



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

TODAY'S ISSUE 24 PAGES



REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XVI NO. 168

DHAKA TUESDAY JULY 4, 2006

People's Right to Know

www.thedailystar.net

ASHAR 20, 1413 BS

JAMADIUS SANI 7, 1427 HURI

24 PAGES PLUS STAR LIFESTYLE PRICE: Tk 10.00

VOTER LIST UPDATE Little response across country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Many district and upazila election officers yesterday expressed their doubts about the success of the Election Commission's (EC) controversial method of updating the voter list.

They also vented their frustration about not getting any inspiring response from the people even into the third day of the campaign yesterday since the process had begun on Saturday.

In many rural areas it has not even begun yet, they said.

A large number of field level officials are fearing trouble from local units of opposition parties since they rejected the EC adopted system for updating the voter list.

The officials are regularly communicating with the EC Secretariat inquiring about whether the method of not going from door to door

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Dhaka-Ctg expressway okayed

RAFIQ HASAN

The cabinet yesterday approved the construction of a second highway between Dhaka and Chittagong with private investment.

The Malaysia-based construction company, Azimat Consortium, proposed to build the 210-kilometer highway at a cost of around \$900 million. This would be the first expressway in the country with six lanes and facilities like

adequate parking space, fuelling stations, rest houses and mosques at regular intervals.

The company will construct the highway on a build, own, operate and transfer (BOOT) basis. After operating for 30 years and recovering the investment through collecting toll, the expressway will be handed over to the government.

The Malaysian company proposed the investment last year and the communications ministry first

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Debate in JS over minister's comments on Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling BNP and opposition Awami League (AL) lawmakers locked in an unscheduled debate in parliament yesterday over a statement by Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas against Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina.

The AL lawmakers staged noisy protest when Abbas asked Hasina to apologise for making 'untrue and baseless' statements about him recently during budget discussion.

"Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina will have to apologise for this, otherwise I will sue her," Abbas said reading out a written statement in the House.

The minister brushed aside Hasina's allegations that he was

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Big four to lock horns

AFP, Berlin

The World Cup semifinalists -- Germany, Italy, France and Portugal -- were gathering their forces and plotting their tactics for Tuesday and Wednesday's games in Dortmund and Munich.

German preparations for the last four game against Italy in Dortmund were thrown into turmoil with the news that midfield dynamo Torsten Frings was under investigation by FIFA for his part in the free-for-all that marred the conclusion to the quarter-final win over Argentina.

Frings claims he was only defending himself in the fracas, but if FIFA takes the opposite view he could be suspended for the Italy game.

That would force a tactical rethink from coach Jurgen Klinsmann who already has skipper Michael Ballack struggling with injuries.

The Germans will remain at their Berlin base until Monday evening when they will head over to Dortmund, a football-mad city in western Germany, for Tuesday's game which is being billed as the biggest on home soil since the 1974 World Cup final.

The Italians will remain at their nearby Duisburg base with their final training session planned at the Borussia Dortmund ground on Monday evening.

Marcello Lippi will once more almost certainly have to do without injured central defender Alessandro Nesta, but his chosen replacement, Marco Materazzi, is available again after suspension.

French coach Raymond Domenech, who has spent weeks

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PHOTO: AFP

French captain Zidane juggles with the ball during a training session yesterday at Westfalen-Stadion in Hameln ahead of their World Cup semi-final match.

Dawn-to-dusk hartal today

Cops take away
Milon's body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League (AL) led 14-party opposition combine enforces a dawn-to-dusk countrywide hartal today, protesting the death of an opposition activist in police action during the blockade programme on Sunday.

Leader of the Opposition and AL President Sheikh Hasina announced

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Ershad keeps alliance choice for polls open

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman HM Ershad yesterday said his party will jointly contest the next general elections either with BNP or Awami League (AL) led alliance.

Jatiya Party does not have the financial ability to contest unilaterally in the next general elections

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VOTER ROLL UPDATE IN DHAKA Rules bent, yet voters shy away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A number of assistant registration officers (ARO) in the capital have unofficially relaxed the strict procedure for submitting a raft of weird documents with applications for registration as voters but people appear not enthusiastic about getting listed.

As per the Election Commission (EC) procedure, an intending voter 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 in a prescribed form.

The EC Secretariat directed field level officials to follow the procedure properly in updating the existing voter list, which began on Saturday with the enumerators not required to make door-to-door visit.

"It is not my business to see

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Iajuddin was fit on return from S'pore

Says doctor at Mount Elizabeth Hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Iajuddin Ahmed returned to the country after receiving treatment in Singapore and with physical fitness to do normal work. There was no prohibition on him to meet anyone, said a Singapore physician who attended him there.

Morris Chu, consultant physician of Mount Elizabeth Hospital where Iajuddin had a successful bypass, told private satellite televi-

sion channel ATN Bangla in an interview that the president's physical condition was okay to get back to work after he returned to Bangladesh. ATN Bangla aired Morris's interview yesterday.

The president himself was also very well informed about his physical condition. On his return from Singapore on June 20, he was admitted to Dhaka Combined Military Hospital (CMH) and was shifted to Bangabhaban later.

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Germany v Italy
12:45 am (Wednesday)
Dortmund

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AS/ATC JMT



SHAZNEEN
CASE

HC verdict today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) will deliver the verdict on the sensational Shazneen murder case today.

The HC Death Reference Bench

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-John F. Kennedy

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