

Inside Today

Article

Poverty
Alleviation and
the Saga of the
Macroeconomic
Illusion

Column: On the
Record
by Shah AMS Kibria
Page 4

Live from the
Internet

Internet/data telecom
net and Bangladesh;
Debate on democracy
and Bangladesh
politics
Page 5

International

US offers \$300m
package of arms,
equipment to Jordan

Khun Sa signs peace
accord with Myanmar
junta
Page 8

Business

SAARC Trade Fair
begins in New
Delhi today

India's Planning
Commission slams
implementation of
economic reforms.
Pages 6, 7

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Lure of Gourmet
Restaurants
Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

BNP completes
nominations

The BNP yesterday nominated party leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to contest the coming Jatiya Sangsad elections from Bagerhat-1. With the nomination of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the BNP completed the nomination of its candidates to all the 300 seats of the Jatiya Sangsad. BNP office secretary Mohammad Nazrul Islam told BSS.

Human circle' on DU
campus tomorrow

The students of Dhaka University will organise a 'human circle' tomorrow on the campus demanding the trial of the killers of university teacher Nuban Ahmed and to protest the deteriorating law and order, a press release said. The circle will be formed around the Arts Faculty at 10 am, reports BSS.

JEB official
made OSD

From Our Correspondent
JESSORE, Jan 8: Inspector of Schools, Jessor Education Board (JEB) Fazlur Rahman Talukdar, has been made officer on special duty (OSD) for his alleged involvement in registration scandal in the last year's SSC examination of the board, sources said.

64 arms
recovered

Law enforcing agencies yesterday recovered 64 firearms, 384 bullets and 30 explosives on the 19th day of the countrywide illegal arms hunt. According to the Law and Order Coordination Cell of the Election Commission, during the combing operation of police, army, navy and air force, 305 people were picked up on various charges, including possessing of illegal arms, reports UNB.

Cargo ship untraced for 45 days 24 Bangladeshis still missing

By Rafiq Hasan

A cargo vessel, owned by a Bangladeshi, has been missing with 24 Bangladeshi crew for more than one month in the China Sea, off Taiwan coast, according to family sources of the owner.

The ship, Al-Kashem, had sailed from Singapore for Onahama, Japan on October 27 last year but lost contact since November 21 when its owner and captain Rabibul Islam had made the last radio phone call to his wife in

Khulna.

Rabibul had told his wife that they were crossing a rough weather along the Taiwanese coast and expected to reach Onahama on December 30, two days behind schedule. Rabibul's elder brother Nurul Islam told The Daily Star here yesterday.

The ship belonged to the Seating Shipping Pte Ltd., a Singapore-based company owned by Capt Rabibul and was flying a Belizean flag.

Nurul Islam and some other relatives of the missing crew said they got no information about the ship from officials or local agents of the ship in Bangladesh or any source in Taiwan, Japan, Singapore or China during last one and a half months.

Rabibul used to get in touch with his family twice or thrice a week. But there has been no communication since November 21, Nurul Islam said.

"Since the ship is reportedly missing we can assume that it is either taken over by pirates or it has sunk," said Capt Wahed who had disembarked from the ship due to illness in Hainan port, China, where it had anchored due to a typhoon off the Vietnamese coast. The 6000 DWT ship was carrying 5000 tons of cargo, mainly raw materials for cosmetics. Wahed said he was to join the ship in Japan

See Page 12 col 7

EC defers polls date again

By Staff Correspondent

drawal of candidature is January 23, the EC announced.

The election schedule was first announced on December 4, fixing January 18 as polls date. The voting was then deferred to February 7. On January 2, the Election Commission made a partial change in the schedule fixing January 8.

Editorial on page 4

and 9 as last dates for filing nomination papers and scrutiny.

But the opposition Awami League, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami, Left Democratic Front, Gano Forum and others rejected the election schedule pending a solution to the persisting political crisis over the caretaker issue.

The EC expressed its hope that the political parties will be able to reach an

understanding and participate in the elections within this time.

"Elections have to be held within 90 days, that is February 21, following the dissolution of Parliament, as prescribed in the Constitution," the announcement pointed out.

The EC could not shift the elections beyond February 15 as because of the Shaheed Dibash, Eid-ul-Fitr, Shab-e-Qadr and Jumatul Bida, it explained.

The EC, however, did not mention the names of the parties which requested it verbally or in writing to shift the election date again.

Since the very first announcement of election schedule, the agitating opposition parties called hartals, coinciding with the dates for submission of nomination papers and scrutiny.

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