



VOL. X NO. 96 REGD. NO. DA 781

www.dailystarnews.com

DHAKA TUESDAY APRIL 25, 2000

3rd Millennium

BAISHAKH 12, 1407 BS

MUHARRAM 19, 1421 HIJRI

16 PAGES PRICE : TAKA 6.00

Amendments to Health Policy, Battalion Ansar Act '95 okayed

The Cabinet yesterday approved amendments to the Health Policy and Battalion Ansar Act 1995, reports UNB.

The Cabinet at a meeting at the Prime Minister's Secretariat with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair approved the amendments.

The Cabinet also hailed the Prime Minister for her "valuable speech in the famous forum of Harvard University, and on her receiving the prestigious Pearl S Buck award and the key of Lynchburg City".

The council of ministers also warmly greeted the PM on receiving a rare honour through the declaration of 'April 8 as Sheikh Hasina Day' in the US State of Virginia.

6 new HC judges take oath today

Six new judges of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court will take their oath today, reports BSS.

The additional judges, who had earlier been appointed permanent judges in the same court, will be sworn in by Chief Justice Latifur Rahman at his office in the city at 10.30 am.

The new judges are: Muhammad Latifur Rahman, Mohammad Abdul Quddus, Mohammad Abdul Aziz, Bijon Kumar Das, A B M Khairul Huq and Mohammad Mozammel Hossain.

CEC back home after treatment

By Staff Correspondent

Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena returned home yesterday after treatment in the United States.

He is yet to decide when he would join his office.

The CEC is on leave since November 30 last year.

Hena left for the US on February 15. Earlier, he was operated upon in a Bangkok hospital in December last year.

"It all depends on my health condition," Hena said when asked about the possible date of joining. "After receiving treatment at John Hopkins Hospital in the US, I am now feeling better, but the doctors have advised me to take rest for a few more days. Besides, I would be required to have a check-up in the same hospital in June this year."

Replying to a query, the CEC said, he has already been briefed about major developments that took place in the country during his absence.

Asked whether there was any possibility of holding Up-

See Page 12 Col 3

Our new numbers

19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215
Phones : 8124944, 8124955
& 8124966
Fax: 8125155

Inside Today

Article

Barking up the Wrong Tree

Column: Between the Lines
by Kuldip Nayar
Page 4

Focus

Gains in Bangladesh primary education; The story of Elian Gonzales
Page 5

Business

Brokers expect better price for tea this season
South, SE Asia may grow fastest
DSE, CSE price quotations
Pages 6, 7 & 8

Prayer Timings

April 25

| | Sun Rises | Sun Sets |
|----|-----------|----------|
| 25 | - | 6:25 pm |
| 26 | 5:28 am | - |

Source: Islamic Foundation

Another Bench embarrassed, CJ forms new HC Bench

By Staff correspondent

Chief Justice Latifur Rahman constituted a new Division Bench in the High Court yesterday for hearing the death reference in Bangabandhu murder case as another Bench felt embarrassed to hear it earlier in the day.

The death reference is likely to appear in the cause list of the new Bench comprising Justice Mohammad Ruhul Amin and Justice Khatrul Huq today.

Earlier yesterday, the Bench comprising Justice MM Ruhul Amin and Justice Abdul Matin was the second to feel embarrassed to hear the death reference.

Another Division Bench comprising Justice Amirul Kabir Chowdhury and Justice Abdul Aziz constituted to hear

the case also expressed embarrassment on April 10 and sent it to the Chief Justice.

On March 30, the CJ constituted two Criminal Benches exclusively for disposal of death references and capital sentence appeals.

The Bench comprising Justice Ruhul Amin and Justice A Matin is to dispose of death references in cases arising out of 1996 and part of 1997.

The other Bench comprising Justice Amirul Kabir Chowdhury and Justice Abdul Aziz is to dispose of the remaining cases of 1997 and those of 1998, ending with the death reference in Bangabandhu murder case.

Special Public Prosecutor

Anisul Haq had earlier tried to mention the death reference in Bangabandhu murder case before four HC benches, but was turned down on different grounds.

It was first mentioned before the Bench comprising Justice Ebadul Haq and Justice Shakerul Haq on January 16. The Bench advised Haq to go to the Death Reference Bench.

On February 2, it was mentioned before the Bench comprising Justice MM Ruhul Amin and Justice Selim took place over the last two months. A road will be built on the embankment under a Tk 8 crore component of the Dhaka Integrated Flood Protection Project (DIFPP) funded by Asian Development

See page 11 col 7

A 'silent' eviction drive backed by 2 MPs

By Morshed Ali Khan

Bank and Government of Bangladesh.

Negotiations are underway to evict in the same way about 2,000 families living on a 3.66 km stretch of the city flood protection embankment, from Mohammadpur to Miftord.

Sources concerned said the 'negotiated eviction' by Water Development Board (WDB) with cooperation from ruling party MPs Haji Maqbul Hossain and Md Selim took place over the last two months. A road will be built on the embankment under a Tk 8 crore component of the Dhaka Integrated Flood Protection Project (DIFPP) funded by Asian Development

leg and Hospital, alleged that they were 'held hostage' until they signed a paper for compensation of Tk 2,500 per family. They said the influential landlords who had rented the slums to them made 'lakhs of taka' as compensation on the MPs' recommendations.

Many of these evicted families have either rented other accommodations in Hazirabagh, Lalbagh, Kamrangirchar and Rayerbazar areas or moved to rural areas.

They alleged that WDB's survey was 'grossly biased' which paved the way for 'some

See Page 12 Col 1

BIMSTEC meeting opens tomorrow

Steps for increasing trade & investment to be discussed

By M Anwarul Haq

Commerce ministers of five BIMSTEC countries begin a two-day meeting in New Delhi tomorrow to focus on facilitation measures for increasing trade, commerce and investment among the members of the new economic grouping.

They are also expected to find out ways and means to draw up a possible list on tariff concessions and create free trade zones in the BIMSTEC countries.

Commerce Minister Abdul Jalil is likely to represent Dhaka in the meet.

The Delhi meeting would be the second ministerial meeting on trade and economic affairs of the three-year old regional organisation aimed at concentrating on increasing economic cooperation in the region. The first meeting was held in Bangkok.

The trade and commerce meeting of BIMSTEC, which

comprises Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand, is expected to review the progress in the field of facilitation measures to improve communication links between the nations.

The meeting will also try to find out ways and means to boost trade among the member countries through establishing multi-modal links, including road, rail and airways wherever possible.

Discussions are also expected to take place on identification of products and commodities of each country, which could be exported to other member countries by reducing tariff and other barriers.

The BIMSTEC meeting will provide the opportunity for Bangladesh to place its strategic location as a bridge and a facilitator between the countries of ASEAN and SAARC.

See Page 12 Col 7

Clash of peers

N'ganj AL claims both victims as party activists

From Our Correspondent
NARAYANGANJ, Apr 24: The district Awami League today claimed that the two victims of Friday's clash between followers of two peers were AL activists.

District AL chairperson Nazma Rahaman said, Abdul Haque, 20, and Abul Hossain, 35, the two AL workers were killed in police firing.

She was addressing a public meeting this afternoon at Modanpur here.

The meeting, presided over by Abdur Razzaq, was also addressed by Md Nazimuddin, Mobarak Hossain and Md Nasiruddin.

See page 11 col 7

Extortion

Bus-truck owners demand tripartite talks

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Bus-Truck Owners Association has called for a tripartite meeting of representatives of the government, the owners and workers to formulate a guideline to solve 'extortion problem' in the transport sector.

The Association also put forward a 10-point recommendation and demand. These include setting up of a monitoring cell by the government and formation of extortion eradication committee at district level.

The association leaders gave the call and placed the recommendations at a press conference yesterday at the Jatiya Press Club. S M Ziaul Huq, Chairman, and Faruque Talukder Sohel, General Secretary

See Page 12 Col 8

Strike at BATB halts production from Apr 22

By Staff Correspondent
Manufacturing operations of British American Tobacco Bangladesh (BATB) remained suspended from April 22 due to a strike by its employees.

A press release issued by BATB yesterday said that 'unionised employees' went on strike as 22 employees were terminated as per provisions of the existing labour laws of the country.

"As a responsible company, BATB continues to hold discussions with the union leaders to resolve the issue and is confident of resuming its normal operations soon," the press release said.

The company assured its business partners and consumers that sufficient stocks are being supplied to the market.

APAC calls hartal in Sylhet today

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 24: The All Party Action Committee (APAC), agitating here for immediate withdrawal of decision to name the buildings and dormitories in the Shahjalal University, has called a day-long hartal in the Sylhet district tomorrow to press for its 4-point demands.

The demands include removal of the VC and Professor Jafar Iqbal and naming of the halls after the companions of the Prophet Shahjalal (RA).

A procession was brought out this afternoon in the town with a call to make the dawn to dusk hartal a success. District leaders of BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat, Khelafat Majlis and others took part. Later a brief rally was also held at the court point in the evening.

Thandu terms polls fair, blames party high-ups for defeat

From Abdul Wadood

As many as 51.11 per cent out of a total of 1,89,874 cast their votes in the by-election held on Saturday say the election was free and fair.

Officials in the office of the Returning Officer said they received no allegation of vote rig-

ging. Only six out of 51 members of the district committee of the party was with him, party sources said.

Home Minister Mohammad Nasim and Food Minister Amir Hossain Amu cancelled their visits to the constituency at the

See page 11 col 8

Chernobyl virus may attack again Apr 26

By Staff Correspondent

Information Technology experts are apprehending that Chernobyl virus may again attack millions of computers across the world on April 26.

On April 26 last year millions of computers all over the world including Bangladesh were attacked by a strange virus known as Chernobyl or CIH virus.

However, the possible damage was averted as some world leaders in the field provided remedies immediately after the attack.

CIH virus hits Windows 95 and Windows 98 operating systems by damaging Hard Disk and BIOS. As a result, all files stored in a Hard Disk get omitted.

Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) has asked computer users to take precaution to avert CIH virus attack again.

Computer users could avert the attack in two ways. They could download Anti Virus

See Page 12 Col 5

Tin Bigha talks open Apr 26 Delhi may extend time for keeping corridor open

From Pallab Bhattacharya

NEW DELHI, Apr 24: India may favourably consider Bangladesh's request for extending the time for keeping the corridor open for a longer time, they added.

The BJP had earlier opposed handing over the Tin Bigha corridor to Bangladesh in early Nineties.

But during a visit to the corridor yesterday, senior BJP leader and Indian Home Minister L K Advani told mediapersons any party may come to power but a government of the day should honour the decision taken by its predecessor.

"Handing over of Tin Bigha corridor is part of an international agreement and the Indian government will stand by it," Advani said.

The Indian Home Minister further said Bangladesh government was trying to check to activities of some militant groups, which are operating in India's northeastern states, in Bangladesh territory.

See Page 12 Col 7

Pulp price goes up Khulna newsprint price may rise further

From Quazi Amanullah

KHULNA, Apr 24: Price of Khulna newsprint may rise further to cope with the price hike of pulp and other raw materials.

According to a highly placed source, price of pulp has soared in the international market from 450 dollars to 650 dollars per ton resulting in huge financial loss to Khulna Newsprint Mills. The state-owned mill has no alternative but to go for increasing the price further only for its survival, the source said.

At present, KNM produces two categories of newsprint. The first category is being produced using 90 per cent *gewa* wood and 10 per cent imported pulp which is now being sold at Tk 19,500 per ton.

The second category is being produced with 20 per cent imported pulp and 80 per cent *gewa* wood the sale price of which is Tk 25,500 per ton, the source said.

This price level is being maintained from the year 1994 despite de