

COMMITTED
TO

People's Right to Know

TODAY'S ISSUE 20 PAGES

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XV NO. 33

DHAKA FRIDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2005

www.thedailystar.net

FALGUN 6, 1411 BS

MOHARRAM 8, 1426 Hijri

20 PAGES PLUS MAGAZINE PRICE: Tk 12.00

ACC to take in all Bac staff

Step contradicts ACC Act, govt order

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has once again taken a controversial decision to temporarily take in all regular staff of the now-defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption (Bac) violating the ACC Act and ignoring a government order.

The government had earlier

clearly said that the Bac staff should not be absorbed into the ACC without screening. It even ordered them not to work with the commission.

"We've decided to utilise all former Bac staff, now unemployed,

by attaching them temporarily to the commission to make it an effective institution," ACC Chairman Justice Sultan Hossain Khan told

newsmen after an internal meeting yesterday.

The former Bac staff will start working from Saturday (tomorrow), said the chairman.

The commission will also ask the government to withdraw all the officials who were on deputation at the Bac. These officials along with

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Six live grenades and 16 rifle bullets were recovered from a paddy field in Botiaghata upazila in Khulna, while law-enforcers seized a hand grenade from the house of a drug-peddler in Savar yesterday.

Botiaghata police, however, failed to give any details about the grenades found three feet under the ground. They will call in army experts today to identify the grenades, the officer-in-charge of the Botiaghata Police Station told The Daily Star last night.

Locals and police said a few day labourers found the grenades while

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

because of the government's inertia.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

WB concerned over attacks on NGOs

Prof Yunus terms it bad omen for country; NGOs tighten security

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Bank (WB) yesterday deplored and expressed deep concerns at the recent bomb attacks on Grameen Bank and Brac offices, which Grameen Bank's managing director considers a bad omen for the country.

In a press release, the WB said as a development partner of Bangladesh it is deeply concerned about the adverse effects on services to the

poor, should such attacks escalate. "It's important that development agencies like Brac and Grameen Bank be able to continue their good work unhindered by fear or violence," the multilateral international development agency said.

"We hope the authorities will take a strong stand against these actions and take all necessary steps to bring the perpetrators to justice," the release added.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7



Lower-income people queue up at Motijheel yesterday to buy rice sold by the government under its open market sale programme. *

An RU teacher with a long militant track

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The controversial Rajshahi University teacher Dr Muhammad Asadullah Al Galib was associated with a number of radical Islamist organisations in Pakistan, India and the Middle East, and he also secretly visited India with a business passport in 1998, says an intelligence source.

Accused in more than half a dozen corruption and criminal cases, the Arabic department professor entertained a number of Kashmiri and Afghan mujahideen at his Naodapara Madrasa in the early 90's.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Chopper controversy

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

Mystery abounds as to why no helicopter was sent to bring Awami League (AL) lawmaker and former finance minister SAMS Kibria to Dhaka from Habiganj on the night of January 27 as his life might have been saved if given early treatment.

BNP General Secretary Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has claimed a helicopter was offered but the AL did not respond. On the other hand, the AL denies this claim and Kibria's family challenged it and demanded of Bhuiyan to specify whom the offer was made to. Bhuiyan has not yet responded to this challenge.

An investigation by The Daily Star into this controversy finds that after the January 27 grenade attack,

neither the AL leaders nor the local administration and police had any confirmed information about government offering a helicopter to quickly bring Kibria to Dhaka.

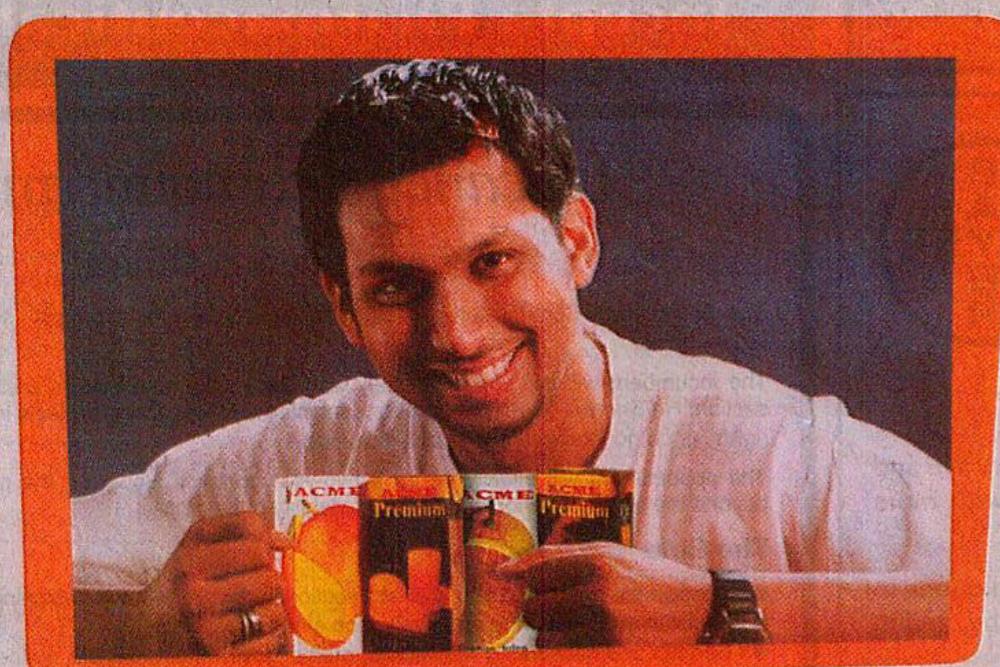
A cross-section of people in Dhaka and Habiganj say the AL leaders started for Dhaka taking Kibria in a microbus of a private clinic more than an hour after the grenade attack as they did not get any assurance about a helicopter until then.

The local administration also could not stop the AL leaders from going to Dhaka in a microbus as they were not sure about any helicopter service.

Kibria attended an AL rally on a school premises at Baidderbazar,

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Introducing ACME's Premium and Classic Orange & Mango Juice



Revitalize, rejuvenate and reactivate yourself with ACME juice.

তাজা ফলের রস, শক্তি তৃপ্তি নিমিষেই



Available in 250 ml hygienic UHT packs at your nearest retail store.

The ACME Agrofood & Business Ltd.
www.acmefglobal.com

Month finishes Not the Card

From now on, our EASY and EASY Gold subscribers will enjoy
31 day validity for Tk. 300 scratch card and
62 day validity for Tk. 600 scratch card

Moreover, both the cards will have
extra 7 days incoming facility
after the valid period

- For validity information, please dial *577#
- Currently available scratch cards in the market will have the new extended validity
- Service features are subject to change

 GrameenPhone