

Staff unwilling to do voter listing again

Blast EC over due remuneration  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over a hundred field level officials in the capital, who were recruited last year and employed during the preparation of the controversial 'fresh voter list' from January to May this year, yesterday expressed their unwillingness to work for the preparation of the electoral rolls from tomorrow.

Field level officials outside the capital also expressed the same view, several district election officers yesterday said, adding that they cannot express their opinion openly, as they are employees in different government offices.

The field level officials -- assistant registration officers (AROs) -- who are mostly school teachers, at a meeting with an election officer under Dhaka district, also blasted the Election Commission (EC) for not providing them with due remuneration for the voter listing job

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

## Voter list revision set to bite the dust

EC discourages prospective voters by imposing complicated procedures for enrolment, not going door to door

SHAKHAWAT LITON

the next parliamentary elections on time in uncertainty.

In accordance with the EC procedure, intending voters will have to submit a receipt of municipal tax or house rent or payment to local guards, and an affidavit of proof of age or an attested copy of SSC certificate with the application on a prescribed form.

Field level election officials said a large number of eligible voters may remain out of the list while huge fake ones and those who died in the last few years will be in the existing electoral roll prepared in 2000.

According to an EC calculation, over one crore people have become eligible for voting since 2000.

Meanwhile, a number of district election officers said those who had earlier contacted the election

Tariffs on 4,271 items to decrease as Safta takes effect tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will reduce tariffs on 4,271 items by five per cent on average by December 31, 2008 under South Asian Free Trade Area (Safta) agreement taking effect tomorrow.

National Board of Revenue (NBR) yesterday issued a circular stating that the tariff rates will be reduced in three phases.

The first phase begins on July 1 and will end on December this year. The second phase will start on January 1 of the next year and continue till December while the third phase will be the year 2008.

Following discussions with the Safta countries, Bangladesh will bring the tariff down to zero per cent by 2015 of those 4,271 imports, the circular stated.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

Bar Council, SC Bar denied president's appointment

AGENCIES, Dhaka

Bangabhaban yesterday refused to entertain the applications of Bangladesh Bar Council and Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) seeking to meet President Iajuddin Ahmed.

It said the president is now in complete rest as per the advice of the doctors.

Bar Council Vice-President Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud submitted an application on Wednesday for an appointment

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

UDICHI VERDICT Babar blames AL for weak charge sheet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Home Lutfozzaman Babar yesterday said in parliament that the previous Awami League (AL) government did not properly prepare the charge sheet in the 1999 Udichi blast case.

"Awami League government tried to influence the investigation and used the case politically that may have led to such a verdict (acquittal of all the 23 accused)," Babar said replying to a question of opposition Jatiya Party lawmaker GM Quader.

GM Quader, on the other hand, criticised the police for failure to investigate the case properly.

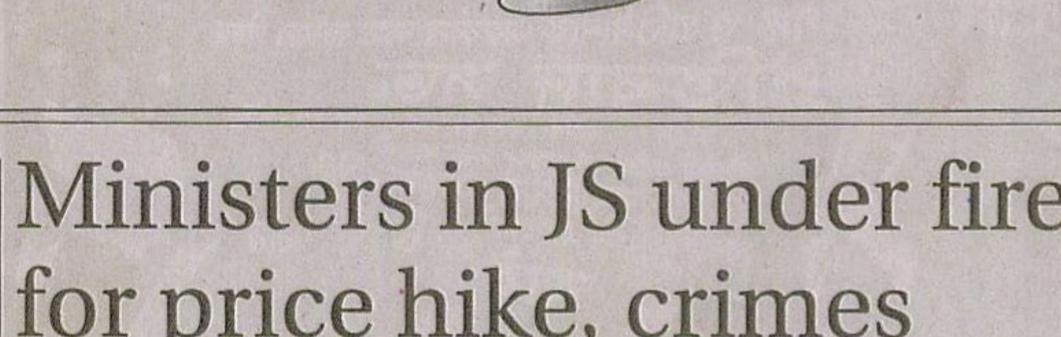
POLICE ATTACK AL MP sues police officials

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) lawmaker Tanjin Ahmed Sohel Taj yesterday filed a criminal case against 16 police officials for torture on him and his party workers during the 14-party opposition's Election Commission siege programme on June 20.

The accused are -- DC (West) Kohinoor Miah, ADC of DB Shahidul Islam, DC (Riot) Rezaul

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3



Budget passed in AL's absence  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday passed the national budget for the fiscal year 2006-07 in the absence of the main opposition Awami League (AL) as they had walked out of the House.

The FY07 budget that will be implemented from July 1, 2006 outlines Tk 88,732 crore of gross expenditure, including revenue and development, and Tk 69,740 crore of net expenditure.

In the budget for FY07, the education ministry has received a maximum allocation of Tk 6,182 crore in both development and non-development sectors.

The LGRD ministry received the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

## Ministers in JS under fire for price hike, crimes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opposition lawmakers in parliament yesterday fired a broadside against the ministries of commerce, home and primary and mass education for price spiral of essentials, deteriorating law and order and irregularities in recruiting primary school teachers.

The opposition members were participating in a discussion on budgetary allocation for different ministries.

They said the government has failed to deliver. It has done nothing to address the severe problems besetting the countrymen.

"Prices of essentials are now at a

Party (Ershad) lawmakers took a swipe at the government also for undermining the judiciary by appointing inept persons as judges. They said the administration has been grossly politicised in the last four and a half years.

Rahman told the House that a decision regarding the demands of the agitating schoolteachers will be taken by July 25. Replying on behalf of the primary and mass education ministry, he stressed the importance of improving the quality of teachers. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is in charge of primary and mass education ministry.

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed said there has not been any corruption or nepotism in appointments by the government.

"Prices of essentials are now at a

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

প্রথম কার্যর জয়েন জীবনের  
ইন্দ্রিয় প্রয়োগের জন্য

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Awami League (AL) led 14-party opposition combine will seek to halt road, rail and river communications across the country on July 2 to press home its demands for electoral reforms and resignation of the chief election commissioner (CEC).

The mainstream opposition parties plan to blockade highways, rail tracks and waterways from

9:00am to 3:00pm in Dhaka and elsewhere in the country. They have already warned the law enforcers that there will be stiff resistance if the latter try to foil the programme.

Leader of the Opposition and AL president Sheikh Hasina announced the programme after a 36-hour nationwide shutdown on June 13-14. Earlier, the opposition camp had observed programmes

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Man dies of 'police torture'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man died yesterday allegedly of police torture in the capital.

Relatives of Abdul Karim, 47, of Anandabazar in Ramna who used to rent out horse-drawn carriages, alleged Ramna police arrested him on Monday and beat him up severely for not paying the toll of Tk 5,000.

Police produced him before a Dhaka court after he fell sick on Tuesday. The court sent him to Dhaka Central Jail on the same day.

He fell sick again around 3:00am yesterday in jail and was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he succumbed to his injuries after an hour.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7



PHOTO: AFP  
SENIORS DO NOT TRAIN, SAVE ENERGY: Argentinean youngster Lionel Messi juggles with the ball while striker Hernan Crespo and midfielder Javier Mascherano relax during a practice session at Hotel Herzogs Park training camp.

## Big boys ready to roll

REUTERS, Essen

The World Cup returns with a bang on Friday after a two-day break as the hosts kick off the first of the heavyweight quarterfinal battles. Germany are in the last eight for the 15th time in 16 attempts and face Argentina for the fifth time at a final.

Their last meeting was the 1990 showpiece when Germany coach Juergen Klinsmann was in the team that triumphed 1-0 to take revenge for the 1986 final which the South Americans won 3-2.

Neutrals will hope Friday's game in Berlin resembles the exciting five-goal Mexico City encounter rather than the dour Rome decider, settled by Andreas Brehme's penalty.

Germany have improved with each game in this tournament and have a real belief that they can end their six-year run without a victory over one of the world's leading sconations.

Argentina, who sparked in their 6-0 group stage thrashing of Serbia and Montenegro, were made to work hard by Mexico in the second

round and the match looks enticingly close to call.

The opposite is true in Friday's second game where Italy, despite making hard work of Australia, are heavy favourites to get past a Ukraine team who limped into the last eight via a penalty shootout after a dire goalless draw with Switzerland.

Saturday begins with England facing Portugal in a repeat of the Euro 2004 quarterfinal in Lisbon when the host nation triumphed

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

Germany v Argentina 9:00 pm  
Italy v Ukraine 1:00 am (Saturday)  
Berlin, Hamburg

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Opposition to snap rail, road, river links

Plans to intensify pressure on govt for electoral reforms

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

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SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

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