

# Reelect AL to ensure people's economic emancipation: PM

## Cox's Bazar digital exchange opened

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the people to vote for her in the upcoming general elections to ensure economic emancipation of the people.

The Prime Minister said this while inaugurating the 4,000-line digital telephone exchange at Cox's Bazar talking to Home, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim by phone from her secretariat office in Dhaka last morning.

To mark the occasion, the Prime Minister's conversation with the minister was broadcast through public address system to the people who gathered at Cox's Bazar district headquarters.

Congratulating the people of Cox's Bazar on the occasion, the

Prime Minister said her government had implemented a range of development programmes in the country, especially in Cox's Bazar.

The people of the country have started enjoying the fruits of the development efforts, she added.

She said that the new 4,000-line digital telephone exchange at Cox's Bazar would give a much-needed fillip to the development efforts in the country's most resourceful and beautiful tourist resort.

The nation-wide as well as global telecommunication facilities offered by the digital exchange would play a positive role in promoting all sectors, especially trade and commerce in the region, she said.

She regretted that in spite of huge resources and potentials for development, Cox's Bazar had

been neglected in the past.

The Prime Minister said her government had taken necessary measures to establish direct train service from Dhaka to Cox's Bazar. Besides, steps were underway for the uplift of Cox's Bazar airport, expanding its runway for the touchdown and takeoff of all types of aircraft.

She appreciated the endeavours of producing and farming shrimp fry in the coastal areas of Cox's Bazar.

The Prime Minister said her government had undertaken a plan for setting up of a crystal industry in Cox's Bazar in the near future. The sand of Cox's Bazar beach contained rich and valuable minerals which could be used as raw materials in the proposed crystal industry, she added.

The Prime Minister also talked to State Minister for Post and Telecommunications Abdur Rouf Chowdhury, Chairman of T&T Board NII Chowdhury and local AI leaders.

At Dhaka end, Post and Telecommunications Secretary Nazmul Ahsan Chowdhury, T&T Board Member Shafiqul Islam and General Manager (Dhaka South) Khabiruzzaman were present.

Syed is likely to leave Dhaka for London on June 4 and return home on June 15.

The CEC would observe the British election and attend a conference on "Democracy, Parliament and Electoral System", during his 11-day visit.

Besides, an eight-member delegation headed by Election Commission Secretary Md Anwar Hossain is also expected to leave Dhaka for Thailand on June 9 on a three-day visit.

The delegation would attend the Electoral Officials' International Conference.

## CEC invited to observe UK election

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner M A Syed will visit the United Kingdom (UK) on an invitation from the British government to observe its upcoming elections.

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## Mosharraf improving

BSS, Dhaka

Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Engineer Mosharraf Hossain, now undergoing treatment at a Singapore hospital, is recovering according to an official handout in Dhaka yesterday.

Death anniversary of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin today

BSS, Dhaka

The 25th death anniversary of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin will be observed today to pay rich tributes to the great artist of the country.

Different organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day in a befitting manner.

Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy has organised a discussion meeting at 5 pm today on "Influence of Zainul on our Contemporary Fine Arts" at its gallery bhaban in the city.

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury will attend the discussion as chief guest while Begum Jahanara Abedin will be the special guest.

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BNP leader Moudud Ahmed addressing a discussion meeting on 'Indian aggression on border and subservient role of Awami government' at the National Press Club yesterday. Citizen's Forum organised the discussion meeting.

## Mymensingh team calls on President

UNB, Dhaka

A seven-member delegation of the Greater Mymensingh Cultural Forum called on President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Chairman of the greater Mymensingh Coordination Council and Advisor to the Prime Minister Khondakar Asaduzzaman led the delegation.

The members of the delegation apprised the President of various infrastructural development of the proposed Poet Nazrul University at Trishal.

President Shahabuddin appreciated the efforts of the forum and assured them of his cooperation in this regard.

## ADHUNIK launches anti-tobacco website

UNB, Dhaka

A new website, [www.forgetsmokingforever.com](http://www.forgetsmokingforever.com), has been launched recently by ADHUNIK, an anti-tobacco organisation, as part of its nationwide anti-tobacco campaign.

Cosmos Group and Bangladesh info.com jointly sponsored the website.

It was launched just ahead of World No-tobacco Day to be observed in the country as elsewhere in the globe on May 31. The theme of this year's No-tobacco Day is "second hand smoke kills. Let's clear the air."

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study report said in the city yesterday.

However, the remittance is increasing at a much lower rate than the labour flow due to increase in the flow of unskilled and semi-skilled labour. The migrants in the past were professional and skilled labour, the report said.

"From 1990 onwards, an average of 225,000 Bangladeshis is migrating on short term employment to foreign countries, mostly to 13 Asian countries," an ILO

study carried out in Tengail and Chittagong shows that the migration propensity is very high in these areas with almost every second household having at least one member working overseas.

ducted early this year by Dr. Fasihne Siddiqui and Dr. C. R. Abrar of the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit of Dhaka University.

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