



Today's issue 24 pages



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

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VOTER LISTING

## Laptop tendering to be cancelled

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

SHAKHAWAT LITON

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 pro-

cess.

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

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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 (AS) of Gulshan zone Shahab Kaiser, who took part in the drive, denied the allegation saying they made a full-day announcement yesterday about the drive.



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.

PHOTO: STAR

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 Natrang.

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

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Landslide kills 2 girls in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Two girls were killed in a landslide at Nabinagar 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 Nabinagar 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.

It is a 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

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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's violence.

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

Paisul Islam Faruki.

The Speedy Trial court of SM Fazlul 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

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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 on the

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## 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

ALCWC SITS TODAY

EC talks, Hasina's release on agenda

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

cific 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

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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'.

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.

He also demanded immediate release of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Expressing his frustration at the government's current ban 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 (retd) Hannan Shah, an adviser to the BNP chairperson,

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EC talks with parties on reforms from today  
Meets IOJ first

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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 halfway across the river.

in 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's central office on Monday.

Election Commissioner Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat 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.

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

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Inflation to come down  
Hopes BB governor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inflation might not rise further in the coming months, Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Salihuddin 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.

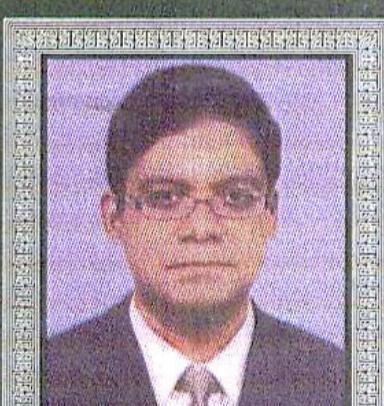
Meanwhile, Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam has dismissed the possibility of raising the value of taka against US dollar to curb rising inflation.

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."

Attending the prime bank's event at China-Bangladesh Friendship Conference Centre, the central bank chief told reporters

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অ্যান্ড্রয়েড মোবাইল



স্ট্যার্ভার্ড ব্যাংক লিমিটেডের পরিচালনা পর্ষদের সম্মানিত পরিচালক, বিশিষ্ট শিল্পপতি, এ আর প্রপার্টিজ ডেভেলপমেন্ট (প্রাপি) লিঃ, জিরো ওয়ার্ল্ড স্টেটওয়ার্ক লিঃ, এম এইচ কোর্পোরেশন এর সম্মানিত ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, সেলিম এন্ড ত্রান্সার্স লিঃ, সালাম এপ্রোলেস লিঃ এবং কার্যনির্বাচী পরিচালক, ইন্সটার্ট ট্রি-বোর্ড এন্ড পেপার মিলিং লিঃ এর সম্মানিত পরিচালক, ইউএসিসিসি-বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, চট্টগ্রাম এর সিভিলেক্টেন্ট সেন্সর, আঞ্জুল মুকুল ইসলাম এর কার্যনির্বাচী পরিচালক, ইউনিভার্সিটি ও আজীবন সদস্য, সমাজসেবক আলহাজু ইউনিভার্সিটির মোঃ হাসান সালাম (৩৯) ৪ঠা স্টেটের, ২০০৭, রোজ মঙ্গলবার, সকাল ৯:৪৫মিঃ ব্যাবস্থাপন ও দুষ্ট মানুষের সাহায্যের পথে ঢাকা-চট্টগ্রাম মহাসড়কের চৌদগাম এলাকায় এক মর্মান্তিক সড়ক দ্রুতবরণ করেন (ইন্ডিলিঙ্গার ওয়ার্ল্ড ইন্ডিয়া ইন্ডিয়া রেজিস্ট্রেশন)।

মরহুম আলহাজু ইউনিভ