

### ACC asks audit to look into retired officials' woes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday asked the officials of audit and accounts department to take steps to curb the sufferings of the retired government officials face while getting pensions.

Prof Maniruzzaman Miah, head of the Corruption Prevention wing of the ACC, also urged authorities to take preventive measures to cut

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

### Cabinet okays bill to amend CrPC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday approved a bill seeking amendment to the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), 1898 in a bid to separate the judiciary from the executive.

The cabinet at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia approved the bill, which is likely to be raised in parliament on February 23 or on February 26.

"Passing the bill is going to be the biggest development towards

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

## Outage causes severe water crisis in city

REAZ AHMAD

An acute water crisis and frequent power cuts has gripped a vast part of the capital even before the onset of summer.

Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) sources said due to massive power cuts and low voltage of electricity in the pre-summer season Wasa is unable to run most of its water pumps.

Wasa, under growing public wrath, sent several letters to the power ministry to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply but it was of no avail, official sources said.

People living in the old parts of

the city and also in Mirpur, Gabtoli, Shahidnagar, Jatrabari and Azimpur are reeling deep into the crisis due to non-operation of pumps.

As an immediate bailout plan, Dhaka Wasa operates diesel generators to pump water but it is drying up the authorities fund for this purpose.

"Besides, we've generators installed at only 200 deep tube-wells out of over 400 in Dhaka," official sources said.

An executive engineer Wasa, requesting anonymity, told The Daily Star yesterday Azimpur area receives power cuts up to 12 hours a day on average

"We have to operate the expensive to run diesel generators for seven hours to supply water," he added.

In Shahidnagar, he said, the scenario is even worse as the neighbourhood remains with out power for 15 hours a day on average.

Another official said, "In old part of Dhaka we have to run 30 generators due to poor power supply. Due to low voltage, we can't operate the water pumps even when we have power."

"Day in, day out, I remain under tremendous pressures in the office

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

### PM replies to Bush letter

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has given reply to a recent letter by US President George W Bush, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan said yesterday without disclosing its contents.

"It's a personal letter of the prime minister to the US President...I have not seen it," the minister told the diplomatic correspondents at a briefing.

He, however, informed that it was a reply to the President Bush's letter handed over to the prime minister by US Assistant Secretary of State Christina Rocca on January 26.

Rocca had described the US president's letter as a "friendly letter" and "a private correspondence between the president and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## EC starts work today on draft voter list as enumeration ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Preparation of a draft electoral roll begins today while the Election Commission (EC) maintained its silence about the current status of the work of controversial fresh voter list even on the last day of enumeration yesterday.

The field level workers will complete preparing the draft list by March 12 as directed by the EC. During the time, they will also scrutinise the information collected about

the prospective voters and gather information about those who have missed to be on the list, an EC Secretariat press release yesterday said, referring to February 13 circular.

The field level work of voter roll, which began on January 1 across the country, was originally scheduled for completion by January 31. But later the deadline was extended till February 20.

The commission, however, has yet to fix the date for publication of

the draft and final rolls as it waits for outcome of the appeal it filed against the January 4 High Court directives.

The EC Secretariat on orders from the chief election commissioner continued the countrywide enumeration, ignoring HC ruling for revising the existing list.

During the last 51 days of enumeration, the field level information collectors failed to reach many eligible voters while inconsistency

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## Logic, talks should replace conflict

PM says at Ekushey Padak function

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday called for upholding the spirit and pride of Ekushey by resolving all problems without the influence or interference of others.

"Logic, understanding and dialogue should replace emotion, conflict and coercion... Our national unity, social stability and peace will have to be kept intact at any cost," Khaleda observed while addressing a function for awarding Ekushey Padak 2006.

The prime minister said the

nation should take a vow not bow down to poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, malnutrition and discrimination.

She said that it should be the new promise of Ekushey that people would not yield to any ill attempt to weaken or undermine the nation.

The prime minister said this nation-state of ours is a visible symbol of nationalism built on the foundation of our language-based spirit of Ekushey and on our own culture, tradition, geography,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

## Cops club fertiliser hungry farmers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A farmer was injured yesterday as police clubbed hundreds of fertiliser-hungry farmers to free an upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) whom the farmers had confined to a store at Shahpur Bazar in Dumuria of Khulna.

Witnesses said police attacked the angry farmers who restricted Dumuria Upazila Nirbahi Officer Howladar Rakibul Bari in a shop for over two hours.

Earlier around 10:30am yesterday, angry farmers locked up the Upazila Agriculture Officer Kazi

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



Members of a platform for preserving the memories of the Language Movement take out a procession from Dhaka Medical College gate yesterday, demanding proper utilisation of the Bangla language and calendar.

## Production of LPG suspended

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Production of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) in Petrobangla run Rupantarita Praktik Gas Company Limited (RPGL) is suspended as supply of the raw material, natural gas liquid (NGL), from the two gas wells of Kailashthia has been stopped since Saturday and because its molecular sieve turbo expander (MSTE) plant went into maintenance on February 18.

The authorities in a letter to Petroleum Dealers Association on Monday informed it about the shut down stating that supply of LPG would remain suspended for a week.

The shut down will exacerbate the existing crisis of LPG, a number of petroleum dealers said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Prayer Timing		
February 21		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-30	5-35
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation