secretary to the EC Secretariat SM Zakaria as election commissioners.

With them, the number of members in the EC rose to five, the highest in the history of the commission.

Awami League (AL) led 14-party opposition alliance described the appointments as 'a brazen attempt of the ruling coalition to manipulate the next parliamentary election'. It yesterday called a countrywide hartal for January 22 to protest the appointments.

On having the government's SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

#### HC GUIDELINES **EC** Secretariat seeks directives on voter list work

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) Secretariat has sought directives from the EC on the next course of action in light of the High Court's (HC) January 4 ruling on electoral

It, however, continues the task of preparing fresh electoral roll, ignoring the court's judgement disposing of two writ petitions that challenged the legality of the unilateral decision of the chief election commissioner (CEC) to have a new list and activities to that end.

The two election commissioners, M Munsef Ali and AK Mohammad Ali, put their opinions in the file, asking to stop the work of preparing the voter list as it is not being done in accordance with the HC's directives. They also suggested convening the EC meeting ;

## 14-party rejects appointments

Calls for hartal on Jan 22

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rejecting the appointments of two new election commissioners, the Awami League (AL) led 14-party opposition coalition yesterday announced a dawn-to-dusk hartal (general strike) across the country on January 22.

Following an emergency meeting of the coalition last night, its leaders declared the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and the two newly appointed commissioners as persona non grata and announced countrywide demonstrations to be held on January 19.

"The appointments are politically motivated and a strategy to SEE PAGE 15 COL 4 : evade the High Court order regard-

ing the fresh voter list," AL general secretary also 14-party co-ordinator, Abdul Jalil, told reporters after the meeting held at AL's Dhanmondi office.

The AL and its different front organisations took to the streets in the capital to protest the appointments of Justice Mahfuzur Rahman and SM Zakaria as election commissioners. Demonstrators in their impromptu protest at Gulistan area chanted slogans against the government and accused it of politicising the Election Commission (EC).

Senior leaders of the opposition coalition including leaders of the left 11-party alliance, Jatiya

### Govt set to accept Tata's thorny terms

SHARIER KHAN and JASIM UDDIN KHAN

The government is set to accept some of the thorny conditions tabled by Indian giant Tata for its \$2.5 billion investment proposal, though some of these will not be favourable for the country.

Energy ministry adviser Mahmudur Rahman yesterday said Bangladesh will give Tata a sovereign guarantee of 20 years of gas SEE PAGE 15 COL 8 | supply even if that demands import of gas when the country runs out of it. If necessary, Bangladesh will import gas from Myanmar to meet Tata's require-

A financial analysis of Tata's proposal has been almost completed by a consultant appointed by the government and Asian Development Bank (ADB), the adviser said. "The ADB advised us to take decision on the Tata proposal very carefully as this will have a long term impact on the country

and its people," he added without

The government however has no study of its own. Experts in government agencies say at least the finance ministry or Bangladesh Bank should have been asked to go for an analysis before any decision is taken on this complex proposal.

The adviser noted that the final round of negotiation with Tata begins on January 29 to conclude it by mid March. The negotiation SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

#### Jamaat leader ordered attack on PM's meet in Satkhira

Arrestee says

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A Jamaat-e-Islami leader had asked a supporter to carry out a bomb attack on the prime minister's meeting scheduled to take place in Satkhira on January 8, the adherent told the press at a police station "Yunus Ali [Jamaat Rokan of

Olipur union unit] gave me two bombs and Tk 10,000 to attack on SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## US may have to go for military strike on Iran

Senators say

REUTERS, AFP, Washington/London

Republican and Democratic senators said on Sunday the United States may ultimately have to undertake a military strike to deter Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons, but that should be the last

"That is the last option. Everything else has to be exhausted. But to say under no circum-

Sunny shown

stances would we exercise a military option, that would be crazy," Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona said on CBS's "Face the

Democratic Sen. Evan Bayh of Indiana, a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said there are sensitive elements of Iran's nuclear programme, which, if attacked, "would dramatically delay its development.

"But that should not be an option at this point. We ought to use everything else possible keep from getting to that juncture," he said on CNN's "Late Edition."

A growing nuclear fracas exploded last week when Iran, defying the United States and major European powers, resumed nuclear research after a two-year

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

#### TAX DODGING

### NBR probes frequent business travellers

elled abroad frequently, on its list of suspected tax dodgers.

Some business persons went outside the country repeatedly in a month and they spent large amounts of money abroad which do not match their declared annual earnings. We are now scrutinising such cases," a high official of the board told The Daily Star yesterday requesting anonymity.

Central Intelligence Cell (CIC) of the NBR has launched the drive recently and identified 20 such business persons who made frequent trips to foreign countries.

Sources said the cell has identified 20 to 25 top business persons The National Board of Revenue in the country who travelled (NBR) is including some affluent abroad more than five times a The cell will examine the bank

accounts, credit card transactions, and dollar endorsements on the passports of the suspected business persons to determine their actual earnings. The cell will also include the

names of 100 more business persons on the list within a couple of months based on frequencies of their trips abroad in a month. The NBR officials are taking

help from immigration officials in

collecting information about the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



Workers construct pavement on the bank of Gulshan Lake in the city in a bid to enhance the lake's beauty even

more cases COURT CORRESPONDENT

arrested in 2

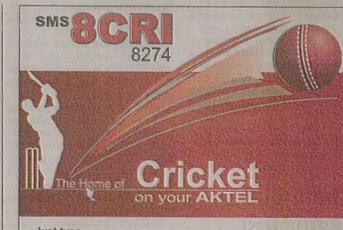
Ataur Rahman Sunny, military commander of banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), was shown arrested yesterday in two other cases pending with a trial

Judge Mohammad Monzurul Bachhid of the Fourth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court gave the order following prosecution lawyer's petitions to show Sunny arrested in those cases. Metropolitan Public Prosecutor

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

#### Announcement

Our Star Lifestyle could not be published today due to unavoidable reasons. We regret the inconvenience to our readers.



Just type

e cri for scores

e sch for schedule of upcoming matches

e player code for player profile (Visit www.aktel.com for detailed player codes

And send to 8CRI (8274)

 Standard SMS charge applicable All responsibilities regarding SMS information on 8274 remain with Cricinfo

One PRE-PAID



### Greetings with a New Card

**AKTEL** introduces new Tk. 300 refill card

Set aside your worries when you buy this new refill card. In addition to our already available Tk. 300 card, this new refill card delivers all benefits of Pre-Paid



AKTEL Assistance: Call 123, 124 (from any AKTEL number), 018 9400 400 (from any number), SMS 8123 (from any AKTEL number), Email: 123@aktel.com, Website: www.aktel.com

Please refill your account in front of dealer to ensure successful refill

though a large portion of the lake has been illegally occupied.