

## Parties urged not to involve govt officials in politics

Leaders of Prajatantrik Karimata Samannaya Parishad (coordination council of the officials of the republic) yesterday called upon all political parties to refrain from encouraging government officials in getting involved in party politics, reports BSS.

The parishad leaders in a joint statement said 'We firmly believe that all categories of officers and employees of the republic instead of expressing allegiance to any political party should wholeheartedly cooperate with the (then-party) caretaker government to ensure holding of free and fair elections in an atmosphere free from terrorism.'

Expressing its concern to the reported difficulties faced by the caretaker government in maintaining non-partisan and neutral character, particularly in the recovery of illegal arms for holding neutral election, the leaders said they would soon launch a country-

## Shops, travel agency offices gutted in city

By Staff Correspondent

A fire partially damaged some shops and travel agency offices in Motijheel commercial area in the city yesterday morning.

The fire originated from an electric short-circuit reportedly in an office of a travel agency and spread to the adjacent rooms which houses three offices of other travel agencies and two stationery shops, fire service sources said.

The affected office rooms are located near the WAPDA building at Motijheel, police sources said.

Two vehicles of the Fire Brigade took around half an hour to extinguish the fire, the sources added.

The extent of damage could not be known immediately.

## Fertiliser seized in Nabiganj: 3 arrested

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 25: Two hundred bags of urea fertiliser allotted for the agricultural rehabilitation programme were seized and seven persons were injured at Nabiganj thana headquarters when the fertiliser bags were being smuggled into the black market today.

The thana Nirbahi Officer of Nabiganj of Habiganj district, on getting information, seized five pushcarts carrying 36 bags of urea fertiliser while these were being sent to the black market from the thana Agriculture Office this morning.

He also caught the five persons pulling the carts. Based on their confessional statement, the TNO alongwith police party went to the godown of Iskander Ali and Babul Roy, Manager of Chittagong Ranjan Roy, two fertilizer businessmen in the bazar and seized 164 bags of fertiliser from there. The thana Agriculture Officer, Naren Chandra Pramanik and the two businessmen were also arrested.

A case has been registered in this connection.

## Imran Khan

From Page 1

politicians and the political system and we are announcing this movement to bring a change," he said. "Today marks the beginning of the battle against corruption and injustice," he added.

Imran, 43, who retired from cricket after leading Pakistan to victory in the 1992 World Cup and built a cancer hospital in his mother's memory in Lahore from donations, acknowledged that he had no experience in politics.

## US Visa Centre not US govt body

The Embassy of the United States of America has received many inquiries from citizens of Bangladesh regarding the "US Visa Center" and its offer to assist people with the Diversity Visa Programme. The US Visa Center charges a fee ranging from \$50 to \$125 for its services, says USIS press release.

The Embassy wishes to make clear that the "US Visa Center" is a private company and has no connection whatsoever to the US government. It should not be confused with the National Visa Center, a visa processing facility established by the Department of State and located in the state of New Hampshire.

Reading promotional letters from the "US Visa Center," some people have mistakenly concluded they have become visa lottery "winners." Actually the purpose of the letter is to solicit business clients for the "US Visa Center" which will file an application for the lottery on the client's behalf for the fee.

Information on the Diversity Visa Lottery is distributed by the Embassy through the local media, and anyone may apply for the programme at no charge. There is no need to go through the "US Visa Center" or any other service to make the application.

The registration period for DV-97 ended on March 12 and no further applications will be accepted for this year. No date has been set for DV-98 registration.

wide campaign and movement to facilitate functioning of the caretaker government by discharging its responsibilities independently and impartially.

Referring to a recent meeting between six Prokrishi leaders and BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukdar, the statement expressed surprise that those who have launched a tirade against officers and employees of the republic since March 31, are now encouraging the officials and employees of the republic to express solidarity with the programmes of a particular political party. "This is illegal," the statement added. The statement said this type of dual policy would hamper the holding of election by caretaker government.

The signatories to the statement are Dr. Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, vice president, BCS (Admn) Cadre Association, Eng. Md. Abdul Kashem, vice president Engineers' Institution, Dr. Kazi Shahidul Alam, secretary general, Bangladesh Medical Association and Dr. MA Razzak, secretary general Krishibid Institution. They are also joint convenors of the parishads.

## EC committee to handle media and publicity

By Staff Correspondent

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday formed a 10-member steering committee to implement matters related to the media and publicity during the coming general elections, EC sources said.

The committee, known as the Media and Publicity Steering Committee for the June 1996 Parliamentary Elections, is headed by the Joint Secretary, Administration of the EC Secretariat, A Mannan, as its convenor.

Members include two officials from the BTV, two from the Bangladesh Radio, one from the Directorate of Film and Publications, one from BSS, one from the Department of Mass Communication, one from the PID and one from the External Publicity Wing.

The task of this committee would be to implement decisions made at the EC level in relation to use of the media and publicity for the June parliamentary elections," said an EC source.

## Sundarbans

From Page 1

this correspondent today.

This part of the jungle is known as Katakhuli, a fire-prone area, located 6 km away from the Chandpur Forest Office. The fire broke out on April 10 and was brought under control after three days.

As it was a rare incident rumors spread in the area that the fire was raging across the 5570 sqkm of the world's largest mangrove forest, covered with valuable Sundari and Pashur trees and home of the Royal Bengal Tiger.

Forest officials suspect that the fire might have originated from honey collectors who often use fire to collect honey from small bee hives in the area.

Katakhuli is located near a dried up river in the forest.

The actual splendour of the Sundarbans is not available in this part of the forest. Therefore, the fire did not harm the valuable trees," said Deputy Conservator Mosharraf Hosain, who also heads a three-member committee to probe the fire incident.

Some 100 workers and about 60 employees of the Forest Department with the help of the local people extinguished the fire, he said.

## BNP protests

From Page 1

the city.

"The present government is far away from reality if it intends to hold a free and fair election with the help of civil servants who spoke from the dais of a political party and joined procession under the banner of that party," he said. How can neutrality be expected from such officials? he questioned.

Criticising the on-going transfers and postings of government officials, Salam Talukdar claimed that there was instance of transfer of a government official only 10 days after he was posted and said such action had already destabilised administration.

The Chief Adviser must consider the neutrality of an official before posting him to a key-position in the administration," he asserted.

The BNP Secretary General also said that leaders of Islami Shasantrana Andolan and some other Islamic parties met the BNP Chairperson at the party office yesterday noon and expressed their willingness to work with BNP in the coming general elections.

When his attention was drawn to press report yesterday that BNP's attempt to unite the nationalist forces had failed, Talukdar said "The nationalist forces were meeting us every day and exchanging opinions with us. The process of unity is going to succeed."

The BNP is awaiting announcement of the election schedule to start its election activities, he told another questioner.

As regards recovery of illegal arms, he said the drive will succeed provided neutrality of the authorities concerned is maintained strictly.

Preparations for a sacrificial cattle market in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

## Cattle markets

From Page 1

80,000 for each of them. He bargained at the Tk 20,000-25,000 range, but the seller nodded his head in rejection.

As the buyer and the seller were approached by this correspondent separately, the buyer said, "I am just taking a note of the market mood today, I will buy later." In a similar tone the seller also said that he would stick to demanding a high price till the last day of trading. "There is no hurry," said the seller.

Visiting some cattle markets and talking to a number of sellers, this correspondent got an impression that the price position of this year's Eid cattle market would not settle down until today when more supply of cattlehead from remote areas are expected.

Members include two officials from the BTV, two from the Bangladesh Radio, one from the Directorate of Film and Publications, one from BSS, one from the Department of Mass Communication, one from the PID and one from the External Publicity Wing.

The task of this committee would be to implement decisions made at the EC level in relation to use of the media and publicity for the June parliamentary elections," said an EC source.

## China, Russia sign jt communique

From Page 1

BEIJING, Apr 25: China and Russia signed today a joint communique on a strategic partnership as well as 11 government agreements and two accords at the ministerial level, reports Reuter.

A keynote treaty between Russia, China and the three former Soviet republics of Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan on confidence-building and security measures along their common borders will be signed in Shanghai on Friday.

KU closed

From Page 1

figy of the Vice Chancellor in front of Press Club at noon and demanded his immediate removal.

They also declared seven teachers of the varsity as persona non grata and decided to boycott classes and all examinations until the disciplinary actions against all 13 students was withdrawn.

Meanwhile, a huge contingent of police was deployed around the residence of the Vice-Chancellor and at some strategic points of the varsity.

## Gunfight leaves 11 injured in Maheshkhali

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Apr 25: Eleven people, eight of them women, received bullet injuries in a gunfight between two rival groups at Kutubjheel village under Maheshkhali thana here this morning.

The two rival groups equipped with fire arms traded gunshots for about an hour from around 10 am over occupation of a grocery shop in the village, witnesses said.

According to the local vil-

agers, one Ramak Pasha had previous enmity with one Md Ali of the same village over taking occupation of the shop.

Maheshkhali thana police visited the village after the incident, but no arrests were made.

Of the bullet hits, Shahed, 22, Nur Ayesha, 25, Banu, 35, and Sufia Khatun, 50, were rushed to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital while the other injured were admitted to the Maheshkhali thana health complex.

According to the recent changes in the administration, he said the government has brought about the changes after a thorough scrutiny. "It will not be fair to impose any fault or credit on the past government or any government officials for the changes. This is not a rectification process, it is not to undermine anybody."

Referring to the recent changes in the administration, he said the government has brought about the changes after a thorough scrutiny. "It will not be fair to impose any fault or credit on the past government or any government officials for the changes. This is not a rectification process, it is not to undermine anybody."

Later, the Chief Adviser had an open discussion with the officials.

The Chief Adviser pointed out that most of the people in the country were living in an absolute poverty. The government officials and employees who get a fixed amount from the exchequer will put their best effort to ensure a peaceful life for this poor, but laborious people, he said.

Referring to the government's commitment to maintain democracy and rule of law, he said patience and tolerance at the highest order were needed to continue the rule of law in a democratic environment and sustainable development.

He hoped the next elected government would take steps to separate the judiciary from executive and carry out reforms in the legal structure to ensure rule of law.

The Chief Adviser pointed out that most of the people in the country were living in an absolute poverty. The government officials and employees who get a fixed amount from the exchequer will put their best effort to ensure a peaceful life for this poor, but laborious people, he said.

He said the party was not demanding unconditional release of the former president, he said: "We will carry on with the cases framed against him," adding "we want his release before the holy Eid-ul Azha."

The Chief Adviser also said that the party was not demanding unconditional release of the former president, he said: "We will carry on with the cases framed against him," adding "we want his release before the holy Eid-ul Azha."

The Chief Adviser also said that the party was not demanding unconditional release of the former president, he said: "We will carry on with the cases framed against him," adding "we want his release before the holy Eid-ul Azha."

The Chief Adviser also said that the party was not demanding unconditional release of the former president, he said: "We will carry on with the cases framed against him," adding "we want his release before the holy Eid-ul Azha."

The Chief Adviser also said that the party was not demanding unconditional release of the former president, he said: "We will carry on with the cases framed against him," adding "we want his release before the holy Eid-ul Azha."

The Chief Adviser also said that the party was not demanding unconditional release of the former president, he said: "We will carry on with the cases framed against him," adding "we want his release before the holy Eid-ul Azha."

The Chief Adviser also said that the party was not demanding unconditional release of the former president, he said: "We will carry on with the cases framed against him," adding "we want his release before the holy Eid-ul Azha."

The Chief Adviser also said that the party was not demanding unconditional release of the former president, he said: "We will carry on with the cases framed against him," adding "we want his release before the holy Eid-ul Azha."

The Chief Adviser also said that the party was not demanding unconditional release of the former president, he said: "We will carry on with the cases framed against him," adding "we want his release before the holy Eid-ul Azha."

The Chief Adviser also said that the party was not demanding unconditional release of the former president, he said: "We will carry on with the cases framed against him," adding "we want his release before the holy Eid-ul Azha."

The Chief Adviser also said that the party was not demanding unconditional release of the former president, he said: "We will carry on with the cases framed against him," adding "we want his release before the holy Eid-ul Azha."

The Chief Adviser also said that the party was not demanding unconditional release of the former president, he said: "We will carry on with the cases framed against him," adding "we want his release before the holy Eid-ul Azha."

The Chief Adviser also said that the party was not demanding unconditional release of the former president, he said: "We will carry on with the cases framed against him," adding "we want his release before the holy Eid-ul Azha."

The Chief Adviser also said that the party was not demanding unconditional release of the former president, he said: "We will carry on with the cases framed against him," adding "we want his release before the holy Eid-ul Azha."

The Chief Adviser also said that the party was not demanding unconditional release of the former president, he said: "We will carry on with the cases framed against him," adding "we want his release before the holy Eid-ul Azha."

The Chief Adviser also said that the party was not demanding unconditional release of the former president, he said: "We will carry on with the cases framed against him," adding "we want his release before the holy Eid-ul Azha."

The Chief Adviser also said that the party was not demanding unconditional release of the former president, he said: "We will carry on with the cases framed against him," adding "we want his release before the holy Eid-ul Azha."

The Chief Adviser also said that the party was not demanding unconditional release of the former president, he said: "We will carry on with the cases framed against him," adding "we want his release before the holy Eid-ul Azha."

The Chief Adviser also said that the party was not demanding unconditional release of the former president, he said: "We will carry on with the cases framed against him," adding "we want his release before the holy Eid-ul Azha."

The Chief Adviser also said that the party was not demanding unconditional release of the former president, he said: "We will carry on with the cases framed against him," adding "we want his release before the holy Eid-ul Azha."

The Chief Adviser also said that the party was not demanding unconditional release of the former president, he said: "We will carry on with the cases framed against him," adding "we want his release before the holy Eid-ul Azha."

The Chief Adviser also said that the party was not demanding unconditional release of the former president, he said: "We will carry on with the cases framed against him," adding "we want his release before the holy Eid-ul Azha."

The Chief Adviser also said that the party was not demanding unconditional release of the former president, he said: "We will carry on with the cases framed against him," adding "we want his release before the holy Eid-ul Azha."

The Chief Adviser also said that the party was not demanding unconditional release of the former president, he said: "We will carry on with the cases framed against him," adding "we want his release before the holy Eid-ul Azha."