

Joint forces to monitor kitchen markets from tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The joint forces will start monitoring the four wholesale kitchen markets in the capital from tomorrow with a view to keep the prices of essentials at a reasonable level ahead of Ramadan.

The joint forces also asked all the kitchen traders to maintain voucher while buying and selling goods. In addition, the authorities of all the retail kitchen markets will hang the prices of essentials on the price board from now on.

The decisions came yesterday after a meeting with the traders of different wholesale and retail kitchen markets in the capital. Officials from the army, Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and police

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

VOTER LISTING

Laptop tendering to be cancelled

EC plans to go for fresh bidding for procurement of 8,000 computers

SHAKHAWAT LITON

A government panel has cancelled the selection of an Indian company ready to sign a contract with the Election Commission (EC) to supply 8,000 laptops for voter listing. It also asked the commission to invite fresh tenders for the job, as the panel found anomalies in the previous bidding process.

The three-member review panel, formed under a provision of the Public Procurement Regulations (PPR) 2003, also made a five-point recommendation to

the EC in its report in order to ensure the quality of the laptops worth over Tk 45 crore, and to ensure on time delivery, sources in the EC Secretariat said.

Contacted by The Daily Star yesterday Humayun Kabir, secretary in charge to the EC Secretariat, said he received the report from the review panel.

"We will re-invite tenders as soon as possible for purchasing the equipment for preparing the voter list," he said adding that the EC Secretariat is maintaining transparency in the procurement process.

The EC might find itself in a dilemma regarding having the voter list ready on time according to its much-talked about electoral roadmap, as it will have to re-invite tenders for the laptops, already over two months into the first tender invitation.

The additional time required for the re-tendering was not taken into consideration in the EC announced electoral roadmap.

The EC Secretariat on July 7 invited tenders for supplying 8,000

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Delwar demands lifting of emergency, release of Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Demanding a total withdrawal of the ban on politics and of the state of emergency, newly appointed BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday said those who want to split the party do not belong in it anyway as they are working at the behest of 'certain other quarters'.

He also demanded immediate release of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Expressing his frustration at the government's current bar on him to enter the BNP office in the capital, Delwar at a news briefing in his NAM apartment, said the government should allow indoor politics across the country, otherwise the

people might start thinking that it allowed limited amount of indoor politics due to its 'special interest regarding BNP'.

Rejecting the allegation, Ashraf Hossain, expelled joint secretary general of the party, said Delwar is not the legitimate secretary general of the party and his faction is talking nonsense since it failed to occupy the party office.

Meanwhile, BNP's central office may remain under lock and key as law enforcers barred party members from entering the office for the second consecutive day yesterday despite the relaxation of the ban on indoor politics.

Brig Gen (ret'd) Hannan Shah, an adviser to the BNP chairperson,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

ALCWC SITS TODAY

EC talks, Hasina's release on agenda

HASAN JAHRID TUSHER

After a long break, the Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC) meets today to discuss among others the Election Commission's (EC) dialogue on electoral reforms and ways to secure release of Sheikh Hasina.

Sources in the AL said the meeting would adopt a motion praising the interim government for withdrawing the ban on indoor politics.

The committee would also discuss price hike of essentials and what the party could do to rehabilitate the flood victims. It last met on March 4, four days before the military-backed administration slapped a ban on indoor politics.

"Though there will be no specific agenda, we will talk about how to have our president released. Besides, the party's stance on the Election Commission's dialogue, price hike of essentials and the post-flood situation might come up for discussion," a senior AL leader told The Daily Star in return for anonymity.

He said there should be no obstacle to sitting with the EC now that the government has lifted the ban on indoor politics in line with the AL's main condition for joining the dialogue.

Earlier, the AL had announced that it would not take part in the talks as long as the curbs on politics were there.

The leader said they would convene another meeting of the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

12,00 shanties removed from city slum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police removed around 1,200 shanties of Sat Tola Basti (slum) at Mohakhali in the capital yesterday.

A team led by Magistrate Nazrul Islam Khan conducted the eight-hour drive launched at 9:00am to free the land owned by the health directorate, Gulshan police said.

Sources said the drive was scheduled to start in the middle of last month. But due to flood it has been delayed.

Slum dwellers claimed that the authorities did not issue any notice before the drive.

But Assistant Commissioner (AC) of Gulshan zone Shihab Kaiser, who took part in the drive, denied the allegation saying they made a full-day announcement yesterday about the drive.



PHOTO: STAR

An elderly woman along with her two grandchildren leaves her demolished shanty as the law enforcers evict the Sat Tola slum, built illegally on the government land, at Mohakhali in the capital yesterday. Story on page 16.

Gas supply line in Karnaphuli catches fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A fire broke out in the supply line of Bakharabad Gas Systems Ltd (BGSL) under the river Karnaphuli near Kalurghat Bridge in Chittagong last night.

Police and BGSL sources could not confirm if there was an explosion or a leakage caused the fire that started around 9:00pm.

Firefighters as well as authorities concerned of BGSL rushed to douse the fire immediately after it broke out, but no one could get near the blaze as of 10:45pm. The fire was visible from kilometres away.

Witnesses claimed flames were seen coming out of the water half-way across the river.

EC talks with parties on reforms from today

Meets IOJ first

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The much-talked-about dialogue between the Election Commission (EC) and the political parties kicks off today to finalise the draft of the electoral reform proposals.

The EC dialogue, which will continue up to November, will also decide if transparent ballot box will be used in the next parliamentary elections.

On the first day of the talks, the EC will hold discussion with Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ).

The commission initially selected 15 political parties including the Awami League (AL), BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami and Jatiya Party, to invite to its talks. A few more parties might be invited as they applied to the EC claiming their eligibility for joining the dialogue.

Since disclosing the set of draft electoral reform proposals on April 5, the EC could not proceed until Monday with its plan for holding talks with the political parties because of the ban on political activities.

After the restrictions were relaxed on Monday, the IOJ yesterday held a meeting of its

policymaking body to decide its stance on the EC draft proposals.

The AL will sit today formally to discuss joining the EC dialogue. BNP politicians, however, cannot yet begin party activities as police did not allow them to open the party central office on Monday.

Election Commissioner Brig Gen (ret'd) M Sakawat Hossain yesterday told reporters, "We will sit tomorrow [today] to decide whether any other party will be invited for the talks."

The EC meeting will also try to justify its proposals—if the necessity of any of them could be questioned by the political parties—and gather opinion of the parties on the draft proposals.

The EC, which earlier rejected any possibility of introduction of transparent ballot box in the next election, will also seek opinion of the political parties on the issue. The EC had said introducing transparent ballot box would not be viable in the present context of Bangladesh.

In its reform proposals, the EC seeks the authority to cancel candidature on grounds of irregularities,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Inflation to come down

Hopes BB governor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inflation might not rise further in the coming months, Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Salehuddin Ahmed said yesterday.

It has exceeded double-digit in July due to supply side crisis brought on by reduced L/C opening (letter of credit) for imports, he observed.

The governor added that inflation is likely to come down in August and September.

He made the observations after opening an education support programme of the Prime Bank Foundation yesterday morning.

Meanwhile, Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam has dismissed the possibility of raising the value of taka against US dollar to curb rising inflation.

At a Teletalk programme in a city hotel yesterday, he said, "Yes, currency appreciation can help to check inflation but at the same time it might leave adverse effects on exports. We have to think about exports as well and it won't be right to take on a dual policy."

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Flood situation worsens in four districts, improves in N region

STAR REPORT

Flood situation in at least four districts further deteriorated yesterday, remained unchanged in Sylhet region and improved slightly in the northern and the hill districts.

The districts where the situation deteriorated included Comilla, Brahmanbaria, Faridpur and Netrakona.

The flood forecasting and warning centre (FFWC) in a bulletin yesterday said the situation in

Sylhet would deteriorate as the monsoon remains very active in the Indian states of Meghalaya, Mizoram and Assam.

Water level of almost all major rivers in the country is rising. The rivers are flowing above danger level at least at 22 points and rising at 37 points out of the 88 water measurement points.

Our correspondents report: Seven children -- six in Jamalpur and one in Gaibandha -- drowned

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Landslide kills 2 girls in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Two girls were killed in a landslide at Nabnagar in Chittagong on Monday night.

The dead are Meem, 2, daughter of Shahidul Islam and Salma Akhter, 8, daughter of Kinu Mridha.

Police said the incident occurred at around 8:00pm on Monday when a large chunk of earth fell from a hill on a house in a slum at Nabnagar burying the two girls.

"The landslide was wrought by downpour," said the on-duty officer of Bayezid Police Station.

Govt mulls relaxing sentence if criminals confess guilt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is pondering about enacting a new law that would relax the terms of punishment for any accused who confesses his or her offence before the court voluntarily.

Plea bargain, an agreement in a criminal case where the defendant agrees to plead guilty or no contest in exchange for reduced punishment, would cut down the time and expenses for disposal of a case, Law

and Information Adviser Mainul Hossain said yesterday.

"There'll be no appeal in such cases since the accused confess to their crime willingly... the accused doesn't have to pay for lawyer and the government also need not spend much," the law adviser said.

There is such law in many developed countries, he observed adding that Bangladesh should have introduced the law much earlier.

While talking with the reporters

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

2 RU teachers sent to jail on surrender

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A Rajshahi court yesterday sent two Rajshahi University (RU) professors and a driver to jail after they surrendered before the court in a case filed in connection with torching the vehicle of assistant director of Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) during the late August violence.

The RU teachers are Prof Chowdhury Sarwar Jahan Sajal and Prof Golam Sabbir Sattar Tapu of geology and mining department. The other person who also surrendered is Ataur Rahman, a driver of former RU vice-chancellor (VC)

Faisal Islam Faruki.

The Speedy Trial court of SM Fazul Karim Chowdhury fixed September 18 for charge framing. He also granted division in jail for the professors following their petitions.

Sadikul Islam, another accused in the case, arrested earlier, and deputy chief information officer of RU Public relations office, also prayed for division in jail. The court asked the jail authorities to provide him division if they thought he was eligible for division in accordance with the jail code.

Rajshahi DGFI Assistant

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Twenty20 World Cup off to a flier

SPORTS REPORTER

West Indies rushed to 54 for no loss in 6 overs after they were put in to bat by South Africa captain Graeme Smith in the opening match of the ICC World Twenty20 Championship at the Wanderers in Johannesburg last night.

Chris Gayle faced as Shaun Pollock charged in to bowl the first ball of the tournament -- a delivery

that screamed to the point boundary, amidst thunderous roar from the capacity crowd and dancing cheerleaders near the ropes.

Tipped one of the Twenty20 exponents, Gayle smote Pollock towards square-leg in the third over to score the first six of the competition. Then he proceeded to hit two more, both off Makhaya Ntini, one of them ending up a six.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

CONGRATULATIONS

Heartiest congratulations to Dr. M M Emran Chowdhury, Deputy Managing Director & Sponsor Director of Metro Makers & Developers Ltd., i.e. Modhumoti Model Town on his getting the most coveted President i.e. Chancellor Award Gold Medal as best Student at the 4th Convocation of Asian University of Bangladesh held recently.

We pray to Allah the Almighty for his continued success and greater glory in the years to come.

Officers & Staff
Metro Makers & Developers Ltd.
i.e. Modhumoti Model Town

সমর শাহাত

স্ট্যান্ডার্ড ব্যাংক লিমিটেডের পরিচালনা পর্ষদের সম্মানিত পরিচালক, বিশিষ্ট শিল্পপতি, এ আর প্রপার্টিজ ডেভেলপমেন্ট (প্রো) লিঃ, জিরো ওয়ান নেটওয়ার্ক লিঃ, এম এইচ কর্পোরেশন এর সম্মানিত ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, সেলিম এন্ড ব্রাদার্স লিঃ, সালাম এপ্রোপার্স লিঃ এর কার্যনির্বাহী পরিচালক, ইস্টার্ন ট্র-বোর্ড এন্ড পেপার মিলস লিঃ এর সম্মানিত পরিচালক, ইউএসটিসি-বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, চট্টগ্রাম এর সিনিয়র সচিব, আব্দুল মুফিদুল ইসলাম এর কার্যনির্বাহী ও আজীবন সদস্য, সমাজসেবক আলহাজ্ব ইঞ্জিনিয়ার মোঃ হারুন সালাম (৩৯) ৪ঠা সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০০৭, রোজ মঙ্গলবার, সকাল ৯-৪৫মিঃ বন্যাদুর্গত ও দুঃ মানুষের সাহায্যার্থে ত্রাণসামগ্রী বিতরণের উদ্দেশ্যে চট্টগ্রাম থেকে চাঁদপুর যাওয়ার পথে ঢাকা-চট্টগ্রাম মহাসড়কের চৌদ্দগ্রাম এলাকায় এক মর্মান্তিক সড়ক দুর্ঘটনায় মৃত্যুবরণ করেন (ইন্সাল্লাহু ওয়া-ইলাইহি রাজিউন)।

মরহুম আলহাজ্ব ইঞ্জিনিয়ার মোঃ হারুন সালাম তাঁর তরুন বয়সে এই স্বল্প পরিসরের জীবনে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়সহ অনেক স্কুল-কলেজ, মসজিদ, মাদ্রাসা প্রতিষ্ঠা ও সক্রিয়ভাবে পরিচালনায় বিশেষ অবদান রাখেন।

মরহুম মোঃ হারুন সালাম দেশের প্রখ্যাত রাজনীতিবিদ, বিশিষ্ট শিল্পপতি ও স্নানামধ্যন সমাজসেবী মরহুম আলহাজ্ব এম.এ.সালাম এর তৃতীয় পুত্র এবং স্ট্যান্ডার্ড ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর সম্মানিত চেয়ারম্যান, বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগের উপদেষ্টা পরিষদের সদস্য, বিশিষ্ট শিল্পপতি এবং প্রখ্যাত সমাজসেবী লায়ন কাজী আকরামউদ্দিন আহমদ-এর প্রথম জামাত।

স্ট্যান্ডার্ড ব্যাংক লিমিটেডের পরিচালনা পর্ষদের সম্মানিত পরিচালক ও উদ্যোক্তাবৃন্দ, ব্যাংকের সকল নির্বাহী, সর্বস্তরের কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারীবৃন্দ তাঁর এই আকস্মিক মর্মান্তিক মৃত্যুতে গভীরভাবে শোকাহত ও মর্মাহত। ব্যাংকের সার্বিক উন্নয়ন, সাফল্য ও সমৃদ্ধির জন্য মরহুমের অবদানকে আমরা গভীর শ্রদ্ধা ও কৃতজ্ঞতার সঙ্গে স্মরণ করছি।

পরম দয়াময় মহান আল্লাহতায়ালার নিকট দোয়া করছি তিনি যেন এই শোকাহত পরিবারের সকলকে গভীর শোক, দুঃখ ও মর্মবেদনা কাটিয়ে উঠার ধৈর্য্য ও মনোবল দান করেন। মরহুমের বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা করে আমরা পরম করুণাময় আল্লাহতায়ালার দরবারে এই প্রার্থনা করছি তিনি যেন তাঁকে জান্নাতুল ফেরদাউস দান করেন।

স্ট্যান্ডার্ড ব্যাংক লিমিটেড-এর

পরিচালনা পর্ষদের সম্মানিত পরিচালক ও উদ্যোক্তাবৃন্দ, সকল নির্বাহী, সর্বস্তরের কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারীবৃন্দ।