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VOL VI NO. 81 REGD. NO. DA 781

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 5367.35 cr
Transactions in volume 107812
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 Rahim on his assumption of office. In a message yesterday Kumaratunga hoped that under the leadership, Bangladesh would be able to uphold democracy in co-operation with political leaders, reports UNB.

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The Daily Star

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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 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 reaction

adviser of the caretaker government last week.

The names of Justice Naimuddin, Justice Badruddoza and former cabinet secretary Muhibul Haq are being talked about as possible replacement for Justice Sadeque.

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When approached for reaction

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, 4,78,25 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 5,000 students under Dhaka Board, 1,20,000 students under Rajshahi Board, 85,000 under Jessor 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 bomb injuries during a clash between two local groups at Kilar Morn 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 Rohingya 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 Mongdu town, the Myanmar citizens were looking for shelter in the Rohingya 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



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

— Star photo

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 deal with bank loan defaulters from participating in the general elections, the banking system witnessed a substantial loan recovery due to that ordinance.

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 re-

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 importers 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.

See Page 12 Col 3

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

Editorial on Page 4

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

In a 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 Akhlaqur Rahman Chowdhury adjourned the hearing of the Manzur Murder Case, when Advocate Mahbubur Rahman, counsel of Major (retd) 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 (retd) M.

See Page 12 Col 4