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Announcement

From today, The Daily Star starts publishing the Peregrine Index, prepared by Peregrine Investment Holdings Ltd, Bangladesh office. It is aimed at giving more information about the stock market operations. Our valued readers are requested to let us know if they find this new index and other related information useful.

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NEWS BRIEFS

JS session adjourned till 3 pm today

The House was adjourned yesterday till 3 pm today. Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury announced the adjournment at 10:45 pm yesterday, reports UNB.

Statements of ministers' assets Distribution of forms within a week

By Reaz Ahmad

The ministers and state ministers will submit statements on their personal assets to the Prime Minister soon, according to a highly placed source.

Prescribed forms, the draft of which has already been prepared by the cabinet division, will be distributed among the members of the council of ministers sometime after the National Mourning Day on August 15.

After filling up the form each minister and state minister will submit it to Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina giving an elaborate account of their assets, said the source.

During an election projection meeting in Bagerhat on May 17 Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina had announced that if her party goes to power, accounts of ministers' assets would be made public every year to bring in transparency in governance. She had also said that any minister or state minister found possessing wealth inconsistent with their declared assets or doing corrupt practices would be

fired. The election pledge of Awami League was later reaffirmed at the second meeting of the new cabinet on July 2. The cabinet meeting, chaired by the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, had decided that all ministers and state ministers would submit statements on their assets.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday a minister said that in the last week of July some ministers and state ministers began the process of submitting statements. — See Page 12 col 8

Search for oil in Bay begins

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 11: A month-long search for oil in the Bay of Bengal began today with the help of four oil exploration survey vessels, sources concerned said.

One of the four survey vessels, Eastern Explorer, arrived here this morning and joined the survey operation, they said.

Three other survey vessels — Coral Reef Explorer, Setie Abadi and Aman Abadi arrived at the outer anchorage of Chittagong port on August 6 and anchored near the site of two gas wells Shangu-1 and Shangu-2, 35 km off the port. The Shangu-1 and Shangu-2 gas fields in the Bay were drilled between January and April this year for exploration of gas.

Recovery of illegal arms Minister questions role of police

By Staff Correspondent

A high-level meeting of the Home Ministry yesterday discussed the country's worsening law and order situation with particular reference to recovery of illegal arms and decided to streamline the police administration to nab the terrorists, reports UNB.

Home Minister Major (Retd) Rafiqul Islam, who chaired the meeting at his Sangsad Bhaban chamber, reportedly expressed concern over the poor response to the government-declared amnesty for illegal arms possessors.

Some 316 arms were surrendered to police or DC of offices across the country till last

night after the amnesty had been declared on August 7.

The Home Minister also expressed his dissatisfaction at the not-up-to-the-mark recovery of unauthorised arms and ammunition and arrest of only a handful of terrorists, meeting sources said.

The sources further said that he wanted to know from the police officials why the police force is reluctant to apprehend the criminals whose whereabouts are well-known to them.

The rate of arrest of criminals is totally frustrating. I can't understand why police is — See Page 12 Col 3

AL leaders, all ministers visit Tungipara tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

Central leaders of ruling Awami League including members of the council of ministers and MPs will visit Tungipara tomorrow to offer *Fateha* at the *mazar* of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the occasion of the August 15 National Mourning Day.

They will also place wreaths at the *mazar* of the Father of the Nation and take part in a discussion meeting and a *mitad mafit*, said a party press release here yesterday.

AL General Secretary Zillur Rahman has requested all concerned to reach at the Bangabandhu Bhavan by 6 am tomorrow to start for Tungipara.

Have You Seen This, Mr Mayor?



We have heard a lot of talks about garbage cleaning. But the roads remain just as filthy, stench-filled and garbage covered as before. Recently the DCO introduced a new type of removable garbage bins which are not only huge in size, but are usually placed in a way that blocks large parts of the roads. The picture tells a very common story of Dhaka streets, this one being near the Malibagh Bazar. Mr Mayor, the ball is definitely in your court. — Star Photo by Sheikh Enamul Haq

JS passes four Bills AL to move new Bill to effectively debar loan defaulters

By Staff Correspondent

The ruling Awami League will move a bill in the Jatiya Sangsad in future seeking reform of the electoral laws to effectively debar bank-loan defaulters and black money holders from contesting general elections, the State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs told the House yesterday.

The state minister also assured the Opposition that he would welcome its suggestions in this regard to offer the nation really fool-proof electoral laws.

The assurance came from Abdul Matin Khashru following the BNP legislators' insistence on incorporating certain provisions into the Representation Bill, 1996 passed yesterday.

The provisions suggested by BNP included effectively debarbing those bank-loan defaulters from contesting polls, who would fail to return at least 50 per cent of the loans before the polls, a mandatory

provision for voters' Identity Cards, and re-fixation of the ceiling for election expenses.

The BNP members put forward the suggestions during discussions on the bill seeking suspension of the provision of voters' ID cards "for the time being."

The state minister refused to entertain the suggestions "right at the moment," on the ground that "the Ordinance concerned had been promulgated by the President during the tenure of the caretaker government headed by Justice Habibur Rahman. If the bill is not passed today (Sunday), it will automatically lapse tomorrow," he said adding that it would create legal complications.

He, however, said: "We assure the House that we shall, in future, move a bill seeking to effectively debar bank-loan defaulters and black-money holders from contesting general elections." — See Page 12 Col 4

PM tells DRU Housing problem of journalists to be solved

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday emphasised on higher professional training for journalists to improve the standard of journalism in the country, reports UNB.

The Prime Minister was talking to the executive committee of Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU), at her office in the afternoon.

Responding to various demands of the Reporters' Unity, Hasina said she would try to solve the housing problem of journalists and would discuss with the concerned authorities the matters of allotting plots or flats for them.

She admitted the necessity of providing risk allowance for the reporters and assured that she would discuss the matter with the relevant authorities.

The Prime Minister also announced a donation of Tk 1 lakh to the family of veteran reporter Moinul Hossain, who died in an accident on 29 December last year.

Paying tribute to the memory of the late journalist, Hasina called him a true reporter.

Earlier, Unity president Shaifur Kabir told the Prime Minister that the organisation would donate Tk 50,000 to the — See Page 12 col 8

Ruling party trying to cut short budget discussion: BNP

Opposition BNP yesterday expressed its apprehension that many members would be deprived of participating in the budget discussion as well as of focusing on the problems of their respective constituencies, reports UNB.

"The debate is going on without deciding on how many hours the budget will be discussed... We don't know how much time has been allocated for us," said Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury.

Briefing the newsmen at his chamber in the Sangsad Bhaban after a meeting of BNP's parliamentary party, Prof Chowdhury said the Treasury Bench has decided to end the budget discussion on

September 2 though there will be no sittings in at least seven days of this month due to various reasons including weekly holidays.

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia presided over the BNPPP meeting at the conference room of the Sangsad Bhaban.

Prof Chowdhury said the ruling party's chief whip had hinted that they intended to hold the budget discussion for 39 hours. The debate has so far taken place for nearly an hour only, Prof Chowdhury said.

Referring to the Business Advisory Committee meeting held yesterday, he said BNP had requested the ruling party to fix up how many hours will be spent on discussing the

budget, but to no avail.

Both Sheikh Hasina and Tofael Ahmed had told the meeting that fixing up the time-limit is not necessary as the discussion will be held upto September 2.

The deputy leader of the opposition said general members will be deprived of speaking of problems of their respective constituencies for not fixing up the time-limit.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said the ruling party is trying to cut short the budget discussion when the BNP MPs have started replying to Awami member's comments in the House.

He alleged that the ruling party MPs had made many "fabricated" allegations against BNP, which need to be answered.

"Perhaps they (AL) are afraid of hearing the reply... they want their own statements to be recorded in the parliamentary proceedings," Bhuiyan said.

The BNP Secretary General charged the ruling party with politicising the entire administration, including the judiciary. Awami League is appointing 40 to 45 APPs in the district courts, he alleged.

He also alleged that the ruling Awami League was forcing the Speaker not to allow discussion. — See Page 12 Col 1

BNP to observe its founding anniversary

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and its front organisations will observe the party's 18th founding anniversary on September 1, reports UNB.

The decision was taken at a joint meeting of the central presidents and general secretaries of the front organisations and the leaders of Dhaka city BNP yesterday.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan presided over the meeting held at its central office. The meeting directed the city, district, town and thana committees of BNP and its front organisations, including Chhatra Dal, Jubo Dal, Krishak Dal, Sramik Dal and Mahila Dal, to draw up elaborate programmes to mark the day.

In another resolution, the meeting demanded of the gov. — See Page 12 Col 4

Election of Shahabuddin EC files affidavit opposing writ

Star Report

The Election Commission (EC) has filed in the High Court an affidavit in opposition to the writ petition challenging the election of Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed as President of the country, according to official sources.

Deputy Secretary (Law) of the EC Ikhtidar Ahmed filed the affidavit on behalf of the EC yesterday.

Abu Bakar Siddik, an advocate of the Supreme Court, had filed the writ petition.

In the said writ petition the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and returning officer of

the election of president have been made respondent number 2 and the government of Bangladesh represented by the secretary of the Ministry of Law and Parliamentary Affairs, has been made respondent number 3. Justice Shahabuddin is respondent number one.

The High Court had earlier issued Rule following the writ petition and hearing of the writ is scheduled for today, said court sources.

The EC, through a gazette notification on July 23, announced that Justice Sha-

— See Page 12 Col 4

5 brigadiers promoted

By Staff Correspondent

Five brigadiers of the Bangladesh Army were promoted yesterday and some changes in postings were also made, according to sources.

Those promoted are Brig Sayeed Ahmed of Infantry Corps, now posted as Master General of Ordnance (NGO), Brig Sahool Afzal of Infantry, now made GOC Comilla, Brig Jalaluddin Ahmed of ASC, made Quarter Master General, Brig Abdul Munim Mansur of Artillery, posted as Commandant Staff College and Brig Abdul Halim of Signals, now appointed Director General Forces Intelligence (DGFI), the sources said.

Major Gen Abdul Matin, who was DGF1 chief, has been appointed GOC, Chittagong Major, while GOC, Chittagong Major

— See Page 12 Col 4

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড
 ঢাকা

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

একজন সং মানুষ একজন সং করদাতাও বটে

আপনি জানেন কি?
 আপনার মাসিক আয় আনুমানিক ৫০০০ টাকার অধিক হলে আপনাকে আয়কর প্রদান করতে হবে। সরকারী কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারীদের ক্ষেত্রেও আয়কর রিটার্ন দাখিল করা বাধ্যতামূলক। এক্ষেত্রে ব্যর্থতা আইন অনুযায়ী শাস্তিযোগ্য অপরাধ।

সেতের স্বকল্পপূর্ণ ডাকঘরসমূহে আয়কর রিটার্ন ফরম পাওয়া যায়।

সীমিত আয়ের করদাতাদের ক্ষেত্রে এ বছর স্ব-নির্ধারিত রিটার্ন ফরম অন্তত সহজ ও স্বল্প পরিশর করা হয়েছে। মাত্র এক পৃষ্ঠার এই ফরমটি আপনি খুব সহজেই পূরণ করতে পারেন। সঠিকভাবে পূরণকৃত রিটার্ন বিনা প্রক্ট্রেই কর বিতাপ কর্তৃক গৃহীত হবে। এ ব্যাপারে আপনাকে কোন কামেলা পোহাতে হবে না।

আপনার রিটার্ন ফরম সম্বন্ধে বা পূরণে সহায়তার জন্যে আপনাকে নিউ বেইলী রোডস্থ বিসিএস কর একাডেমী, ঢাকা (ফোনঃ ৪১৫৩৬৯১)-এ "কর পরামর্শ কেন্দ্র" সাথে যোগাযোগ করতে অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে।

ঢাকার বাইরের করদাতাপন ফরম পূরণ সহজকৃত পরামর্শের জন্যে নিকটস্থ আয়কর অফিসে যোগাযোগ করতে পারেন।

ডিক্রিপ্ট-১৭৫৩০-১০/৮
 ডি-১৩৫

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড

Reshuffle in JP soon

The Jatiya Party will be reshuffled immediately to bring dynamism in the party, reports UNB.

A decision to this effect was taken at a meeting of the JP parliamentary party yesterday with party chairman HM Ershad in the chair.

The meeting held at the Sangsad Bhaban (parliament building) in the afternoon. — See Page 12 col 8

Top Islamic bank to expand operations in Bangladesh

Star Report

A pioneering Islamic bank with majority share held by a Saudi finance institution will further globalise its operations by opening a branch in Bangladesh soon.

Faysal Islamic Bank of Bahrain EC (FIBB), is making final arrangements to establish the bank's first branch in Bangladesh, said Nabil Abdullah Naseef, FIBB's President and Chief Executive Officer in an exclusive interview with the Saudi Gazette in Jeddah recently.

Naseef said, the expansion plan including the opening of the branch, which is in line with FIBB's current five-year plan, was discussed with Bangladesh's Prime Minister, Hasina Wajed during her visit to the Kingdom last month. The \$20 million authorised

capital bank, a member of Dar Al-Maal Al-Islami Trust, was incorporated in Bahrain in 1982. It operates on the basis of the Islamic financial system in most of the countries of the Islamic world.

The Bangladesh market which was thoroughly studied by a group of experts of the bank showed encouraging signs of economic growth. "Its stable political system, foreign currency reserves estimated around 3 billion, large market of 120 million, and the recent decision to go in for an open market economy, reflected positive signs that makes it feasible for FIBB's investments," Naseef, pointed out.

Till now the bank has been involved in financing only small scale operations in Bangladesh. But once the

Flag meet with India Accord to reinstall 57 border pillars

COMILLA, Aug 11: Bangladesh and India today agreed to repair or reinstall 57 pillars along the border in the Comilla district, reports BSS.

At the end of the two-day flag meeting between the chief administrators of Comilla and south Tripura districts, the two sides decided to form a

— See Page 12 Col 1

সোনালী ব্যাংকের আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয়, গোপালগঞ্জ।

শুভ উদ্বোধন

আগামী কাল ১৩ই আগষ্ট, মঙ্গলবার, বিকেল ৪ টায় বঙ্গবন্ধুর স্মৃতি বিজড়িত শহর গোপালগঞ্জে সোনালী ব্যাংকের আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয়ের উদ্বোধন করা হবে।

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের মাননীয় অর্থমন্ত্রী শাহ, এ. এম. এস কিবরিয়া এ উদ্বোধনী অনুষ্ঠানে প্রধান অতিথি হিসাবে উপস্থিত থাকবেন।

আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয় উদ্বোধনীর এ শুভ দিনে ব্যাংকের সম্মানিত গ্রাহক পৃষ্ঠপোষক এবং শুভানুধ্যায়ীদের আন্তরিক সহযোগিতা আমাদের একান্ত কাম্য।

সোনালী ব্যাংক