

## Magazine

Who is going to win the race for power?

Read the analytical cover story of the Star Magazine today.

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20 BCIC units produce  
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1275.80cr in 11 months  
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### DSE MARKET

DSE price index 886.33 (+0.66%)  
Market capital Tk 6016.17 cr  
Transactions in volume 163635  
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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Court holiday

### June 12

Bangladesh Supreme Court and all lower courts and their offices will remain closed on June 12 on the occasion of national election. The Chief Justice yesterday announced the holiday for both the divisions of the Supreme Court, its offices, lower courts and their offices. said an official handout, reports UNB.

### Peace procession in city today

Citizens for Democracy, Bangladesh will bring out a peace procession today to create public awareness for maintaining peace on June 12, said a press release yesterday. The procession will start at 9 am from the National Press Club. All citizens have been requested to participate in the procession, reports BSS.

### Arms smuggler held in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, June 6: Detectives of Chittagong Metropolitan Police arrested one Mohammad Ilyas, an alleged arms smuggler from a shop at Agrabad here yesterday. According to DB sources today, Mohammad Ilyas was wanted on charges of illegal arms deal in the border areas of the country.

### Postal holiday

The post offices throughout the country will remain closed on June 12 on the occasion of the parliamentary election. But the post offices which have GEP/EMS services will remain open to continue the services, said an official handout yesterday.

## ADB study reveals

# Urban poverty goes up by 14pc in 5 yrs

By R M Titumir

A country-wide sample survey, conducted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), has revealed an escalation of urban poverty by more than 14 per cent over the last five years.

The final draft of the 'Study of Urban Poverty in Bangladesh' showed that 61.30 per cent of the urban population were below the 'absolute' poverty line while 40.20 per cent fell below the 'hardcore' poverty line. The corresponding figures for 1991 were 46.70 and 26.2 respectively.

The study measured poverty line based on income/

expenditure related to daily normative calorie intake plus 25 per cent adjustment for non-food items. The absolute poverty line was determined at Taka 3,500 per household per month with Taka 2,500 as the poverty line for the hardcore poor.

The questionnaire was administered to a 'nationally representative' sample of 3,000 households from Dhaka, three other metropolitan cities (Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi), four secondary towns (Barisal, Sylhet, Dinajpur and Tangail) and two thana towns (Habiganj and Pangsha).

The study measured poverty line based on income/

During the last five years, only 26 per cent of the households perceived their economic condition to have improved, for another 26 per cent situation had remained the same while for 47 per cent the status had worsened, the other one per cent was uncertain about any change.

Nearly 21 per cent of the households believed that their economic condition had improved over that of their parents, but 56 per cent said it had worsened, for the rest it either had remained the same or uncertain.

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### Sending of ballot papers to be completed today

The despatching of the ballot papers to the districts will be completed today as the nation goes to the polls next week, reports UNB.

Officials said on the second day yesterday of the three-day process of sending ballots, the Election Commission handed over the papers to representatives of 26 districts.

It will send ballot papers to nine nearest districts, including Dhaka, today completing despatch of all election materials for the June 12 polling.

The districts which received ballot papers yesterday are: Sirajganj, Pabna, Meherpur, Kushtia, Chuadanga, Jhenaidah, Jessore, Magura, Narail, Khulna, Tangail, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Rajbari, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Madaripur, Sharifpur, Sylhet, Comilla, Chandpur, Feni, Noakhali, Laxmipur, Chittagong and Cox's Bazar.

Earlier on Wednesday, ballot papers were sent to 29 districts, Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur, Kurgam, Gaibandha, Joypurhat, Bogra, Nawabganj, Naogaon, Rajshahi, Natore, Bagerhat, Sylhet, Barguna, Patuakhali, Bhola, Barisal, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Sunamganj, Moulibazar, Habiganj, Brahmanbaria, Khagrachari, Rangamati and Bandarban.

Ballot papers will be sent

today to Gazipur, Narayanganj, Narsingdi, Mymensingh, Netrakona, Kishoreganj, Munshiganj, Manikganj and Dhaka districts.



Preparations for setting up an army camp in the city's Azimpur Colony area to help the civil administration during the coming polls. — Star photo

# 'BNP lacked strength to pass caretaker bill in 5th JS'

BOGRA, June 6: BNP Chair person Begum Khaleda Zia charged some parties with boycotting the fifth parliament on illogical and unjustified grounds, reports UNB.

She was addressing a huge public meeting at Altafunnesa play ground this evening.

The former Prime Minister pleaded her party's inability to bring in a legislation to amend the Constitution providing for election under a caretaker government in fifth parliament due to the fact that her party had not the requisite two-third majority.

Despite her repeated entreaties to the then Opposition to return to the House to help her pass the necessary legislation, they refused to extend to her their cooperation.

Speaking in justification of February 15 polls the former Prime Minister said it would not have been possible to maintain the continuity of

the constitution process required for ushering in a caretaker government to hold elections.

She said her party had not transgressed the limit imposed by the Constitution. Whatever we have done, we have done by staying within the bounds of the Constitution, Begum Zia added.

She noted with satisfaction that nobody could throw her party out of power. We have transferred power within the framework of the Constitution which is an example without a parallel in the history of Bangladesh, she said.

Begum Zia claimed that the BNP had safeguarded democracy and the Constitution from the onslaught of undemocratic forces.

Now it is time for you to take correct decision and cast your votes accordingly in the next election.

No party has done for Bogra what the BNP has done, she claimed. Various parties have

talked variously about bridges over the Jamuna, but we have started the bridge and completed 40 per cent of the project within our tenure of office. If we returned to power we shall complete rest of the work, she assured.

She said Bogra was the birth place of late President Ziaur Rahman and hoped people would vote for her.

BNP candidates returned to parliament from all seven seats in the district.

Begum Zia today also addressed roadside meetings at Sariakandi, Sherpur, Shilganj, Nandigram and Gabtoli and introduced her party candidates at those meetings.

Addressing an election rally at Sirajganj midnight Wednesday the BNP Chairperson said the BNP by no means sought votes to merely perpetuate its rule, but to free the country from shackles of foreign domination.

BNP had safeguarded democracy and the Constitution from the onslaught of undemocratic forces.

Now it is time for you to take correct decision and cast your votes accordingly in the next election.

No party has done for Bogra what the BNP has done, she claimed. Various parties have

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By Reaz Ahmad

# A day-long visit to Dhaka-9 Record number of candidates, hectic polls campaign

By Reaz Ahmad

An election fever has gripped Dhaka-9 constituency in the city (Dhanmondi-Mohammadpur) as the campaigning by some prominent political figures including chiefs of two political parties evoked much enthusiasm.

Other than the four candidates from the four major parties — BNP, Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami — there are at least two prominent candidates in the race in Dhaka-9 seat from where a record number of 24 candidates are contesting, four of them are independents.

Two candidates also took part in a recent dialogue session organised by a private platform of women in the city. They faced many election-related queries at the session that was attended by many voters from the constituency.

Alleged involvement of the candidate of a major party in the incident may also have some impact on the voting, some local people said.

Despite all these, electioneering by major contenders from this seat reached a new height as a large number of female political workers were seen making hectic door-to-door campaigns in favour of different candidates.

Talking to a number of voters from this constituency yesterday, this correspondent got an impression that the recent

hardly any day passes without a single incident of violence. This has created a panicky situation for both candidates and the voters.

Such incidents of violence had dampened the election mood raising concern among all quarters, observed some

expressing his reaction over the recent pre-polls violence in Chittagong, BNP's city convenor and contestant from Ctg-9 (Kotwali) constituency, Abdullah Al Noman said: These things are happening because many of the identified

expressed apprehension about holding of election properly here due to the continuation of violence.

Expressive measures were not taken by the administration to round up the terrorists and recover illegal arms from their possession, he said.

Police officials here said

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# Party leaders say they would respect polls results: Shafie

By M Anwarul Haq

The leader of the 12-member Commonwealth election observers team has expressed the hope that all parties contesting the coming parliamentary polls would abide by the election code of conduct and respect the verdict of the people given through the ballot.

In an interview with The Daily Star yesterday at the Sheraton office of the Commonwealth team, Dr Tan Siri Md Ghazali Shafie stressed the need for peaceful holding of the polls and fairness of the electoral process.

Dr Ghazali Shafie, who is a former foreign minister of Malaysia, said that all members of the Commonwealth team were already familiarising themselves with the election laws of Bangladesh and the code of conduct.

Every country has its own

election laws and so do you. And one area of primary concern is to see that the election code is being strictly adhered to by the political parties and the Election Commission," he said.

Dr Shafie said leaders of some political parties including Awami League, BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and the Communist Party had already met him yesterday and he was open about exchanging views with leaders of all other parties.

He noted that having talked with the leaders of political parties he felt they had some misgivings, but he did not elaborate. But he hastened to add, 'That is not our concern. Moreover, all the leaders who had met me had given the assurance that they would re-

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## Commentary

# ISPR's lessons on logic and patriotism

By Mahfuz Anam

According to the Inter Service Public Relation (ISPR)'s press release of 5 June most of what has been published in the newspapers concerning the events of 18-20 May — reports, write-ups, editorials and comments — are all illogical, ill-informed and misleading.

According to ISPR, these writings might create 'misunderstanding in the public mind', and so it 'urges all patriotic citizens to desist from creating unnecessary debates and making illogical comments.'

What is more, the press handout is full of innuendos that those who have written on this subject are un-

derstanding and indirectly hinting that our sovereignty and independence are being compromised because of them.

The press release says, 'It is re-

grettable but true that various

questions are being raised by

some people without knowing

the rules and regulations of

the army and despite the

fact that a detailed explanation had been given on the matter earlier.'

The ISPR adds that 'Such things are not desirable from patriotic citizens.'

We object to both the text

and the tone of the ISPR. First,

about not knowing army rules

and regulations. How can we

know? Are we ever told any-

thing about our army, except

when things go wrong or when

they decide to take power?

We are never given any infor-

mation except of very cere-

monial nature. As taxpayers