

BUY AN APARTMENT
PROPERTY LAKE FRONT
 DHANMONDI R/A
 ROAD NO-10 (NEW)
 1900sq ft 3 BED

THE NAME MOST TRUSTED PROPERTY HEIGHTS
PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT LTD
 12 B K MISSION ROAD DHAKA
 FAX: 800-2-959415, PHONE: 9583117, 9583128-9, 959412-3

VOL. VI NO. 81 REGD. NO. DA 781

The Daily Star

CHAITRA 25 1402 BS,

DHAKA SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 1996

ZILQAD 18, 1416 HIJRI

MARBLE MARBLE MARBLE
 WE HAVE HUGE READY STOCK OF
 ITALIAN CARRARA, PERLATO SICILIA,
 BOTTICINO, INDIAN KESSWARI GREEN,
 MALAYSIAN AND PAKISTANI MARBLE
 OF DIFFERENT TYPES.

NIRMAN INTERNATIONAL LTD.
 199, TEJGAON 1/A, DHAKA.
 TEL: 805957, 807363 SHOW ROOM: 861985

12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 5.00

Inside Today

Article

Where Do We Go from Here? — Some Reflections
 Column: On The Record
 by Shah A M S Kibria
 Page 4

Focus

Law & Our Rights
 A black law and its blatant use; Prioritising people; and Human rights organisations — need, role, restraints
 Page 5

International

DPRK troops enter Panmunjom violating armistice accord
 Human rights commission frees 140 bonded labourers in Pakistan
 Page 8

Business

Season's last tea sale ends with strong internal demand in Ctg

World demand for oil increases
 Pages 6, 7

DSE MARKET	
DSE price index	815.00 (-0.47%)
Market capital Tk	5367.36 cr
Transactions in volume	107912
Transactions in value Tk	2.80 cr

Supplement

One page supplement on World Health Day
 Page 9

Dhaka Day by Day



A Case for Three-wheelers
 Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Chandrika greets Chief Adviser

Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga has felicitated Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman on his assumption of office. In a message yesterday, Kumaratunga hoped that under the leadership of Bangladesh would be able to uphold democracy in co-operation with political leaders, reports UNB.

Justice Sadeque resigns

By Staff Correspondent

Chief Election Commissioner Justice AKM Sadeque resigned yesterday, an official announcement said.

His resignation was accepted by President Abdur Rahman Biswas, the announcement added.

A new CEC is likely to be appointed today, according to official sources.

Justice Sadeque stepped down amidst persistent demand from three major political parties — Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami — for his resignation and reorganisation of the Election Commission.

The major parties including the BNP are learnt to have suggested names for his replacement during their separate meetings with the chief

adviser of the caretaker government last week.

The names of Justice Naimuddin, Justice Badrud-Doza and former cabinet secretary Mujibul Haq are being talked about as possible replacement for Justice Sadeque.

Justice Sadeque was appointed on April 27 last year by the President in consultation with former prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia who also stepped down on March 30 in the face of a non-cooperation movement.

According to sources, one of the major parties had objected to a former bureaucrat becoming the CEC, while the three other parties did not oppose it.

When approached for reac-

tion last night, Awami League organising secretary Mohammad Nasim told The Daily Star that leaders of AL, Jatiya Party and Jamaat, who were attending a meeting of the liaison committee at that time 'breathed a sigh of relief' at the news of Sadeque's resignation.

No BNP leader could be contacted late last night for reaction.

UNB adds: Awami League Presidium member Tofael Ahmed yesterday described the resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner as the victory of their movement.

In his reaction, Tofael said Justice Sadeque was compelled to quit in the face of the persistent demand by the major political parties.

See Page 12 col 8



Justice Sadeque.

SSC, Dakhil exams begin today

The Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations of 1996 begin today under the aegis of the five education boards of the country, reports UNB.

Besides, the Dakhil examinations of 1996 under Bangladesh Madrasah Education Board begin on the same day, sources said.

The SSC examination was scheduled to begin on March 27, but later it was shifted to April 7 due to political unrest in the country.

A total of 5,53,000 candidates for SSC and Dakhil examinations are expected to sit for the examinations in 1,045 centres all over the country. Of them, 4,78,275 are SSC examinees while Dakhil candidates are about 75,000. For the SSC examinations,

the authorities have set up 750 centres at home while five centres outside the country.

Of the SSC candidates, 1,41,000 students under Dhaka Board, 1,20,000 students under Rajshahi Board, 85,000 under Jessore Board and 1,30,000 students under Comilla and Chittagong boards are expected to appear in the examinations.

In the capital city, the SSC and Dakhil examinations will be held in 60 school centres and two in madrasah centres.

Meanwhile, sources said all preparation have been made for these examinations. The authorities have restricted any kind of gathering or movement of more than four people in 200 yards of the examination centres to ensure peaceful holding of the examinations.

BNP extends support to illegal arms recovery drive

BNP Standing Committee has decided to strengthen the party's organisational activities across the country ahead of the general election, reports UNB.

The decision was taken at a two-day meeting that ended here on Friday with a call to the non-party caretaker government to arrange the elections in May, said a press release yesterday.

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia chaired the meeting which instructed all units of the party and its front organisations to arrange meetings, rallies and processions in the cities, and district and thana headquarters.

As part of the programme, Begum Zia will address a public meeting at the outer stadium in the port city of

See Page 12 col 7

10 injured in city clashes

By Staff Correspondent

At least ten people were injured in clashes in different parts of the city yesterday.

One Nazir Hasan, 35, sustained between two local groups at Killa Morh in Lalbagh area in the morning. He was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), hospital sources said.

Five others were injured in the clash. Several crackers were also blasted creating

See Page 12 col 8

Bus dacoity on Ctg-Cox's Bazar highway again

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Apr 6: A gang of dacoits looted valuable goods and money of the passengers of two luxury coaches on the Cox's Bazar-Chittagong highway this morning.

The dacoits stopped the two buses at Aziznagar at around 10:30 am and robbed the passengers of their valuables.

This is the fifth highway robbery in the last seven days creating panic among the travellers.

17 Rohingyas pushed back

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, April 6: Seventeen Rohingyas Muslims were pushed back by the Bangladesh Rifles to Myanmar from Teknaf in Cox's Bazar yesterday morning.

According to sources, these Myanmar citizens belonging to four families had come over to Bangladesh by crossing the Naf river on Thursday.

On their arrival from Mongdy town, the Myanmar citizens were looking for shelter in the Rohingyas refugee camps in Cox's Bazar. But the authorities caught them and handed them over to the BDR.

In March, some 136 Rohingyas were pushed back by the BDR from the Bangladesh territory, according to reports.

Corruption-free administrative system if voted to power: Hasina

By Staff Correspondent



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina addressing a huge public meeting at Manik Mia Avenue in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina said yesterday that her party, if voted to power, would establish a corruption-free administrative system and ensure that the administration did not serve any party interest.

We will build a strong local government structure with adequate powers to the peoples' representatives at the district, thana and union levels," Hasina said while addressing a mammoth 'victory rally' at Manik Mia Avenue in the city.

"BNP government shot 18 peasants to death and deprived the farmers of fertiliser. We will make them happy. If necessary, we will give subsidy to the agriculture sector," she told the rally organised by the party to celebrate 'peoples' triumph over illegal Khaleda regime' and realisation of their demand for a caretaker government for holding general elections.

With cheering supporters holding up hundreds of portraits of Bangabandhu and Sheikh Hasina and the traditional AL election symbol 'boat' the AL president said: "If I get

a chance to serve the nation, I will eradicate terrorism and corrupt practices from every sphere of the national life."

Hasina reiterated her call to the caretaker government to form an enquiry committee to probe into 'corruption and nepotism by the former prime minister, her relatives, members of her cabinet and leaders of BNP'.

The AL chief demanded reformation of the administration for the success of the illegal arms recovery drive adding "With guns in the hands of BNP men an election can never be conducted in a free and fair manner." She also demanded overhauling of the police administration.

"She also pledged giving autonomy to the electronic media, economic uplift of the downtrodden and the oppressed womenfolk."

Before a huge colourful victory procession led by Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation Mohammad Hanif was brought out, the AL chief, in her 15-minute speech, vowed to free the nation from illiteracy.

See Page 12 col 1

Bankers for fresh ordinance concerning loan defaulters

Star Report

Top bankers at a meeting with high officials of the finance ministry yesterday felt that promulgation of a fresh ordinance concerning bank loan defaulters was necessary for maintenance of financial discipline.

With Bangladesh Bank Governor Khurshed Alam in the chair, the meeting attended by the Secretary of the banking division and managing directors of commercial banks, also discussed the present liquidity crisis in the banks due to the mounting pressure for settling import bills that had been pending during political unrest, meeting sources said. The meeting was held at the Bangladesh Bank.

The top executives of the country's banking sector observed that although the ordinance was primarily intended to debar bank loan defaulters from participating in the general elections, the banking system witnessed a substantial loan recovery due to that ordinance.

"Such an ordinance is also required on ethical grounds as

the willful defaulters, who put the sector in disarray, have no right to lead the country. The government should immediately promulgate a fresh ordinance as it is learnt that the vested quarters are trying to stall the process (of loan recovery)," the chief of a private bank told the meeting, the sources said.

The bankers observed that the central bank should not only ask them to meet the crisis by raising money through trading bonds and inter-bank borrowing but also respond to the situation by

Container vessels to be unloaded in 3 days

Container vessels anchored at Chittagong Port will be unloaded within next two to three days to free the port from all sorts of congestion by next two to three weeks, reports UNB.

This was informed at a

See Page 12 Col 1

laxing control on discount window.

The situation is different now because earlier the exporters used to pay for their import bills from export proceeds. Due to the political unrest, the clients of the banks failed to export but the banks are forced to pay the outstanding import bills to foreign bank for avoiding black listing," said a managing director of a bank. "So, the central bank has to play a definite role now and can not just watch what is happening."

The Bangladesh Bank Governor said that the central bank realised the gravity of the situation and would take necessary steps to help the banks overcome the crisis.

The ordinance concerning bank loan defaulters, promulgated in December last, became ineffective as this, along with 18 others ordinances, could not be passed by the short-lived sixth Parliament. As per Constitution, an ordinance, automatically becomes inoperative if it is not passed by the Parliament.

World Health Day today

By Staff Correspondent

The World Health Day will be observed today throughout the country as well as across the globe with particular focus on improving the health of urban dwellers through the building of cleaner and healthier cities.

With more than half the world's population predicted to be living in urban settlements by the year 2000, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has chosen the theme 'Healthy cities for better life' for this year's World Health Day.

The day commemorates the

coming into force of the constitution of the WHO on April 7, 1948.

In message on the occasion, President Abdur Rahman Biswas said the physical and mental well-being of the population was a pre-requisite for the socio-economic development of the country.

The President observed that a rapidly increasing urban population and lack of adequate civic amenities, housing and treatment facilities are threatening public health and causing environmental pollution.

See Page 12 Col 3

Manzur Murder Case Hearing adjourned till May 11

The trial of former president H M Ershad and four retired army officers in the murder case of former GOC of Chittagong cantonment Maj Gen Abul Manzur was adjourned yesterday till May 11 because of non-compliance of one of the orders of the High Court, reports BSS.

First Additional Session Judge Akhlakur Rahman Chowdhury adjourned the hearing of the Manzur Murder Case, when Advocate Mahbubur Rahman, counsel of Major (ret'd) Kazi Emdadul Haq, one of accused persons, informed the court that he was yet to

meet his client in jail despite specific instructions from the High Court.

The High Court, which had transferred the case from the court of District and Sessions Judge Abdus Salam, on a prayer, ordered that the counsels of the accused persons must be allowed interview before the trial resumes.

Judge Chowdhury asked counsel Rahman, a former minister of Ershad, to see his client Kazi Emdad anytime on or before April 20.

Others who are accused in this case are Maj Gen (ret'd) M.

See Page 12 col 4

Make the best of your talents in **THE AIR FORCE**
 The Sky's the limit
 JOIN BAF - REACH FOR THE SKY

COMMISSION IN BANGLADESH AIR FORCE IN GD (PILOT) AND GROUND BRANCH

If you have the talents and will to rise quickly to the limit, come and report to: BAF Information & Selection Centre, Old Airport, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215, to take the challenging tests to explore your potentials, ANY WORKING DAY. Remember you must possess any one of the following qualifications and other physical/medical standards:

GD(Pilot) Branch: HSC(Sc) minimum second division with Physics & Mathematics. (Simple numerical questions testing basic concept on the subjects).

Ground Branches: BSc Engg (Mech/Elect/Electronics); MSc II-Class (Applied Physics & Electronics); MSC II-class (Psychology); BSc II Div (physics & Chemistry).

Tk. 75.00 (Taka Seventy five) only required through Bank draft/Pay order in favour of Central Non - Public Fund, BAF.

"বাংলার আকাশ রাশিবি মুক্ত"

For further information please contact
 Tel: 888077, 888011
 Ext 4255/5149/5041



DIRECTORATE OF RECRUITMENT BANGLADESH AIR FORCE AIR HEADQUARTERS, DHAKA CANTT.

Exporters, importers worried Congestion fee doubles at Ctg port from tomorrow

By Rafiq Hasan

The exporters and importers are apprehending that they would lose competitiveness as the foreign shipping line operators are going to double the congestion fee on cargo ships arriving at and leaving Chittagong port.

The Singapore-based Feeder Trade Committee (FTC) — a platform of feeder line operators — said that the congestion fees would be increased as the 'port situation deteriorated further' creating severe congestion and regular delay in releasing ships' from the port.

In a notice served on March 1, FTC informed the Chittagong Port Authority and Shippers' Council of Bangladesh (SCB) — an organisation of the importers and exporters regarding use of port — that the decision would be effective from March 8.

As per the decision, the shippers will have to make additional payment of 400 US dollars per 40 feet container instead of 200 dollars earlier

and 200 dollars per 20 feet container instead of 100 dollars.

They have been charging extra congestion fees since May last year.

The feeder line operators also threatened to divert their stranded vessels to other neighbouring ports, not to load cargo for Chittagong port from foreign ports and pull out all their vessels from Chittagong 'if the situation does not improve'.

SCB Chairman M R Ali told The Daily Star that exporters and importers have been victims of this congestion charge which is not due to their fault.

He said 'because of this extra charge, the products — both imported and exported — will be costlier affecting our competitiveness'.

He said the congestion at the port is created due to failure of the port authority to ensure timely loading and unloading of goods. So they should bear the consequence of the delay and provide com-

See Page 12 col 7

METROPOLITAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, DHAKA

Acknowledges with pleasure that a very large number of firms in and around Dhaka have expressed interests in its study — "Losses Suffered by Trade & Industry During the Political Stalemate". It particularly requests business firms outside Dhaka to collect the Questionnaire and participate in the study by sending the requisite information.

Firms outside Dhaka may contact the Chamber Secretariat (Phones: 9565208-10, Fax: 863975, E-mail: sg@mcci.pradeshta.net) to ascertain the points from where copies of the Questionnaire may be collected in Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi.

The Chamber takes this opportunity in reminding all business firms, banks and insurance companies, etc, to kindly return the completed Questionnaire by 10th April, 1996.

D-342