

We are remember the heroes PROUD of who made supreme sacrifices for the our heroes! Independence of Bangladesh



Every Package Matters



### HR records inconsistent, contradictory

Says Ain o Salish Kendra STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ain o Salish Kendra, a human rights and legal service commission, in its annual report on human rights in Bangladesh, 2007 says the government's record has been inconsis-

tence and contradictory. The report has been summarised mentioning that human rights violation, marginalisation of minority communities and harassment of indigenous communities in different areas including Chittagong Hill Tracts continued like previous years. Moreover, the role of army and intelligence agencies in rights violation remained opaque and officially undocumented.

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4 YEARS OF OPERATIONS

# Rab recovers image as 'crossfire' marks fall

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) has apparently been careful in the last one year to improve its image marred greatly at home and abroad because of the huge number of deaths in "crossfire" as such extrajudicial killings have reduced which has made significant significantly during the period.

Thirty-four incidents of crossfire took place since June 2007 while the figure was 179 during the 10 months from August 2006 to

time since its inception there was by introducing more modern

no incident of crossfire throughout the month of February this year.

A total of 472 alleged criminals have so far been killed in the name of "crossfire" or "encounter" between associates of the criminals and Rab members.

Meanwhile, the elite force, achievement in containing the slide in law and order and bringing activities of the Islamist militants under control, steps into the fifth year today with new commitment to play more successful role to curb Rab officials said for the first crime and ensure people's security

technology and equipment. Sources said the initiative to

restore the Rab's image was taken in the wake of strong criticism by the human rights groups both at home and abroad for the extrajudicial killings.

Former adviser and Executive Director of Ain o Salish Kendra Sultana Kamal said, "Death in socalled crossfire is unconstitutional and whatever the number it is a matter of grave concern to me as a right activist."

The US Department of State in its annual report "Human Rights SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

#### COLD STORAGES Good news for Munshiganj potato farmers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Munshiganj district administration yesterday decided to cancel the advance reservation system at cold storages to ensure preservation of potato grown by genuine potato farmers.

The decision came at a time when the potato farmers were being refused storage spaces in the cold storages as a section of middlemen and hoarders had been booking cold storage spaces in advance.

The decision was taken during a meeting of farmers, cold storage owners, Department of Agriculture Extension officials and journalists

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OVERSEAS LABOUR MARKET

## Brokers make visas, job papers costlier

PORIMOL PALMA

Middlemen and employers are extorting high prices for visas and job approvals from jobseekers in the Middle East and Malaysia, gradually destroying the overseas labour markets--lifeline of the 2007

country's economy. In addition to paying extra announced it has limited recruit amount, the workers also get low wages, which create in them a ments that need qualified persontendency to switch jobs, do part- nel in the medical and engineering time work in violation of laws and fields. Besides, the Kingdom has set even commit crime.

employers and the host countries, only for establishments having ultimately creating obstacles to contracts with government. sending workers abroad, say offi-

cials and industry insiders.

According to them, these practices are the major reasons that Kuwait stopped recruiting workers from Bangladesh in late 2006 and Malaysia imposed restrictions on hiring Bangladeshi workers in late

Saudi Arabia on Sunday ment of Bangladeshis to establish workers' quota at 20 percent in Such activities highly irritate the cleaning and maintenance jobs

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

charge-framing hearing Apr 9

COURT CORRESPONDENT

MiG-29 case

After getting clearance from the Supreme Court, a Dhaka court yesterday fixed April 9 for hearing on charge framing against detained former premier Sheikh Hasina and six others in connection with the MiG-29 corruption case.

Judge Golam Mortuza Majumder of the Special Court for Dhaka Division passed the order after the prosecution informed the court about the March 18 Supreme Court judgement that finally cleared the way for resuming the stalled trial proceedings.

The court directed the jail authorities to produce Hasina, now under treatment at Square Hospital in the capital, before the court on the scheduled date.

A report published in The Daily Star

Tuesday mistakenly quoted

Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam

as saying that average spending of the ADP in the last few years' bud-

gets shows that real implementa-

tion is not more than 17-18 per-

Actually, the finance adviser

said average spending of the ADP

in the last few years' budgets shows

that real utilisation is not more

than Tk 17,000 crore to Tk 18,000

Correction

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# 5.16cr registered as voters so far

Another 3cr to be enrolled by June

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One crore people have been registered as voters with photographs in last 20 days, raising the number of those on the electoral roll to 5.16 crore as of March 22.

Another 3 crore are expected to be listed as voters till the end of June, the time Election Commission's (EC) roadmap stipulates for the field level task to be wrapped up.

According to EC estimates, there will be around 8 crore electors on the register being prepared for the long-stalled ninth parliamentary polls planned to be held

by the year-end.

With voter listing picking up momentum across the country, senior officials of the EC and the armed forces are confident of finishing the job well within the time frame.

"On average, four lakh people get registered as voters every day. We have directed the officials to complete the registration by June," a senior official told The Daily Star

Last week, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Islam said registration of 5

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The Saudi Arabian Airlines' Boeing-747 on the south taxiway of Zia International Airport after it suffered an engine fire while landing yesterday afternoon.

### Saudi plane catches fire at ZIA

All passengers, crew survive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Passengers of a Saudi Arabian ingwith The Daily Star. airliner had a close shave yesterday afternoon when an engine of the Boeing 747-300 aircraft caught fire during landing at Zia International Airport (ZIA).

Air Commodore Sakeb Khan Bangladesh Airlines said. Majlis, chairman of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) said, "About 307 passengers and crew on board the aircraft were safely evacuated through emergency exits of the aircraft."

However, about 15-20 panicstricken passengers suffered a few cuts and bruises during the halfhour-long ordeal of descending

from the emergency exits, said a security official of ZIA while speak-

The Saudi Arabian Airlines aircraft (flight number SV 810), leased from Air Atlanta, arrived in Dhaka from Jeddah via Madina, a flight operations official at Biman

The CAAB chairman told The Daily Star that an enquiry committee headed by Wing Commander Kamrul Hasan, director of flight safety, has been formed to investigate the incident and submit its report within the next seven days. A team of experts from the Saudi

Arabian Airlines is also on their way

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**Prayer Timing** March 26 Jamaat Azan 4-45 5-20 Zohr 1-15 12-45 5-00 4-45 6-20 6-25

7-45

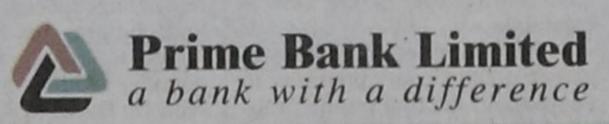
Source: Islamic Foundation

8-15

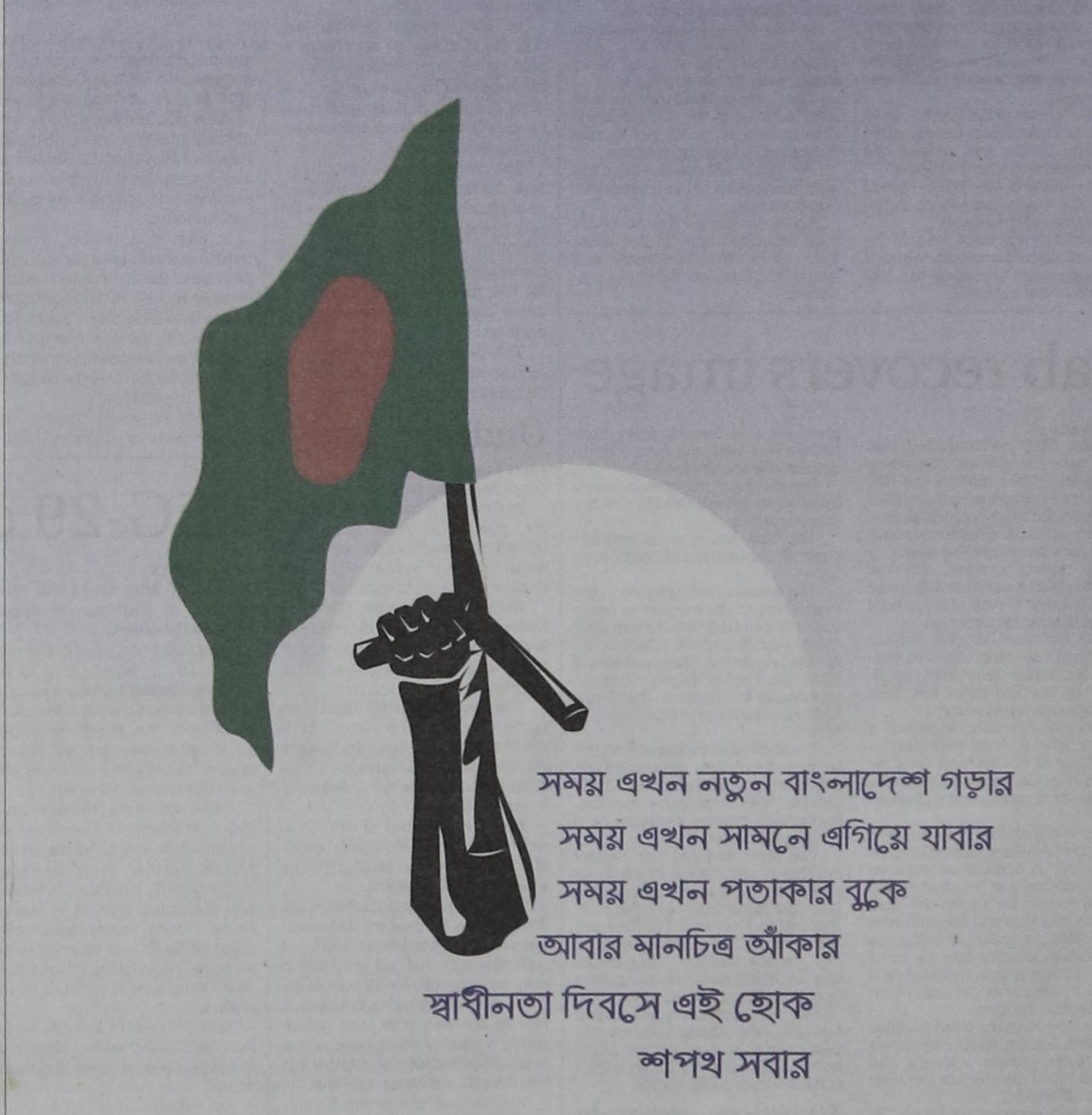


### সম্ভাবনার আলো জুেলে যাই

আমার স্বাধীনতার আলো। সে আমার প্রত্যয়ের আলো সে আলো - আমার চেতনার। স্বাধীনতার এই আলো বুকে নিয়েই সমৃদ্ধির পথে এগিয়ে চলি প্রতিদিন। মহান স্বাধীনতা দিবসে সকল শহীদকে জানাই আমাদের শ্রদ্ধা।



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