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300 to be deputy secretary

Most of the nominees come from '84 batch

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Superior Selection Board (SSB) has finalised a list of some 300 senior assistant secretaries, mostly from the 1984 batch, for elevation to the post of deputy secretary.

Sources said the establishment ministry yesterday sent a summary along with a list of these officials to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) for approval.

After the prime minister's approval, the list will be sent to the president for final approval, said an official of the Ministry of Establishment.

The six-member SSB, headed by Cabinet Secretary Dr Saadat

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NEW PAY SCALE

Govt will need extra Tk 6,712cr a year

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government needs an additional Tk 1,154 crore in the second half of this fiscal year to implement the first phase of the new pay structure for both civil and defence staff, says a finance ministry report.

To fully implement the recommendations of the two pay commissions, the government will need Tk 6,712 crore a year in addition to the current budgeted salary provision of Tk 13,477 crore. According to the IMF, this extra load may jeopardise

macroeconomic stability.

The finance ministry came to the conclusion on the basis of the reports of the National Pay Commission (NPC) for the civil administration and Defence Pay Commission (DPC) for the army, navy and airforce.

Both these commissions submitted their reports in the first week of February.

The finance ministry's review of both the reports shows if the new pay scale is implemented, this will increase the total spend on salary by

38 percent and allowances by 53.68 percent.

For defence staff, the government will have to spend an additional 73 percent on their salaries and 47 percent on allowances.

Cabinet Division sources said a secretary level committee headed by Cabinet Secretary Dr Saadat Hossain will make a final recommendation on pay increases and place it before the cabinet. This committee already held two meetings and is expected to finalise its

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PHOTO: STAR

PLAYING FOUL WITH FOWL: Dead chickens are up for grabs at Tejgaon Wholesale Poultry Market in the capital yesterday despite growing concerns about the hazard they pose to public health.

PM urges public support to foil 'opposition's conspiracy'

Opens SME Fair 2005 in capital

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday sought people's support to foil a conspiracy to destabilise the country's political situation and stall its economic progress.

The country will fall behind in the present competitive world without a good image and a stable political situation, she said while inaugurating the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Fair 2005 at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Center in the capital.

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ALIA MADRASA

60 hurt as cops, JCD clash with Shibir

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

At least 60 people including 10 policemen were wounded as police and activists of pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) clashed with Jamaat-e-Islami-backed Alia Madrasa Shibir workers at Dhaka Alia Madrasa at Bakshibazar in the city last night.

Police said Shibir activists armed with firearms, homemade bombs and sticks attacked the JCD activists after they had roughed up three Shibir workers at a rapprochement meeting between the two student organisations at Allama Iqbal Kashgari Hall on the campus at about 8:30pm.

The JCD workers took refuge behind a contingent of police deployed there, but the marauding Shibir activists swooped on the JCD men and policemen, as well, police

said.

The on-duty policemen fired some 70 teargas canisters and 30 bullets to tame the rampaging Shibir workers. A police official there told reporters that the Shibir men rained bricks on and fired several gunshots at them. A constable was wounded in the Shibir firing, he added.

Among the wounded, 30 Shibir workers, two JCD leaders, two policemen and a pedestrian were admitted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH).

Critically injured police Constable Nazmul, JCD madrasa unit Vice-President Farook Hossain Chowdhury Shaon, JCD activist Abdul Kader and Shibir workers Abu Hanifa, Abu Mahin, Abdullah, Nazrul, Munna, Jashim, Rafiqul Islam Farook, Amirul Huda, Abu

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9 killed in Sirajganj road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

At least nine people died and over 75 were injured, 12 of them critically, when a passenger bus rammed another from behind after the first one drove into a stranded truck on the Bangabandhu Bridge link road in Sirajganj yesterday.

Six passengers died on the spot, two on the way to hospitals and one in Sirajganj General Hospital, police said, adding that death toll may increase.

The dead, including a woman, could not be immediately identified.

Police and locals were trying to salvage four bodies from the badly twisted passenger buses until 11:00pm.

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CARETAKER GOVERNMENT

Opposition to take to street early next month for reforms

SHAMEEM MAHMUD

The mainstream opposition parties will launch a combined street agitation early next month to push for a set of electoral reform proposals on the appointment of the chief of the caretaker government and composition of the Election Commission (EC).

The opposition wants the chief adviser and the chief election commissioner to be appointed in con-

sultations with major political parties. They also propose that the interim regime take charge of the defence portfolio, instead of keeping it with the president, till a new government is formed.

Opposition sources said they would finalise a set of common reform proposals by the month-end incorporating views of all opposition parties and members of the civil society.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Rab recovers AK47 in Ctg

UNB, Chittagong

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) dug out three firearms, including a sophisticated AK47 rifle, and ammunition from a grave in the port city's Karnaphuli area early yesterday.

On confessional statement of two arrested Jubo League activists--Islam Ahmed and Kamal Uddin--the Rab members dug an old grave at Khoaknagar at about 5:00am and unearthed an AK22 rifle, a 303 rifle and one LG along with 14 bullets.

Islam and Kamal were arrested at midnight on Sunday on charges of 'acts of terrorism'.

The recovered arms and ammunition were deposited with Karnaphuli police. A case was filed against them with Karnaphuli Police Station under the Arms Act.

The Jubo Leaguers have been taken into Rab custody for more interrogation.

Pope's funeral on Friday

AP, Vatican City

A Vatican official yesterday said Pope John Paul II's funeral will be held Friday morning, and the College of Cardinals convened for the first time since the pope's death ahead of a secret vote later this month to elect a new pontiff.

Archbishop Josef Clemens, secretary of the Vatican office for lay people, told The Associated Press that the rites would be held Friday in St. Peter's Square. Clemens, the former secretary to top Vatican cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, also said not all the cardinal electors had arrived in Rome in time to attend Monday's first session.

Italian news agencies reported

that the funeral would be held at 10 a.m. (4 a.m. EDT).

The cardinals met at the Bologna Hall of the Vatican's Apostolic Palace for about 2 1/2 hours. After taking an oath of secrecy, they were to open any final documents John Paul may have prepared for them and to set a date for this week's funeral.

The body of John Paul emerges from an inner sanctum of the Vatican on Monday afternoon for the public to bid farewell. It was displayed Sunday for prelates, ambassadors and other dignitaries. Vatican employees filed silently past the body on Monday morning to pay their last respects.

The former chief rabbi of Rome,

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SUBMARINE CABLE

Security for cable carrying barge after pirate attack

STAR REPORT

The specialised barge Swisco-12, tasked with laying optical fibre submarine cable to connect South Asia, the Middle East and Western

Europe with the information super highway, will start its journey for Cox's Bazar today amid tight security.

The barge, which had earlier

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Younis set to miss today's 2nd ODI too

REUTERS, Visakhapatnam

Pakistan vice-captain Younis Khan is set to miss the second one-day international against India on Tuesday following a fever.

"Younis is a lot better, but he's not match fit. So it's unlikely that

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Bombs hurled at BSS office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unknown miscreants hurled two bombs at the office of state-owned news agency Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) yesterday afternoon.

One of the bombs blasted just under a window of the BSS office on the first floor of the building while another hit the wall and blasted on the road at about 1:45pm.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Martians will find Bangla!

BDNEWS, Kolkata

If ever there will be creatures on the Mars as intelligent as or even more intelligent than humans, one of the languages they will come across will be Bangla.

The word Mars has been written in Bangla (mangal in Bangla) along with 23 other languages on the solar clock attached to the Martian probe vehicle 'Rover', Bangali Nasa

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

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৭ম মৃত্যুবার্ষিকী স্মরণ

বাংলাদেশের ঊষধশিল্প বিকাশে প্রথম বাঙালী শিল্পপতি অপসোনিন গ্রুপ অব ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ-এর প্রতিষ্ঠাতা চেয়ারম্যান, আমাদের প্রাণপ্রিয় অভিভাবক মরহুম আবদুল খালেক খান-এর সপ্তম মৃত্যুবার্ষিকী ৬ই এপ্রিল, ২০০৫।

তাঁর দূরদর্শিতা, প্রজ্ঞা, কঠোর পরিশ্রম, নিষ্ঠা, কর্মোদ্যম, অধ্যবসায় ও জাতীয় উন্নয়নের অঙ্গীকার-এর জন্য আজ অপসোনিন একটি অন্যতম শীর্ষস্থানীয় দেশীয় ঊষধ প্রযুক্তিকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানে পরিণত হয়েছে। মরহমের সুদীর্ঘ কর্মময় জীবন আমাদের উত্তরণের চিরন্তন পথনির্দেশ।

আমরা তাঁর বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা করি—পরম করুণাময় আল্লাহ্ তাঁকে যেন জান্নাতুল ফেরদৌস দান করেন।

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Corporate communications: Jamuna Group of Industries
Sena Kalyan Bhaban (12th Floor), 195 Motilal C/A, Dhaka-1000.
Phone: 880-2-9566091, 9566092, 9566093, Factory: 9297109, 9297120
Fax: 88-02-9566405, 9567444, E-mail: jamuna@galbd.net, jdel@bangla.net