

July 2, 2007

Govt may allow indoor politics on limited scale  
Reformists, if corrupt, won't be spared

UNB, Dhaka

Law and Information Adviser Mainul Hosein yesterday said the government is contemplating allowing indoor politics on a limited scale.

Talking to reporters at his office, he said the government will have no objection if the political parties want to sit with the Election Commission to discuss the electoral reforms.

"We're thinking about allowing indoor politics in a limited way considering political party reforms, holding their councils and elections," the adviser said. "But it cannot be seen as permission for open politics," he added.

Mainul said the parties would require prior permission to organise meetings and processions as the government will have to see the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Yunus among 30 greatest entrepreneurs

UNB, Dhaka

Nobel laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus has been named as one of the 30 greatest business entrepreneurs of all time by the BusinessWeek magazine of the US, for his contribution to economy and market.

BusinessWeek in its June 27 issue wrote that Yunus, the winner of 2006 Nobel Peace Prize, founded a banking system 30 years ago to lend small amounts of money to the rural poor in Bangladeshi villages.

"Most of the low-interest

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## Parties unwilling to sit with EC with ban on politics

SHAKHAWAT LITON

sending representatives despite the embargo on indoor politics.

Law and Information Adviser Mainul Hosein yesterday reiterated the government's 'no objection' if the political parties discuss with the EC on the proposed electoral reforms.

But no political parties, not even the name-only ones, expressed interest in sitting for dialogue with the EC amid the embargo on indoor politics, EC sources said.

"We want to hold discussion with the political parties. But so far we know none of the political parties want to sit in dialogue so long as the embargo on indoor politics remains effective," the election commis-

sioner said.

Rejecting the EC's initiative for discussion with the embargo on indoor politics remaining, the major political parties have said before holding such discussion the ban should go allowing them to hold their party's forum meeting to discuss the proposed reforms.

Several non-government organi-

sations and social welfare bodies, however, met the EC after the draft proposals for electoral reforms were disclosed in April. The EC itself also invited civil society personalities

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## Reformists dare Khaleda to council meet

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

Accepting what many consider a veiled challenge from BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, the pro-reform leaders yesterday said they too want the reform proposals to be passed at the party council.

The BNP chief on Saturday said the reforms issue would be settled at a council where everyone would have their say, and necessary changes would be brought about for the greater interest of the party, not to pander to any individual's whims.

Those for radical changes in the party that was in power for the highest three times said they hope this time the councillors who did not have the opportunity to have a council in the last 14 years would be able to speak their mind.

"She [Khaleda] is our leader, we respect her and want to make it clear again that the council will decide everything," said BNP Vice-president Hafiz Uddin Ahmed adding that they are hopeful they would have the majority required to bring changes in the party constitution.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Shops might be allowed to remain open till 8pm

UNB, Dhaka

Shop owners may be allowed to keep their stores open until 8:00pm instead of the present 7:00pm cut-off time fixed earlier by the government as a power-saving measure.

Power Adviser Tapas Chowdhury at a meeting with shop owners yesterday gave the hint as the traders lamented that they have to suffer losses for early closing of their shops.

The adviser, however, said he would place a proposal to this effect and the final decision would come from the Council of Advisors.

"If the advisory council approves the proposal, you will be allowed to keep your shops open up to 8:00pm right from next Saturday," he told the leaders of the shop owners.

Tapas said all the advisers feel the shops should remain open till

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## B Chy-led LDP jumps on reform bandwagon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Narcotics department officials arrested eight drug traders including four females and seized 5 kg heroin worth Tk 5 crore from a residence at Wari in the capital on Saturday night.

The arrestees Sima Akter, Mosammam Parvin, Tania Begum, Eti Akter, Manju Bhuiyan, Shahidul Islam, Alaudin and M Selim were placed on a three-day remand by narcotics department yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a 12-member team of narcotics department raided the top floor of a two-storey building and recovered 680 polythene packets containing 27,880 puria (small pack) of heroin, sources said.

Of the seized heroin, the females hid 240 packets under their cloths, sources said.

Sima, one of the arrestees, brought out 440 more packets from almirah under continuous questioning by the officials.

Assistant Director of Department of Narcotics Control Fazlur Rahman said Sima confessed to have brought the heroin from her village home in Benapole three days back in a goods-carrying handbag.

Narcotics department sources said the arrestees were involved in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

ACC's chief prosecutor Mahbub quits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Prosecutor to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Advocate Mahbubur Rahman yesterday resigned from his post following media reports that portrayed him as a 'corrupt person'.

He, however, claimed that he has resigned on 'personal and health grounds'.

His resignation came on the date when the senior lawyer was supposed to start his work at the ACC.

"I have submitted my resignation to the commission chairman seeking relief from the position on personal and health grounds," Mahbubur Rahman, also a former minister of autocrat Ershad's cabinet, told The Daily Star last night.

He denied having quit following media reports against him and said that his resignation has no connection with these. Earlier several

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Announcement

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains monthly FORUM free of charge.

-Editor

WEALTH REPORT

ACC team quizzes Tarique's wife, mother-in-law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A four-member team of the anti-graft national taskforce yesterday questioned Tarique Rahman's wife and mother-in-law about his wealth statement to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Led by ACC Deputy Director Zahirul Huda, the team entered the Dhanmondi residence of Tarique's in-laws at 3:45pm and after around two hours left with photocopies of some property documents.

Besides quizzing Zubaida Rahman Khan, wife of the detained son of former premier Khaleda Zia, and her mother Iqbal Mand Banu, they examined the documents of Zubaida's property, and bank statements.

Major Redwanur Rahman, National Board of Revenue (NBR) Deputy Commissioner (income tax) Abdus Samad Al Azad and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



PHOTO: STAR  
Jubilant students at a rally near the Teachers-Students Centre on the Dhaka University Day yesterday, the 86th founding anniversary of the country's premier educational institution.

Charges pressed against Harris Chy for keeping foreign currencies illegally

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Gulshan police yesterday pressed charges against Harris Chowdhury, political secretary to former prime minister Khaleda Zia, in connection with a case filed for

possessing huge local and foreign currencies at his residence.

The hearing on arguments of the arms case filed against controversial businessman Giasuddin Al Mamun will be held today while detained former communications minister Nazmul Huda was shown

arrested yesterday in an extortion case.

Besides, Harris' brother-in-law and driver were placed on five-day remand in connection with a graft case filed against them with Dhanmondi Police Station.

HARRIS CASE

Sub-Inspector (SI) Babul Hossain of Gulshan Police Station, who is also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



PHOTO: STAR  
Stagnant rainwater mixed with sewage continues to be a nuisance for people on road 8/A of Dhanmondi in the capital, as the sewage system there is too clogged to drain it away.

8 held with 5kg heroin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Narcotics department officials arrested eight drug traders including four females and seized 5 kg heroin worth Tk 5 crore from a residence at Wari in the capital on Saturday night.

The arrestees Sima Akter, Mosammam Parvin, Tania Begum, Eti Akter, Manju Bhuiyan, Shahidul Islam, Alaudin and M Selim were placed on a three-day remand by narcotics department yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a 12-member team of narcotics department raided the top floor of a two-storey building and recovered 680 polythene packets containing 27,880 puria (small pack) of heroin, sources said.

Of the seized heroin, the females hid 240 packets under their cloths, sources said.

Sima, one of the arrestees, brought out 440 more packets from almirah under continuous questioning by the officials.

Assistant Director of Department of Narcotics Control Fazlur Rahman said Sima confessed to have brought the heroin from her village home in Benapole three days back in a goods-carrying handbag.

Narcotics department sources said the arrestees were involved in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6