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Syndrome Bangladesh

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by Waliur Rahman

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Construction work of Shahjalal Fertiliser Complex yet to begin

Most Asia-Pacific units end week stronger against dollar

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DSE MARKET

DSE price index 844.57 (+0.41%)
Market capital Tk 5784.55 cr
Transactions in volume 254916
Transactions in value Tk 554 cr

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NEWS BRIEFS

Special DU Senate session today

By DU Correspondent

A special session of the Dhaka University Senate will be held at 3:30 pm today with Vice Chancellor Prof. Md. Emdadul Ahmed in the chair, according to official sources. The special meeting has been convened by the VC, who is the president of the Senate, following requests from some 32 pro-Awami League senators.

First Hajj return flight arrives

The first return flight of Bangladeshis Biman arrived in Dhaka yesterday from Jeddah with 301 ballot-hajis. An official handout said 7,721 pilgrims went to Saudi Arabia under government management this year. Biman will operate 26 flights up to May 23 to bring them home, reports UNB.

Akhtaruzzaman granted bail

From Our Correspondent KISHOREGANJ, May 5: Major (retd) Akhtaruzzaman, a former MP of BNP, was released on bail today. The party workers accorded a reception to Akhtaruzzaman in the jail gate. The former MP, along with two other party activists, were taken into custody following an untoward incident over the arrest of a Juba Dhal leader last Wednesday.

Mosharraf joins BNP

Former industries secretary Mosharraf Hossain yesterday formally joined the BNP by presenting a bouquet to BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia at party election office at Kakrail in the city. Former deputy prime minister Jamaluddin Ahmed and BNP Joint Secretary General Abdullah Al Norman were also present. reports BSS.

No ID card needed to cast vote

Voters will not require the voters' identity cards to cast votes in the coming elections, an Election Commission press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

The press release said the President had postponed the operation of the act formulated earlier requiring the voters to cast vote with identity cards through promulgating an ordinance on April 25 last.

Now any person would be able to cast his vote in the elections only if his or her name is enlisted on the voters list of the respective areas, the press release added.

Polling expenditure

The Election Commission yesterday also asked the contenders of the coming parliamentary polls to submit the description of possible sources of their polling expenditure

within seven days of the date set for withdrawal of candidature.

Following statements are to be made in the description:

1. The sources of personal income which would be expended for polling.

2. The amount of money to be provided by the relatives as debt, donation or voluntary subscription and the sources of income of the relatives concerned.

3. The amount of money to be provided by any institution, political party or any organisation as voluntary subscription.

5. The possible amount of money to be provided by any other sources.

According to the Representation of Public Order

1972, the contending candidates will have to submit the return of their annual income and expenditure in the prescribed form.

If the candidate is an income tax payer, he will have to submit a copy of the income tax return submitted last time along with the statement. A copy of this statement (to be submitted to the respective returning officers) will have to be sent by post to the Election Commission.

The EC warned that if any contender spends money from any sources other than mentioned in the descriptions, and violate the concerned by-laws of the Representation of Public Order, will be accused of corruption and liable to be sentenced for minimum two years and maximum seven years of rigorous imprisonment or together with fine.

According to the EC sources, the EEC, in turn will conduct its investigation into the complaint. And after completion of the investigation, the EEC will submit its report to the Task Force, the sources said.

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More EC bodies to check irregularities

By Staff Correspondent

The Election Commission (EC) has set up two more bodies in addition to the existing Electoral Enquiry Committee (EEC) to check the irregularities during the coming parliamentary elections, EC sources said.

A four-member Task Force and an Observation Committee were set up at the EC Secretariat and in the field level respectively, the sources said.

One or more observation committees will be set up in every district. After detecting irregularities the committees will immediately inform the EEC, set up at every district headquarters.

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Interview concludes AL may announce list of candidates on Thursday

By Reaz Ahmad

same day.

Awami League is likely to announce on May 9 the names of 300 party candidates for the seventh parliamentary elections, according to party sources.

The sources hinted yesterday that the AL Parliamentary Board which interviewed 1485 nomination seekers in the last two days was expected to finalise the list of nominees for all the 300 seats of the Jatiya Sangsads by May 8 and make it public on the following day.

The sources further told this correspondent that there was a strong possibility of announcement of the election manifesto of the party on the

A total of 310 aspirants
See Page 12 Col 6

HSC exams date may be shifted

By Staff Correspondent The Higher Secondary Examinations (HSC) due to begin from June 6, is likely to be rescheduled, according to an authoritative source in the education ministry.

The new schedule will be decided today at a high-level meeting here with Prof. Shamul Haq, Adviser for Education, Youth and Sports in the chair which will be attended by the chairmen of all the five education boards in the country.

The examination date is being refined taking into consideration the June 12 general elections, the source said. "The fresh date will be announced after consulting the people who organise it," he said.

When contacted chairman of Dhaka Board Prof. Moazzuddin Ahmed said that the Adviser had called him for a meeting in which the date of HSC examinations would also be discussed.

This year, for the first time in the country, the HSC examinations will be held with uniform set of questions for all the five education boards, the source pointed out.

BB advice to redeem matured govt bonds with interests

Bangladesh Bank has advised individuals and institutions, including banks, holding matured government bonds to place claims for redemption, reports UNB.

The central bank, in a press release yesterday, said the matured bonds should be submitted to the banks from which those had been purchased for redemption alongwith interest.

The advice came apparently following a report published in a national daily saying that the government was defaulting on payment of interests and principal of its bonds.

According to the daily, the government issued investment bonds worth Tk 1500 crore during 1993 and 1994 to draw domestic funds for some priority projects. Various commercial banks bought the lion's share of those bonds.

BNP did a lot for people, says Khaleda

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday said there is no alternative to BNP to deliver service to the people and ensure development of the country, reports UNB.

Talking to newsmen at the party's Kakrail office, she hoped that her party 'will do better' in the coming election due to her government's success in achieving progress and prosperity of the country during its five-year rule.

The former Prime Minister said the people would reject those who resigned from the parliament without completing their full term. The people had elected them for five years, she said.

Begum Zia claimed that the BNP had done a lot for the welfare of the people against the politics of destruction and anarchy of different political parties.

Referring to the 170 days of hartal and non-cooperation movement by three political parties, she said, "We have earned the confidence of the people by carrying on the development works despite anarchy let loose by those parties across the country."

The BNP chairperson expressed her gratitude to the people for standing by her party in countering the conspiracy to destroy BNP.

She called upon the people to rally round BNP which, she said, is the main platform of the nationalistic forces.

Hearing of Ershad's appeal today

The hearing of former President Hossain Mohammad Ershad's appeal against the judgement of special tribunal, Dhaka, in Janata Tower Case was adjourned till today before a High Court division bench, reports BSS.

Another appeal-hearing of Ershad against the judgement of Special Division Judge, Dhaka, in the corruption case was adjourned till July 5, 1996 before the same division bench.

Both the cases were adjourned on the prayer of H M Ershad's lawyers, senior Advocate Abdul Malek and senior Advocate Khondker Mahbub Hossain.

Deputy Attorney General Amirul Kabir Chowdhury appeared for the state.



Party nomination seekers and their supporters crowding the premises of the Awami League central office at Bangabandhu Avenue (top) and BNP office at Kakrail (bottom) in the city yesterday

— Star photo

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WB study on reforming public sector

Increased efficiency needed to get out of low growth trap

Star Report

The country needs to significantly improve the performance of its public sector to get out of the persisting low growth trap, observed a World Bank study on the functioning of the government.

It reiterated that the public sector's range of functioning should be restrained to core areas where others are not prominently active, because an overextended government can not be efficient.

Improving the level and nature of accountability and responsiveness of public sector agencies to citizens was also stressed.

"A government and public institutions accountable to their owners work better," the study noted.

WB study observed.

It also said the regulations, laws and processes through which the government interacts and regulates the citizens and private sector should be streamlined. The level of transparency, fairness and automaticity of the legal and regulatory institutions, policies and practices, have a major bearing on the efficiency of the government.

The rules and processes by which the government conducts its policy and decision-making functionings should also be overhauled since sound policy formulation, its effective implementation and speedy and transparent decision-making, are hallmarks of an efficient government, the study noted.

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Chechens down Russian plane

reports, it was the fifth Russian warplane shot down in Chechnya since the war there began in December 1994.

The rebels also appeared to intensify their attacks across the breakaway republic.

The Russian military command reported nearly 30 shooting attacks on its forces in Grozny, the ruined Chechen capital, and elsewhere in Chechnya since late Saturday.

In Grozny yesterday, rebels armed with automatic weapons attacked the Russian Interior

Ministry building, setting off a two-hour firefight in which they killed a Russian officer.

In a separate ambush, a Russian armoured personnel carrier exploded on a land mine planted on the outskirts of Grozny yesterday. No casualties were reported.

"A real cannonade that could be compared to the first days of the armed conflict in Grozny was heard in the Chechen capital throughout the night," the ITAR-Tass