

PM visits
tornado-hit
areas

UNB, Gaibandha

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday visited the tornado-hit areas in Gaibandha and assured her government's all-out support for rehabilitation of the affected people.

She said the army already deployed in the affected areas will be distributing relief goods among the affected people so there will be no irregularity and misappropriation of relief.

"You're not alone, you are not friendless. Our government and the BNP are now with you and will be with you at the time of your distress," she told the victims of natural disaster in Naldanga and Sadullapur upazillas.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

Noab worried
over newsprint
price hike, tax

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab) has expressed grave concern at the rising price of newsprint and high level of taxes on imported newsprint.

This is contributing to the
SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

Notice

Tomorrow we publish a 12-page special supplement on the occasion of Independence Day to go with our regular issue.

1

REGISTRATION WITH EC

Main political parties ignore rules

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Political parties' registration with the Election Commission (EC) as part of the electoral reforms has turned into a pointless exercise as the major political parties have been ignoring the system since its introduction in 2001.

If the EC has apparently been forced to stop the registration process due to lack of interest of the

leading parties including BNP and Awami League. Only a few small political parties have shown interest in getting registered.

Sources said rules do not allow the EC to force these major parties to be registered with it, as registration is not mandatory for the parties.

If only the small political parties get registration, the EC will face complexities in holding the next parliamentary polls when the regis-

tered parties will claim certain facilities in line with the rules.

In 2001, the EC had introduced the registration system in a bid to keep off the small political parties from contesting the national elections for better management of the polls and make the political parties accountable to the EC.

In the last four years the EC

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

2

The night the genocide began

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

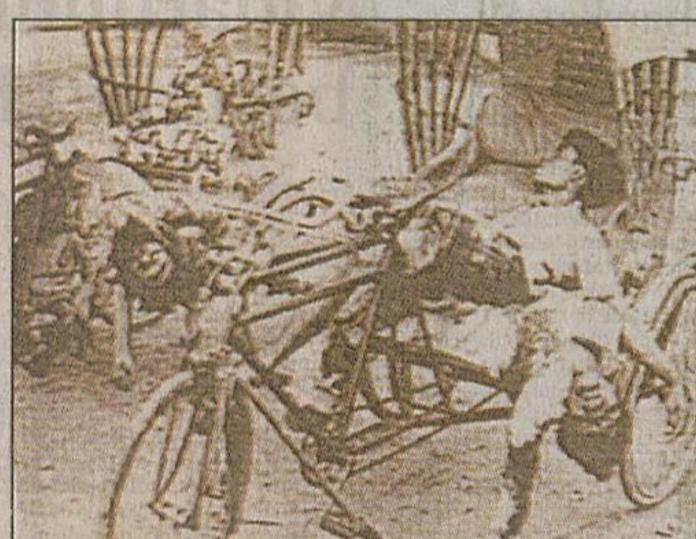
March 25 arrives once again evoking painful memories of a night of murder and mayhem, the beginning of the genocide of millions of Bangalees by the Pakistani occupation forces.

On this night in 1971, the Pakistani military rulers launched "Operation Searchlight" against the unarmed Bangalees. Dhaka University was attacked and students exterminated in the hundreds. Death squads roamed Dhaka streets, killing some 7,000 people in a single night.

It was to be only the beginning. On March 26, the nation waged an

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

3



FILE PHOTO

These three innocent rickshaw-pullers were among some 7,000 people killed wantonly by Pakistani troops in Dhaka on that fateful night of March 25 in '71.

4

If has been nearly 20 years that we started our journey with the vision to serve the ailing humanity. During this time period we have crossed many hurdles, touched many landmarks & have set many benchmarks in the industry.

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

59

60

61

62

63

64

65

66

67

68

69

70

71

72

73

74

75

76

77

78

79

80

81

82

83

84

85

86

87

88

89

90

91

92

93

94

95

96

97

98

99

100

101

102

103

104

105

106

107

108

109

110

111

112

113

114

115

116

117

118

119

120

121

122

123

124

125

126

127

128

129

130

131

132

133

134

135

136

137

138

139

140

141

142

143

144

145

146

147

148

149

150

151

152

153

154

155

156