



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

TODAY'S ISSUE 24 PAGES



COMMITTED TO People's Right to Know

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XVI NO. 70

DHAKA SATURDAY MARCH 25, 2006

CHAITRA 11, 1412 BS

SAFAR 23, 1427 HIJRI

24 PAGES PRICE: TK 7.00

www.thedailystar.net

Promotion, changes in civil admin now rampant

Govt allegedly mapping out election victory by using loyalists

ZAYADUL AHSAN

The practice of giving promotion, contractual appointments, making officials OSD and sending them to forced retirement on political consideration has now become a regular phenomenon in the civil administration and is viewed by observers as a serious attempt to use the administration during the next general election.

Incidents of designating as OSD (officer on special duty), contractual appointments, violation of

rules, and the number of those who are not given due promotion have surpassed all previous records.

Currently the number of OSD is 218 (which was over 463 in January) and contractual appointments 238. And some 500 were not given due promotion.

The government has not only changed rules for appointment and promotion several times but also violated those repeatedly when they found it necessary to bring in loyal officials.

It also introduced 'next below

rules' to legalise supersession of the senior officials by the juniors.

Sources said process is underway for promotion of joint secretaries to additional secretaries and assistant secretaries to deputy secretaries in a few days.

While Awami League (AL) government handed over power to the caretaker government on July 15, 2001, 76 officials were working on contractual basis. After taking office in 1996, the AL too made some officials OSD as it thought them to be BNP-leaning.

The practice that began during the past government has become rampant since the four-party alliance took over. The aim is to leave behind an administration, which will serve the alliance during the caretaker government.

Politicisation of each of the departments has been so thorough that the interim government will not be able to dismantle their comprehensive control on the administration as the removal of one official would only mean

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

'Black night' of Mar 25 today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 'black night' of March 25 returns again evoking painful memories of a night of murder and mayhem, the beginning of genocide of millions of unarmed Bangladeshis by the Pakistani occupation forces in 1971.

On this night in 1971, the Pakistani military rulers launched "Operation Search Light" killing some 7,000 people in a single night. Dhaka University was attacked and students were exterminated in the hundreds.

It was to be only the beginning. On March 26, the nation

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

India calls for 'friendship treaty' with Pakistan

Islamabad cautiously welcomes offer

AFP, Amritsar/Islamabad

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh called yesterday for a friendship treaty with Pakistan to help resolve the bitter issues that have bedevilled relations for almost six decades.

"I have a vision that the peace-making process must ultimately culminate in our two countries entering into a treaty of peace, security and friendship to give meaning and substance to our quest for shared goals," Singh said.

"I make this offer to the people

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



Manmohan Singh



Parvez Musharraf

Tigers gunning for whitewash

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will go all out for a whitewash when they take on Kenya in the fourth and final one-day match at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium today.

The Tigers have already confirmed a successful venture with a decisive 3-0 lead in the four-match series after their 20-run success in the third game at the same venue on Thursday.

The match starts at 9:30am with Bangladesh Television (BTV) and Channel 1 beaming live coverage from the stadium located at the outskirts of the city.

Bangladesh had started the series against Kenya with a very poor head-to-head record enjoying only one win against six defeats but their continued success in the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



PHOTO: STAR

LIVING AT RISK: Seven Motijheel AGB colony buildings declared unfit for living three months ago are still occupied by scores of families.

Explosion-like sound jolts bldgs in Tejgaon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was injured last night when plaster and bricks fell down from the ceilings of three buildings in Tejgaon area of the capital.

Kamrul Hassan, a student of Brac University who lives on the third floor of one of those buildings, told The Daily Star over telephone that around 11:15pm following a loud explosion like sound the entire compound of the government residential quarter for postal employees in Tejgaon felt a severe jolt of shock wave and debris from the ceilings of the apartments fell on the occupants.

The identity of the 40-year old injured man could not be ascertained. Falling debris from the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

ELECTIONS SPENDING Dodging rule is the name of the game

SHAKHAWAT LITON

He contested the October 1, 2001 parliamentary election from a constituency outside the capital. He had to spend about Tk 1 crore to win the polls. But in the expenditure return to the Election Commission (EC) he claimed his electoral spending did not cross Tk 5 lakh mark.

"I had to lie as the electoral rules restrict the spending within Tk 5 lakh. We were compelled to begin our journey as a lawmaker by cheating in the matter of electoral expenses. We would have been in trouble had we been honest and

disclosed the actual figure," a ruling BNP lawmaker told The Daily Star, wishing anonymity.

After the October 1 election, lawmakers from the BNP, Awami League (AL), Jamaat-e-Islami and Jatiya Party have admitted to The Daily Star on different occasions that they had spent beyond the ceiling. They said the electoral laws leave them no option but to lie about the cost of electioneering.

Some of the candidates who contested the polls from the constituencies within the capital spent between Tk 2 crore and 10 crore. But in their statements of expenditure

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Robbers kill 3 in Cox's Bazar

UNB, Cox's Bazar

In a failed robbery attempt, criminals killed three people, including a night guard and two shopkeepers, at Olisah Bazar in Chokoria upazila of the district early yesterday.

The dead were identified as shopkeepers Nurul Alam, 20, and Manjur Alam, 18, and night guard Mohammed Hossain, 60.

A gang of 10/12 wielding weapons other than firearms swooped on the rural bazar and beat to death the night guard as he tried to resist them, police said.

The robbers also killed shopkeepers Nurul Alam and Manjur Alam by hitting with iron rods. They fled being chased by people from a nearby Urs mahfil.

Our Satkhira correspondent

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

One Time Paint for Many Seasons

BERGER Weather Coat SMOOTH 100% ACRYLIC

- Anti-fungal
- Anti-fading
- Anti-flaking

THE SCIENCE OF WEATHERPROOFING

FLAWED PRICING, SUBSIDY POLICY

6 state-owned urea units incurring Tk 240cr loss a year

REAZ AHMAD

Six state-owned urea factories are incurring a loss of Tk 240 crore every year due to the government's flawed pricing and subsidy policy

Notice

Due to a sudden rise in hits on an average above 600,000 daily, and on occasions up to 700,000, our online edition's (www.thedailystar.net) periodic bandwidth exceeded its limit, causing temporary shut-down of the site yesterday. We regret the inconvenience to the readers.

that goes completely against the interests of the local industry, official sources said.

The factories run by Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) manufacture 20 lakh tonnes of urea a year on an average with a production cost of Tk 6,000 per tonne, but it has to market the fertiliser at only Tk 4,800 a tonne.

"The government is supposed to provide BCIC with funds to meet the price gap of Tk 1,200 per tonne under its farm subsidy policy. But we never get it as the subsidy amount is totally spent on import of urea at much higher global

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Haripada Kapali, who developed Haridhan, a new variety of high yielding and low-cost rice in Jhenaidah, yesterday received the first 'Channel I Krishi Padak 2006' at Biam auditorium in the city. (Story on page 2)

The spirit of Independence. In your heart, in your soul

FUN DOSE

JUST DIAL 8FUN (8286)

Send your greetings through

- Song dedications
- Pre-recorded voice greetings
- Your own recorded voice messages

Now you can send FunDose directly from AKTEL WAP (http://wap.aktel.com/wap)

WAP browsing charge applicable, IVR browsing charge from 8FUN x 4/min

Charge for sending every successful dose x 10 (WAP, IVR)

*Excluding VAT

All facilities related to songs lie with Win Sources Ltd., V U Mobile Ltd. and Workstation Information Technology

AKTEL

TM Company

The fate of one valiant freedom fighter unfolds... Watch the touching drama adapted from a story by Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, written for the screen by Anisul Hoque and directed by Arif Khan.

Mahtab Ali'r Golpo

Cast: Humayun Faridi, Api Karim, Shahed Sharif Khan and others.

On 26th March, at 9 pm on

Watch and participate in the SMS Quiz contest. Send your SMS at 8NTV (8688) while the drama is on air to win exciting AKTEL surprises.

AKTEL

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