



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



COMMITTED TO People's Right to Know

REGD. NO. DA 781 VOL. XV NO. 222 DHAKA TUESDAY AUGUST 30, 2005 BHADRA 15, 1412 BS RAJAB 24, 1426 HIJRI 16 PAGES PLUS STAR LIFESTYLE PRICE: Tk 10.00

www.thedailystar.net

Rules of Mustaque, Sayem, Zia unlawful, declares HC

Verdict stayed at night by chamber judge at his residence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a historic verdict, the High Court yesterday declared the fifth amendment to the constitution illegal, meaning the rules of Khandker Mushtaque Ahmed, Abu Sadaat Mohammad Sayem, and Maj General Ziaur Rahman from August 15, 1975 to April 9, 1979 were unlawful.

tial law government prior to that time.

In a late night development, the state-run news agency BSS said the chamber judge of the Appellate Division Amirul Kabir Chowdhury stayed the judgement until tomorrow following a leave to appeal petition filed by Attorney General AJ Mohammad Ali.

Sources said the attorney general and other government law officers last night went to the residence of Justice Amirul to file the petition. After a brief hearing, the judge ordered that the matter will be heard

by a full bench of the Appellate Division tomorrow.

In the verdict, the HC observed that martial law as a whole is illegal and unconstitutional and all the actions, laws, and rules made under martial law are illegal. The changes of the governments between August 15, 1975 and before the national elections of 1991 were not carried out constitutionally.

The High Court bench of Justice ABM Khairul Haque and Justice ATM Fazle Kabir also said the constitution does not permit anyone to assume power by any means other

than the ones mentioned in it (constitution). If anyone does so, it will amount to sedition.

The court, however, noted that although all government activities between August 15, 1975 and April 9, 1979 have been declared illegal, the history cannot be altered. Many of these illegal acts were done in the public interest. From this perspective, the court 'condones' some of these actions that could have been done in line with the constitution.

The bench said assuming the power with effect from the morning

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



Leaders and activists of the main opposition Awami League march in a mourning procession in the city yesterday as part of the party's month-long programme to mark the 30th death anniversary of Bangabandhu.

4 Rab men jailed for robbing cattle trader

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced four members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and their two sources to five years rigorous imprisonment (RI) for robbing a cattle trader of Tk 7.8 lakh.

The convicts are Sergeants Atiqur Rahman and Waliullah, Assistant Sub-inspector (ASI) Rafiqul Islam, constable Khorshed Alam and their two sources Mofizur Rahman alias Babul and Masud Mridha.

The convicts were accused of robbing a cattle trader in the Mirpur area of the city on March 23.

All the convicts except Masud Mridha were present during the delivery of the verdict.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Towfiqul Alam of the Speedy Trial Court-4 handed down the sentence.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Power sector most corrupted, says Wallich

Mahmood differs with her comment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As World Bank Country Director Christine I Wallich yesterday branded the power sector the most corrupted area, citing an example in a report published by The Daily Star, the state minister for power defended his chair by questioning the honesty of the reporter of the paper.

State Minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmood said Wallich should not make comments solely on the basis

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Polls financing major source of graft: WB

Wallich says this retards infrastructure development, investment climate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

World Bank (WB) Country Director Christine I Wallich yesterday said election financing is a major source of corruption, which has retarded the country's infrastructure development, investment climate, and ultimately the development process.

"The cost of getting elected in

Bangladesh is said to be among the highest in the world," she said addressing a two-day workshop on infrastructure in the city adding that Tk 200 billion were said to be spent by the parties in the elections.

She urged the Election Commission (EC) to implement rigorously and relentlessly the recent High Court directive to gather information regarding the candi-

dates' income, assets and liabilities.

At the same time, she said, infrastructure finance should be made harder for the corrupt politicians and the parties that support them so that there will be less pressure to use infrastructure as a "cash cow" or "golden goose" for the party or candidate.

"That's good for infrastructure,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

15,000 bullets, AK47 seized in CHT

STAR REPORT

Security forces seized an AK47 rifle and 15,000 bullets in two raids in Bandarban and Rangamati districts yesterday.

Our correspondent from Bandarban says the members of Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Bangladesh Police in a joint drive retrieved the huge amount of ammunition from Lemuchhari, a bordering area under Naikkhongchhari.

A mine detecting team of Bangladesh Army was also with them. Lt Col Abdul Awal, the comman-

ding officer of Naikkhongchhari BDR zone, led this special operation which was carried out acting upon a secret information. The security forces surrounded the area and recovered the bullets by digging soil.

"The operation is not yet closed, the mine detecting team is continuing the search with metal detectors and we are expecting to recover more arms and ammunition from there," official spokesman of the joint forces in Bandarban region said.

On Saturday evening, BDR also seized 32 foreign-made pistols, 5,000 bullets and 64 empty

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

SERIAL BLASTS Bangla Bhai visited Khagrachhari on 'training mission'

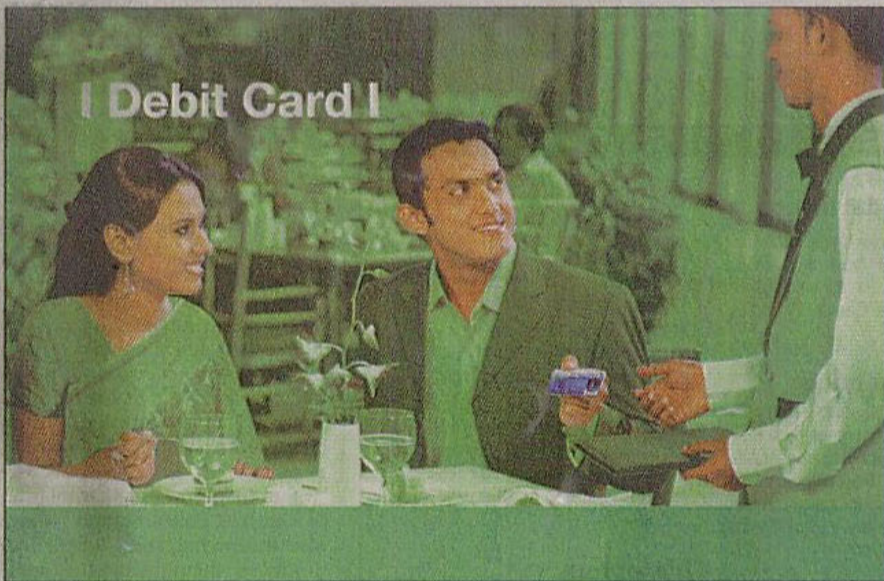
Confesses dist ameer of JMB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Vigilante Operation Commander of Jagrata Muslim Janata, Bangladesh (JMB) Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai visited Khagrachhari about 16 months ago to train up his operatives, an arrestee said.

District JMB Ameer Nasir Uddin alias Arif arrested on Sunday told interrogators eight months into Bangla Bhai's visit, JMB spiritual leader Abdur Rahman made a follow-up visit to enquire about their operatives' activities.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



I Debit Card I

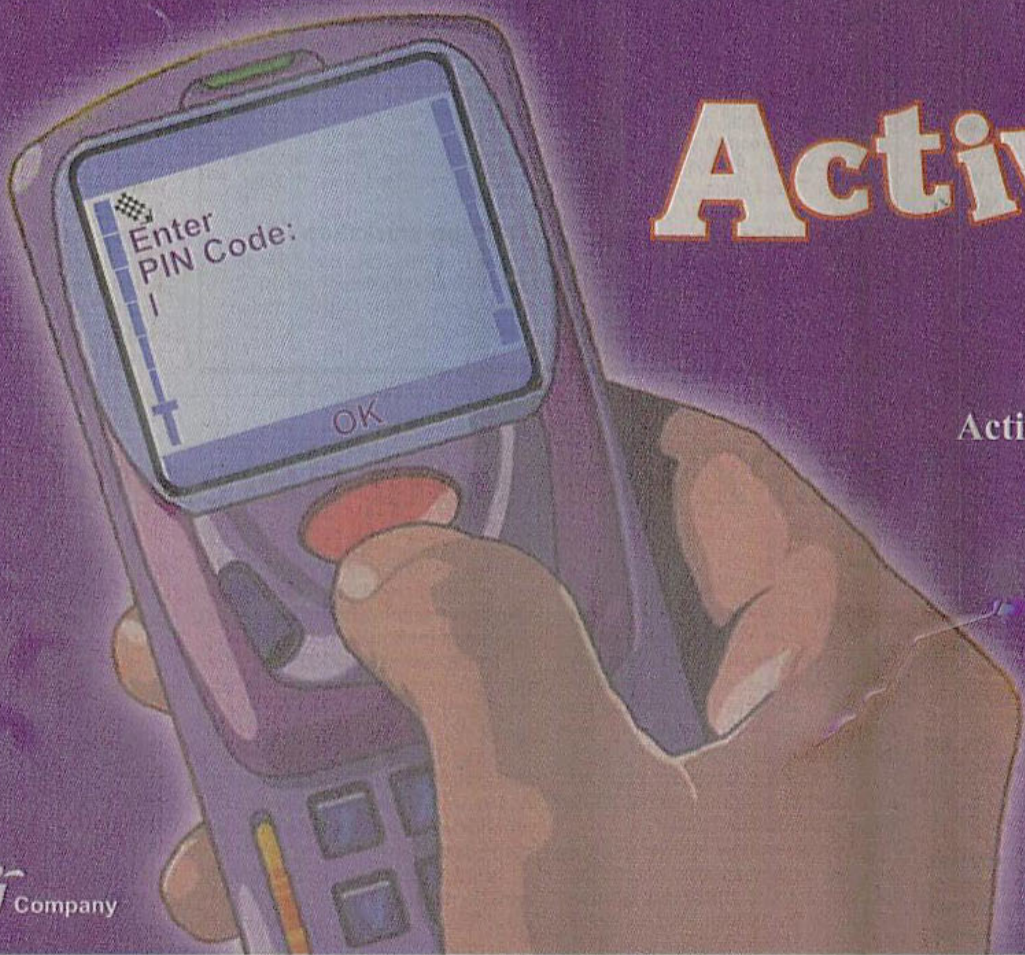
Debit Card - Smart Safety

Call 0173 041400-19

Standard Chartered

Celebrating 100 years in Bangladesh

PRE-PAID



Activate & Gain

Activate any new AKTEL Pre-Paid connection this August and gain

Extra 200 talktime Free!

Only 1 day left

A TM Company

- Offer valid from August 1-31, 2005
- Pre-loaded talktime, if any, will remain valid
- 20 days' validity or Pre-loaded validity, whichever is longer, will prevail
- Conditions apply

AKTEL Assistance: Call 123, 124 (from any AKTEL number), 018 9400 400 (from any number) SMS 8123 (from any AKTEL number), Email: 123@aktel.com, Website: www.aktel.com

