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DCC polls, he said the EC might use

those if the boxes are available by

announce schedule for the polls to

city corporations of Rajshahi,

corporations and municipalities

tions for the general election is

satisfactory, the election commis-

sioner said adding "We hope the

final voter list will be ready by the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

The progress in the prepara-

are now complete," he said.

Sakhawat said the EC would

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PHILIPS



Prince Aga Khan duetoday

UNB, Dhaka

Prince Aga Khan, spiritual leader of the Shia Imami Ismaili Muslims, arrives Dhaka today on a four-day state visit.

Ahmed will receive him at Zia International airport.

golden jubilee of his Imamat. He has decided to introduce transpar-

2 lakh transparent ballot boxes to arrive from Canada by Sept

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) will receive around two lakh transparent ballot boxes from Canadian government free of cost by the end of September for the upcoming parliamentary election.

"The transparent ballot boxes are now being manufactured for us. We will get those before October," Election Commissioner Brig Gen Chief Adviser Fakhruddin (retd) M Sakhawat Hussain told reporters at his office yesterday.

In response to the demand by Price Aga Khan's visit marks the | the major political parties, the EC SEE PAGE 15 COL 4 ent ballot boxes, instead of using

traditional boxes made of steel, in ballot boxes would be used in the the next election scheduled on the third week of December.

The election commissioner said the EC plans to hold the polls to Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) at the end of August or early four city corporations and some seven municipalities on third week | finally departed into 'nirvana' at | corpses from shattered buildings municipalities will take place in of July. "Final voter list for the city

"The elections to city corporations will be a test case for us to identify potential difficulties in holding the parliamentary election in a free and fair manner," he

Asked whether the transparent

Buddha Purnima today

BSS, Dhaka

Buddha Purnima, the biggest religious festival of the Buddhist community, will be celebrated across the country today with due religious fervour.

Buddha -- his advent, enlightenment and nirvana, about 2,500 years back.

On this day in 563 BC, Buddha was born as Siddhartha Gautam in Kopilabostu at the foothill of the Himalayas. He attained supreme the age of 80 in 483 BC.

The Buddhist community will celebrate the occasion in all monasteries and Buddhist religious organisations through a daylong programme.

The programme includes hoisting the national flag and the SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

AP, Beichuan 45 seconds.

survivors bleak

The occasion marks three most | The search for survivors in the important events in the life of Lord | rubble of China's powerful earthquake grew bleak Sunday, with in Beichuan, near the quake's rescuers in some areas no longer listening for trapped victims.

There were a few tales of rescues even six days after the magnitude 7.9 quake in central China. But the focus of efforts in the disaster zone September while elections to other Khulna, Sylhet and Barisal and enlightenment at the age of 35 and appeared to shift to clearing as the number of confirmed dead who came from neighbouring block the pungent smell of decay rose to 32,477.

Another 220,109 people suffered injuries, the official Xinhua tion and "many of the limbs are several had wooden markers with News Agency reported. The government has said it expects the

final death toll will surpass 50,000. People ran into the streets as a strong aftershock measured by the

US Geological Survey at magnitude 5.7 shook the area early Sunday for

Search for China quake

epicentre, where several dozen had apparently abandoned earlier corpses in blue body bags lay in a street, with soldiers regularly finding more dead in the wreckage. Rescue workers in the city sprinkled lime on the bodies and in new graves dotting a green hillsprayed disinfectant nearby.

in the middle stages of decomposi-

"There are definitely many thousands have been buried here," he said.

A Malaysian rescue team in the town of Muyu, farther north, sifted slowly and methodically through Few hopeful relatives were seen the wreckage, using giant cutters to split steel girders. However, they efforts to tap on the debris in hopes that survivors would hear and respond.

Dozens of students were buried side overlooking the rubble, the Wu Hai, a rescue team leader small mounds of dirt failing to Yunnan province, said bodies were wafting from the ground. Most graves were unmarked, though names scribbled on them.

Zhou Bencen, 36, said he raced more here. Locals here said several to the town's middle school after the earthquake and found it had

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



PHOTO: STAR

Women wait for the supply of gas to reach a useable level, to light their stoves. This picture was taken from a communal kitchen at a slum in the Mohammadpur embankment area yesterday.

Banks to cut interest rates

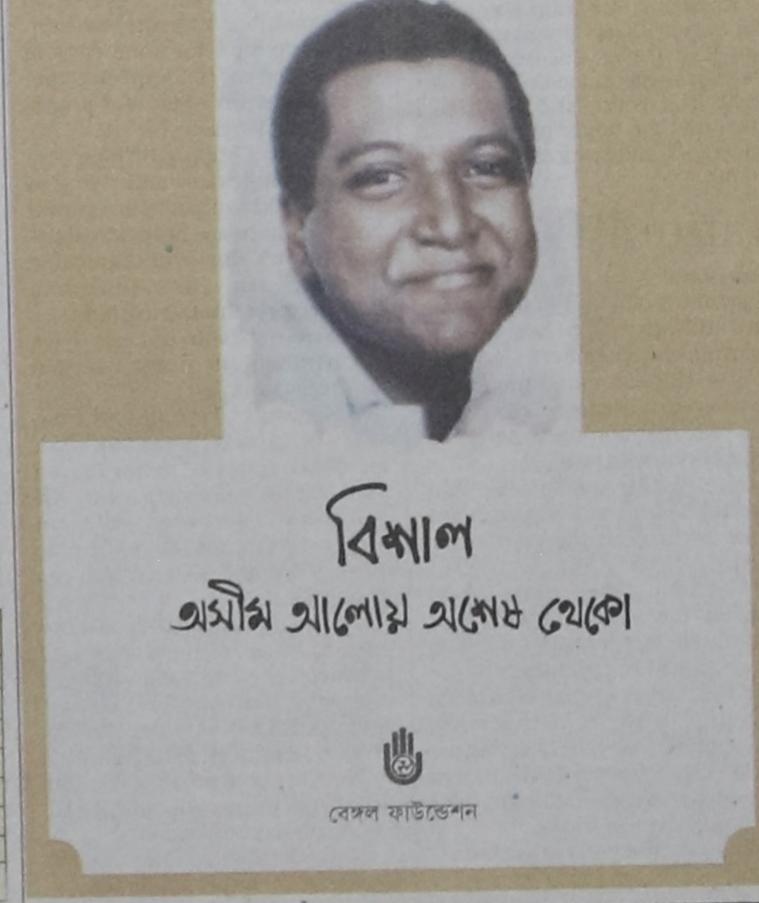
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Owners of private commercial banks yesterday agreed to set the highest interest rate for productive sectors at 14 percent, which is lower by 0.75 percentage points from the offer the banks had placed before Bangladesh Bank in March.

The new rate will be implemented from the next fiscal year starting from July.

Bangladesh Association of Banks (BAB), a platform of bank owners, approved the rate cut at a meeting with leaders of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), and Bangladesh Knitwear SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Prayer Timing May 19		
Fair	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-36	6-40
Esha	8-00	8-30



Arrest of JU students sparks violence

50 vehicles vandalised on highway

UNB, Savar

Students of Jahangirnagar University went on the rampage Saturday night following the arrests of three university students on 'mugging' charges.

Dhaka-Aricha Highway for five hours from 9:00pm Saturday and damaged over 50 vehicles in protest of the arrests.

The proctor of the university, Sayed Kamrul Ahsan, resigned early yesterday as he failed to get

HIDING WEALTH INFO

Charges framed

against Tariqul,

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A Jessore court yesterday framed

charges against former BNP minis-

ter Tariqul Islam and four of his

family members in a case filed for

hiding information about wealth to

the Anti-Corruption Commission

The special-court judge set May

Meantime, police Saturday

25 to record the statements of the

pressed charges against detained

Khulna City Corporation (KCC)

Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman

and 16 other people in an extortion

The ACC's Jessore office Deputy

Director Manzur Morshed filed the

case against Tariqul, his wife Prof Nargis Begum, their two sons

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

prosecution witnesses.

family

the students released from Rab

Campus sources said plainclothes Rab picked up the three students from Dairy Farm Gate of the university suspecting their involvement in a mugging incident They set up roadblocks on in the area at about 8:30pm

Violence sparked off as the news spread across the campus. Several hundred students took to the streets and put barricades on Dhaka-Aricha Highway.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Decision to join dialogue in consultation with Hasina

Say AL leaders STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Senior Awami League (AL) leaders yesterday said they would make decision on holding dialogue with the caretaker government in consultation with party President Sheikh Hasina on her release.

Neither the election nor dialogue would be acceptable without participation of the former premier, they said at a discussion organised by AL at Diploma SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

WOMEN DEV POLICY

Scrap review body, its recommendations 46 organisations ask govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Samajik Protirodh Committee, an alliance of 46 women, human rights and social organisations activists. yesterday demanded that the caretaker government immediately cancel the 'so-called review committee" formed for the women at all levels of the society, National Women Development Policy (NWDP) 2008 and reject all its recommendations.

The platform placed a five-

point demand in this regard at a discussion meeting at the Dhaka Engineering Institution in the city attended by several hundred rights

The demands include the disclosure of all government pledges for establishing equality for disclosure of the government's

position on NWDP 2008 through a press note, allocation of a separate SEE PAGE 15 COL 3 Khaleda files

quashing Niko graft case

petition for

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

(ACC).

Detained former prime minister Khaleda Zia yesterday filed a petition with the High Court (HC) for quashing the proceedings against her in the Niko graft case filed by the Anti-corruption Commission

The HC bench comprising Justice Sharif Uddin Chaklader and Justice Md Emdadul Haque Azad may hear the petition tomorrow.

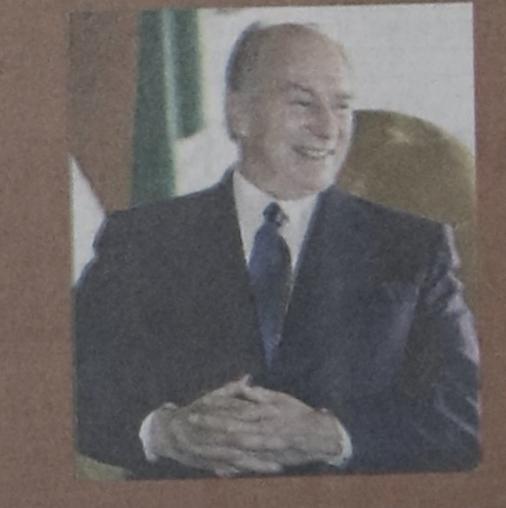
On December 9 last year, the ACC filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station against the BNP chairperson and several others on charge of abusing power in awarding a gas exploration and extraction deal to Canadian company Niko.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



Supporters of BNP leader Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan clashed with lawyers on the premises of Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court after Bhuiyan was sent to jail yesterday.

HEARTIEST FELICITATIONS



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