

Eid Greetings

The Daily Star
wishes its readers,
patrons and well-
wishers a happy
Eid-ul-Azha.

Inside Today
Article

Don't be Wobbly
When it's Time to
be Firm and Swift
Column: On The Record
by Shah A M S Kibria
Page 4

Focus
Law & Our Rights
The dilemma of Article 70;
and Campus: The theatre
of violence
Page 5

International
Troops capture major
LTTE supply route
in Jaffna

Indians begin voting in
general election
Page 8

Business
Ads for recruiting
workers in Kuwait
spark off confusion
among job seekers
Foreign investment
flow will depend on
nature of coalition govt,
observe Indian analysts
Pages 6, 7

DSE MARKET

DSE price index	834.94 (+0.53%)
Market capital Tk	9667.83 cr
Transactions in volume	259059
Transactions in value Tk	5.75 cr

Metropolitan
Dhaka Day by Day
The Power of Words
Page 3

Holiday
The offices of The Daily Star
will remain closed from April 28
to May 1 on the occasions of
Eid-ul-Azha and May Day.
Therefore, there will be no
issue of the newspaper from
April 29 to May 2.

NEWS BRIEFS
Businessman
robbed
By DMCH Correspondent
A businessman was stabbed
and robbed by a group of mug-
gers at Kawran Bazar area yes-
terday morning. Witnesses said
the muggers stabbed Habibur
Rahman Nantu, 30 and
snatched Tk 35,000 from him
at Kawran Bazar area at about
9:30 am. He was later admitted
to Dhaka Medical College Hos-
pital.

CEC asks parties to strictly abide by code of conduct

Jatiya Sangsad polls June 12

Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena yesterday called upon all political parties to cooperate with the Election Commission in holding a peaceful, free, fair and credible election, reports UNB.

Addressing the nation over radio and television in the evening, the CEC announced that the parliamentary polls will be held on June 12 and the last date for filing nomination papers is May 12.

He hoped that the contesting parties will inspire their candidates and activists to strictly abide by the electoral code of conduct to enable the voters to exercise their right of franchise to make the election meaningful.

"The precondition to free and fair election is an atmosphere favourable to polling, and we are determined to maintain that atmosphere at any cost," Abu Hena said.

"If we are unable to maintain that atmosphere all our

preparations for holding free and fair election will be dashed to the ground."

The CEC pointed out that peaceful holding of election would be impeded not only by rigging and armed terrorism, but verbal abuses might also stand in its way.

He underlined the importance of giving top priority to the code of conduct hammered out on the basis of dis-

ciplines with the political parties.

This code of conduct is aimed at discouraging provocative statements and incitement to violence."

The CEC, however, stated that if there is lack of goodwill no law can "disinfect the mind and refine the conduct."

He called for concerted efforts against arms, black money, muscle power, region-

alism and communalism so that they might not vitiate the electoral process.

Abu Hena said recovery of unauthorised arms and improvement of law and order should be given top priority because these are essential preconditions to a free and fair polls.

The peace-loving citizens are deeply concerned with the current trend of violating law

and order, and display of arms, he said. "It has become imperative to arrest the holders of illegal arms and the *mastans*, and recover unauthorised arms from them irrespective of their party affiliations."

The Chief Election Commissioner said steps would have to be taken against all miscreants without showing any mercy, regardless of their party affiliations. "Otherwise, it

will not be possible for anyone to cast his vote without fear."

He called upon the law enforcing agencies of the government to play a bold and effective role in this regard and urged them to make all-out efforts with sincerity and dedication to make the election a success.

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No unrest was reported during the ceremonies.

Saudi Arabia, whose oil wealth has transformed it from a desert sheikdom to a modern state in the past half century, goes to great length to ensure a trouble-free Hajj.

It invests millions of dollars every year to build new roads, provide comfortable accommodations and increase the capacity of the holy shrines in Makkah and Medina.

For the past two weeks, it took out radio, television and newspaper advertisements to exhort pilgrims to obey instructions on traffic and health and to respect Saudi laws.

At least 2,000 pilgrims have lost their lives in stampedes, fires and clashes during Hajj in the past 10 years.

Saudi authorities say the Hajj should be a purely religious affair and not a venue to air political views.



CEC addressing the nation over Radio, TV

'Stopping smuggling of ammunition vital for effective arms recovery'

By Masud Arif and Mizan Ali

Checking smuggling of ammunition into the country and pilferage of some varieties of imported industrial chemicals are very important alongside recovery of illegal arms to make the on-going drive effective, according to highly placed police sources.

"It is very easy to manufacture a pipegun in a leather machine. Such lethal weapons are manufactured depending mainly on extensive supply of bullets smuggled into the country," one police official said.

The ammunition reach the country through an organised network of smugglers in the border areas, he said.

"The basic ingredients for crude bombs and 'crackers' reach the terrorists mainly through pilferage from the authorised imports of raw mate-

Over 2m perform Hajj

MANAMA, Bahrain, Apr 27: More than 2 million Muslims converged Saturday on Mount Arafat outside the holy city of Makkah to pray where Prophet Mohammed (SM), the 7th-century founder of the faith, delivered his last sermon, reports AP.

The gathering, on the most sacred day of the Islamic calendar, marks the climax of the annual pilgrimage, or hajj, to Makkah, a duty for every able-bodied Muslim to perform at least once in a lifetime.

State-run Saudi television, in live coverage from Mount Arafat, showed the pilgrims, all in seamless white garb, chanting in unison: "I have answered You call, O Lord. There is no God but you."

Many used umbrellas to protect themselves from a scorching sun and temperatures of 36 degree Celsius (97 Fahrenheit) as they walked on the mountain. In the plains below, buses and police cars slowly moved through the masses of pilgrims.

No unrest was reported during the ceremonies.

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Eid-ul-Azha tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

The holy Eid-ul-Azha, the second biggest religious festival of the Muslims, will be celebrated throughout the country tomorrow.

The Muslims in the country as elsewhere will sacrifice domestic animals on the occasion, commemorating the noble example set by Hazrat Ibrahim (RA) who wanted to sacrifice his son Hazrat Ismail at the will of Allah.

Meanwhile, people in their tens of thousands started leaving the city since Thursday for home to celebrate the Eid with their near and dear ones.

The three-day Eid holiday begins today followed by May Day and Buddha Purnima holidays on May 1 and 2 respectively.

There has already been a cattle-buying spree in the city's temporary cattle markets.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas, in a message on the eve of the Eid-ul-Azha, said the occasion reminds the ability to make any sacrifice for the satisfaction of the Almighty and teaches that the most precious and the most valuable can be sacrificed in the name of Allah in this mundane life.

See Page 12 Col 3

2000 vehicles still stranded at 3 ghats

MANIKGANJ, Apr 27: Traffic congestion due to Eid vacation rush at Aricha, Nagarbari and Daulatdia ghats started improving but about two thousand vehicles still remained stranded, reports UNB.

The slight improvement was due to scaled-up effort to ferry the stranded vehicles during the last 24 hours till this noon.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) sources said during the period, 2,777 vehicles were ferried against 1700 in the previous day.

But, they said, the congestion created during the last three days crippling the communications between the capital and 36 northern and southern districts was yet to be cleared.

The traffic jam was created due to rush of passengers bound for home to spend their Eid holidays.

Some 690 vehicles were stranded in Aricha-Nagarbari, 415 in Nagarbari-Aricha, 270 in Aricha-Daulatdia and 380 in Daulatdia-Aricha routes.

Violence marks first day of Indian polls

NEW DELHI, Apr 27: Nearly 100 million Indians voted today in the first leg of general elections as the ruling Congress (I) Party and its Hindu nationalist opponents both predicted victory in a neck-and-neck contest, reports AFP.

Scattered violence marred the balloting, and 12 people were reported killed when a bomb ripped through a state-run bus in the industrial town of Modinagar, some 50 kilometers (31 miles) northwest of New Delhi.

Twenty-four people were injured in the bomb explosion at Modinagar in Uttar Pradesh state, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said, but it was not immediately clear if the blast was linked to the elections.

A red alert was sounded in Uttar Pradesh, which goes to the polls early next month, and state police chief SK Rizvi said a "terrorist hand could not be ruled out."

Elsewhere, sporadic violence was reported as election officials said around 60 per cent of the 160 million people

BNP invites applications for nomination

By Staff Correspondent

Application forms for seeking BNP nomination for the June 12 Jatiya Sangsad elections would be available at the party's Naya Paltan central office in the capital on May 1, said party press release last night.

The applications are to be submitted to the party office on May 2 and 3.

Interviews of the nomination-seekers from Dhaka and Chittagong divisions would be held on May 4. Sylhet and Barisal divisions on May 5 and those from Khulna and Rajshahi divisions on May 6.

Earlier, briefing newsmen, BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukdar hailed the announcement of election schedule for the seventh Jatiya Sangsad.

He, however, said that the June 12 polling day would be inconvenient for the political parties, candidates, voters and others concerned because of rains, cyclones and tornadoes are usual in that month.

"Communications in the rural

BNP, AL to hold rallies in city on same date at same venue

By Staff Correspondent

Both the BNP and Awami League yesterday announced programmes for holding public meetings at the Manik Mia Avenue in the city on the same date, June 10.

The programmes made public through party press releases, followed the Election Commission's announcement of the schedule for the seventh Jatiya Sangsad elections yesterday evening, fixing June 12 as the polling date.

Insiders said announcement of the election schedule prompted the two leading parties to choose June 10 for their last public meetings at the sprawling Manik Mia Avenue, the largest venue in the city for holding such meetings.

As per election rules, campaigning is banned 48 hours before the polling starts. The press release was distributed to newsmen during a press briefing by BNP secretary general Abdus Salam Talukdar at the party office at about 8 pm.

The BNP press release fixed the timing of its meeting at 3 in the afternoon. Talukdar also mentioned about his party's June 10 public meeting programme in the briefing.

The AL press release, received at The Daily Star office around the same time, did not mention the time for its meeting. However, a spokesman at

67 returning, 506 asstt returning officers appointed

The Election Commission (EC) has appointed 67 Returning Officers and 506 Assistant Returning Officers to conduct the June 12 general election in the country's 300 constituencies, reports UNB.

According to a gazette notification published here yesterday, the Additional Divisional Commissioner of Dhaka has been appointed as Returning Officer for the eight constituencies of Dhaka metropol-

The Additional Divisional Commissioner (General) of Barisal has been appointed the Returning Officer for the constituencies of Pirojpur and Barisal, and the Additional Divisional Commissioner (General) of Dhaka for the constituencies of Netrakona and Mymensingh.

Besides, the Deputy Co-

Applications for AL nominations invited

Intending candidates seeking nominations from the Bangladesh Awami League for the coming parliamentary elections have been asked to collect and submit their application forms on May 1 and 2 to the party's central office in Dhaka, reports BSS.

Each application form costs Taka 500 properly filled up forms should be submitted along with two passport size photographs of the candidate and Taka 5000 in cash, a press release of the party said here yesterday.

The Awami League Parliamentary Board headed by the party chief Sheikh Hasina will start taking interviews of the candidates from May 4 at the party's central office at 23, Bangabandhu Avenue in the city, the press release said.

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন
নগর ভবন, ঢাকা

আপনার শিককে টিকা দিন
আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিষ্কার রাখুন

কোরবানীর পশু জবাই প্রসংগে

- ★ যেখানে সেখানে পশু জবাই করলে পশুর রক্ত ও বর্জ্য পরিবেশ দূর্ণক্রম্য এবং দূষিত করে, মশা, মাছির উপদ্রব বৃদ্ধি পায়।
- ★★ নালা নদীময় পশুর রক্ত ও অন্যান্য বর্জ্য না ফেলার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।
- ★★★ ১৫' x ১৫' x ১১/২' গভীর গর্ত করে সেখানে পশু জবাই করে রক্ত মাটি ঢালা দিন।
- ★★★★ পশু জবায়োর অন্যান্য বর্জ্য নিকটস্থ ডাঙরি/নির্ধারিত স্থানে ফেলুন।
- ★★★★★ নগরীর সুস্থ পরিবেশ ও পরিষ্কৃততা বজায় রাখার স্বার্থে নগরবাসীর সহযোগিতা

কর্তৃপক্ষের নির্দেশক্রমে-
প্রধান স্বাস্থ্য কর্মকর্তা
ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা।

WB report on reforming public sector
Official Secrets Act should be amended

Star Report

The World Bank (WB) has recommended that serious consideration be given to amending the Official Secrets Act and the Government Servants Conduct Rules (GSCR) of 1979 to encourage and legitimise the flow of information between the state and the citizens for effective governance.

"One of the keys to empowering citizens and to a more effective government is openness and transparency," said a recent study by the WB titled "Government that works: Reforming the public sector" in Bangladesh. "At present, public administration in Bangladesh is peculiarly opaque," it added.

The unique feature of the report is that it is home-grown and a group of Bangladeshi resource persons studied the key issues of public sector to find ways of enhancing the quality of functioning of the sector, a source concerned pointed out.

About the functioning of the bureaucracy, the report stated that "bureaucrats are obsessed with secrecy and are unwilling to divulge to the public any information - however routine or innocuous - on the ground that the Official Secrets Act and GSCR forbid them to pass information to even other government departments."

The WB observes that the closed nature of the government that lacks openness and transparency affects empowering of the citizens.

The report suggested five measures to improve the situation: Announcing a public policy on transparency, establishing a task force on public sector transparency, making contract evaluation reports available to public, publishing the earnings and tax payments of all elected officials as reported in tax returns and enhancing dissemination of information and reports through the media and parliament.

The Bank says the media and parliament should be regularly provided with annual and external audit reports of public

ঐশ্বর্য প্রদত্ত সুবিধাদি

- বর্তমানে ঐশ্বর্য প্রদত্ত সুবিধাদি ৬ প্রকারে ভাগ করা হয়েছে।
- ১লা জানুয়ারী '৯৬ থেকে সুদের হার ১% কমিয়ে টাকা ও চট্টগ্রাম মহানগরীতে ১১% ও অন্যান্য অঞ্চলে ৯% করা হয়েছে।
- নিয়মিত কৃষি পরিশোধকারীদের বছরান্তে প্রাপ্য ইনসেন্টিভ ১০% থেকে ১৫%-এ উন্নীত করা হয়েছে।
- কৃষি পরিশোধ শুরু হওয়ার বর্তমান মেয়াদ (মক্বেটোরিয়াম পরিষদ) ২ মাসের স্থলে ১২ মাসে উন্নীত করা হয়েছে।
- প্রচলিত পদ্ধতির পাশাপাশি আঞ্জুয়েশন পদ্ধতিতে (প্রথম পর্যায়ে কম হারে) কৃষি পরিশোধের সুযোগ চালু করা হয়েছে।

সময়মত কৃষি পরিশোধ করে নিজে লাভবান হোন
আইনগত সমস্যা এড়িয়ে চলুন
এবং অপরকে ঋণ পাবার সুযোগ দিন

বাংলাদেশ হাউস বিল্ডিং ফাইন্যান্স কর্পোরেশন