

Inside Today

Article

Jumbled Election Scene  
Column : Between the Lines  
by Kuldip Nayar  
Page 4

International

War for Eelam at crossroads as Tamils openly defying LTTE

Legal immigration to US will rise this year  
Page 5

Business

World Bank against govt intervention in fertilizer market

ASEAN to reject linking social issues to trade  
Pages 6, 7

DSF MARKET  
DSE price index 830.50 (+0.64%)  
Market capital Tk 5637.49 cr  
Transactions in volume 294884  
Transactions in value Tk 5.88 cr

Weekend Magazine

Men, women and marriage; Muslim life in India and Pakistan; A guide to beautiful hair; Asian diary  
Pages 13-16  
Teens and Twenties and Rising Stars  
Pages 8, 9

NEWS BRIEFS

CEC may address nation tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent  
Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena is likely to address the nation over radio and television tomorrow, according to sources in the Election Commission (EC).

ALCWC meets today

By Staff Correspondent  
An emergency meeting of the Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC) will be held at 6:30 pm today at Awami Foundation Office at Dhanmondi in the city. AL general secretary Zillur Rahman has requested all members of the ALCWC, who are now available in Dhaka, to attend the meeting, says a party press release.

22 firearms recovered

Police recovered 22 firearms and a large number of ammunition and explosives during the last 24 hours till yesterday evening from various parts of the country. The firearms included one rifle, three revolvers, one single-barrel gun, 3 sawed-off rifles, 12 pipe guns, one shotgun, one LG, 57 bullets and cartridge and 6 bombs and other explosives. Police rounded up 7 people for possessing firearms and explosives and 8 cases were filed against them under Arms and Explosives Act, reports UNB.

Ex-AL leader joins BNP

Former Awami League leader of Jamalpur district Abdul Hye Bacchhu, along with his followers, yesterday joined the BNP. They expressed their solidarity with the ideals of the BNP and lent total support to the leadership of Begum Khaleda Zia. BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Falukdar was present on the occasion, reports BSS.

JU vacation

JAHANGIRNAGAR UNIVERSITY, April 25: The classes of the Jahangirnagar University will remain closed from April 27 to May 5 on the occasion of holy Eid-ul-Azha and May Day. Distribution of admission forms for the 1st year honours classes for the session 1995-96 will also remain stopped during the period. The forms will be available from May 6 to 19. All the examinations will, however, be held as per schedule, announced earlier, reports UNB.



Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman addressing the deputy commissioners and superintendents of police at the International Conference Centre in Dhaka yesterday. — PID photo

## Chief Adviser warns DCs, SPs Cleanse country of illegal arms, or take the blame

We want to see clear results," he said.

"We have to make the society free from terrorism for holding a neutral peaceful election," he said, stressing on strengthening the security system to resist occupation of polling centres, snatching of ballot boxes, casting of false votes and other misdeeds.

He also urged the political parties not to nominate any person involved in terrorism or indulge in acts of terrorism in the next elections.

Addressing the Deputy Commissioners and Police Superintendents at the International Conference Centre (ICC) in Dhaka, Rahman warned that the local administration would be held responsible for any unlawful activity anywhere in the country.

Rahman observed neither the government nor the people expect the administration to solve all the problems of the society during the short tenure of the caretaker government.

They will have to answer why they cannot make their areas terrorism-free. No limp-wristed will be accepted.

"But if the administration advances strictly, the country can be freed from terrorism — the people of the country believe this, we also believe this," he said, adding that the government would collect information about where the armchairists, extortionists and terrorists are making people's life miserable.

The chief adviser, in this context, mentioned that the police authorities had created task force in every district and special task force in every metropolis to recover the illegal arms. A control room has also been set up in the Secretariat to monitor the situation constantly.

Observing that the terrorists often use the name of political parties, Rahman re-

See Page 12 Col 4

### BNP protests transfer of DCs & SPs

By Staff Correspondent  
Secretary General of the BNP Abdus Salam Talukdar yesterday protested the 'massive transfers' of DCs, SPs and TNCs, saying the postings were made at the directive of a government, no matter which party was in power then.

Some (politicians) are speaking of politicisation of the administration during BNP rule but a significant number of civil servants, enjoying their blessings, have been posted as DCs," he said at the regular press briefing at the party's Naya Paltan central office in

See Page 12 Col 2

## PLO declares end to armed struggle against Israel

GAZA CITY, April 25: The PLO on Wednesday declared an end to its 32-year armed struggle against Israel, voting to drop from its charter all references to the destruction of the Jewish state, a spokesman said, reports AFP.

The Palestine National Council (PNC) has decided to amend its charter by annulling all clauses contradicting letters of mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO signed in 1993, PNC president Selim Zaanun told journalists.

The PNC, the PLO's parliament, sat in a special closed door session late Wednesday to vote on amending the 1968 charter which commits the PLO to an armed struggle to liberate all of Palestine.

The session, attended by Palestinian president Yasser Arafat, also ordered the PNC legal committee "to start drafting a new charter to be

put before the PNC's central council at its first meeting after six months," Zaanun said.

Under the autonomy accord with Israel, the PLO had until May 7 to rid the charter of all references to Israel's destruction.

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, facing a tough election battle against conservatives opposed to the Palestinian peace agreements, had insisted on the changes before continuing the peace process.

"We have an agreement and we have fulfilled our part," said Arafat spokesman Marwan Kanafani, even as he insisted, "Israel had nothing to do with the (amendments), this is a Palestinian council."

The amendment passed with 504 votes for, 54 against and 14 abstentions. Zaanun said.

See Page 12 Col 7

## Cattle markets open today

By Staff Correspondent

The 17 sacrificial cattle markets in the city goes into business today as supply of cattlehead to the markets from different areas of the country continued till late last night.

The four-day markets have been set up by the Dhaka City Corporation.

During late afternoon yesterday, many prospective buyers were seen asking about the prices and sellers were also charging a very high price and again the buyers moved from one corner to the other of the markets without going for real bargaining.

At the Hussaini Dalar Road cattle market, a businessman along with his wife and young son was looking for big sized cows. He found two Australian breed cows and the seller asked Tk 45,000 and Tk 35,000.

See Page 12 Col 3

## AL team meets Chief Adviser

By Staff Correspondent  
A three-member delegation of the Awami League called on Chief Adviser Habibur Rahman yesterday to apprise him about the party's concerns on various matters.

The AL delegation included acting President Abdus Samad Azad, party chief Sheikh Sams

Kibria and AL presidium member Amin Hussain Arau, says a party press release.

During their meeting yesterday afternoon, the AL leaders told the Chief Adviser that many transfer orders in the administration have not been effective despite the caretaker government's bid to shape up the administration which, according to them, was politicized by the 'faleen' BNP government.

"We have an agreement and we have fulfilled our part," said Arafat spokesman Marwan Kanafani, even as he insisted, "Israel had nothing to do with the (amendments), this is a Palestinian council."

The amendment passed with 504 votes for, 54 against and 14 abstentions. Zaanun said.

See Page 12 Col 7

## Tk eight lakh snatched from Chinese project team

By Staff Correspondent

An unidentified gang snatched Tk eight lakh from a group of Chinese nationals near the Postogola bridge under Demra thana in the city yesterday afternoon.

The gang intercepted a white microbus of the Chinese nationals who were on their way to Fatullah under Narayanganj district, police said.

The Chinese team, working in a project, earlier withdrew the amount from an ANZ Grindlays bank branch at Motijheel in the city and was going to their project site, police added.

The Project Manager of the China National Overseas Engineering Corporation filed a case with Demra thana in this connection.

Senior police officials were investigating the incident last night, police said.

Our DMCH Correspondent adds: Muggers in two other areas snatched two persons and

See Page 12 Col 7

## KU closed sine die

KULNA, April 25: Kulna University was closed sine die and the residential halls were vacated today, reports UNB.

The move was taken following yesterday's incident in which students kept the Vice Chancellor in confinement at ransacked offices of VC, Regis

Editorial on page 4

some class rooms in protest of the disciplinary action against 13 of their mates.

Witnesses said a huge contingent of police was posted around the residence of the VC and at different strategic points of the university.

Our Correspondent adds: Protesting the authorities decision, the agitating students of the university burnt the e

See Page 12 Col 3

## Sundarbans Fire damaged only 35 acres of shrubs

From Sharier Khan

KULNA, April 25: The fire incident in the Sundarbans has damaged shrubs on an area of only 35 acres, a spot investigation reveals.

The vegetation damage in the fire would not even be worth Tk 2.5 lakh as was earlier feared, Deputy Chief Conservator of the Forest Department (DCCF) Salamat Ali told

See Page 12 Col 2



Jatiya Party acting chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury addressing the participants in the 'mass hunger strike' programme of the party in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

— Star photo

## DCC drive to remove illegal structures soon

By Reaz Ahmad

days.

"Otherwise, we will draft a set of plans to combat this severe menace in the civic life," said Bijon Kanti Sarker, Senior Estate officer of the DCC. He however, could not readily provide any figures about the number of such illegally raised structures.

If the responses were not positive from the illegal occupants, DCC might go for drastic actions with necessary assistance from the office of the Chief Advisor, said another DCC official.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday DCC officials said they were expecting good response from the parties and persons concerned regarding removal of the unauthorized structures within the next 10

See Page 12 Col 8

## Release Ershad on parole: Mizan

Acting Chairman of the Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury yesterday said his party would launch a country-wide mass movement if former President H M Ershad was not released before the coming Eid-ul-Azha, reports BSS.

Chowdhury was addressing as the chief guest at a function organised to express solidarity with their chairman who has been on a hunger strike in jail demanding his immediate release.

A large number of party leaders and workers also observed a token hunger strike in front of the Jatiya Press Club from 10 am to 5 pm.

The acting chairman said Ershad could be released from jail under the existing law. "Ershad can be given bail under the present law of the land," he said.

He said a neutral election  
See Page 12 Col 6

## Inclement weather 2 Biman fights grounded at Ctg Airport

CHITTAGONG, April 25: Two aircraft of Bangladesh Biman were grounded at the Chittagong International Airport due to inclement weather today, reports UNB.

Official sources said F-28, BJO85, landed at the airport with 66 passengers from Bangkok and was scheduled to take off for Dhaka at 8:15 pm. But it remained stuck due to the stormy weather.

The said ATP, BJ 419-A, from Middle East landed at the airport at 7:15 pm and flew at 7:33 pm for Dhaka.

But it had to return to the Chittagong Airport after flying 25 minutes as it failed to land at Dhaka Zia International Airport due to bad weather, the officials said.

He said India would not be like a big brother rather favour cordial relations based on equality and reciprocity.

The opposition leader said India enjoyed its best relations with neighbours when a non-Congress party government, in which he was the foreign minister, was in power in 1977-79.

Vajpayee said he intended to send a 'message of goodwill' to Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto if he became Prime Minister.

Meanwhile, Indian opposition leader and potential prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee today defended his party's pledge to make an atomic bomb and attacked what he called "nuclear apartheid."

India needed to nuclear bomb for its protection, he said.

"Nothing wrong in that..." he told the foreign correspondents club here. "Around India we see a stockpiling of nuclear weapons. China is a nuclear weapon state," he added.

## Imran's political innings begins

LAHORE, April 25: Pakistan's former cricket hero Imran Khan began his political innings today by launching a reform movement to fight corruption and injustice, reports Reuter.

He told a news conference at his home town of Lahore, capital of the central province of Punjab, that he would turn his Tehreek-e-Insaf (Justice Movement) into a political party when he found that the people were inclined to support it.

Imran, a critic of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, said he was launching the movement because he found Pakistan's on the "Brink of Disaster" half a century after its creation from the partition of the Indian subcontinent at independence from Britain in 1947.