



24-hour Call Center

Call: 9565114

FedEx

Express

Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.  
Licensee of Federal Express Corporation

Every Package Matters

Don't miss the rhythm of life  
Bring home the theatre experience

FREE

\*Buy Philips LCD TV and get  
Philips Home Theatre System or  
Split Unit Air-Con FREE!

TRANSCOM

ELECTRONICS

055364-8  
67712-4656

HSC exams  
begin tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 6,20,020 students sit for the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examination and its equivalent Alim and Business Management examinations tomorrow under nine education boards of the country.

The figure is an increase from the number of HSC candidates last year.

Measures have been taken across the country to ensure a secure environment for the candidates during the exams. Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has slapped a ban on public entry into 200 yards of city exam centres centres during the examinations.

The ban will remain in force until the examinations are over, a DMP press release said.

The 6,20 lakh candidates will sit for the exams at 1800 centres, including five abroad, this year under the Dhaka, Rajshahi, Comilla, Jessor, Chittagong, Barisal, Sylhet, Madrasa and Technical education boards.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

**TK 21CR BRIBERY**  
Charge hearing  
deferred  
till June 3

UNB, Dhaka

The hearing on charge-framing in the case of Tk 21-crore bribery following the murder of Humayun Kabir Sabbir, a director of Bashundhara Group, has been deferred to June 3.

Judge Shahed Noor Uddin of a special court passed the order as the High Court in an interim order on Monday restrained the trial court from proceedings with the case until June 2.

The High Court stalled the case proceedings on a petition filed by BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman, one of the accused in the case, for quashing the proceedings against him.

Meanwhile, the prosecution yesterday failed to produce accused Tarique Rahman and former state minister for home Lutfuzzaman Babar in the court.

Prosecution told the court Tarique and Babar are 'sick' according to custody warrant.

Only Abu Sofian, director of East-West Property Development Ltd, a concern of the Bashundhara Group, was produced from among the eight accused.

In October last year, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the bribery case with Rama Police Station, accusing eight people. The commission on May 6 pressed charges against Tarique Rahman, former state minister for home Lutfuzzaman Babar and six others in the case.

**100-acre land in  
Delhi allotted  
for South Asian  
University**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The Indian government Monday allocated a 100-acre land in South Delhi for setting up the main campus of the South Asian University.

The first academic session of the university, proposed by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at the 13th Saarc Summit in Dhaka in 2005, is expected to begin in 2010.

Speaking on the occasion, India's External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee said, "The

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

**2 ex-MPs sued  
for ill-gotten  
wealth**

UNB, Dhaka

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed two cases against two former lawmakers for amassing illegal wealth.

ACC Assistant Director Kazi Shamsul Islam filed an FIR (first information report) with Rama Police Station against former BNP

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

**Prayer Timing**

May 28

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Magrib	6-43	6-47
Esha	8-05	8-35

Source: Islamic Foundation

# Manpower export to Bahrain stops

**No work permits for Bangladeshis; embassy in Manama terms the move 'unacceptable'**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Employment of Bangladeshi workers in Bahrain comes to a halt, as the country on Monday stopped issuing work permits to Bangladeshis. Bahraini newspaper Gulf Daily News reported yesterday.

The Bangladesh embassy in Bahrain says the move is "shocking" and "unacceptable" and they will pursue the Gulf nation to review the decision. Bahraini human rights activists also term it "xenophobic".

Recruitment businesses observe the ban is a great shock for

Bangladesh's overseas labour market that came after a halt of recruitment in Kuwait in late 2006, reduction in employment in Saudi Arabia and a temporary ban in Malaysia.

Jobseekers now in Bahrain with work visas but yet to get work permit and those with visas but yet to leave for Bahrain will be in trouble, agencies told The Daily Star yesterday.

The recent restriction came following directives by Interior Minister Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa and was revealed in a statement by search and follow-up assistant under-secretary Colonel

Yousuf Al Ghatam.

Earlier on Sunday, a group of lawmakers demanded ban on Bangladeshi workers following death of Mohammed Jassim Dossary killed in an attack after an argument with a Bangladeshi mechanic at a workshop in Suq Waqif, Hamad Town on Friday.

Bahrain, which is home to around 1.6 lakh Bangladeshis, is presently the third largest manpower receiving country in the Persian Gulf.

Bangladesh Embassy Charge d'Affairs Saiful Islam told The Gulf Daily News on Monday the move

SEE PAGE 2 COL 8

Old woman freed after 14 yrs in jail without trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A sexagenarian who languished in Bagerhat jail for 14 years on end without trial was released on Monday, three weeks after the High Court granted him bail.

Bagerhat jail authorities set Moslem Biswas, son of late Ishaque Biswas of Shakharikati village in Pirojpur's Mathbaria upazila, was arrested by Sharankhola police of Bagerhat on August 11 in 1994 on charges of violence.

The following day he was shown arrested under Special Powers Act in two more cases.

Though he was later acquitted on the violence charges, Biswas was kept behind bars in connection with the two other cases in which he was produced before court only once in 14 years, jail sources said.



Visiting United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres calls on Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at his office yesterday.

## RE-DEMARCATION OF CONSTITUENCIES

**EC gets 1057 appeals from the aggrieved**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Aggrieved by the Election Commission's (EC) move to redraw parliamentary constituencies, politicians and other people have filed 1,057 appeals with the EC against re-demarcation of 43 constituencies.

Amidst growing opposition from major political parties, the EC on April 29 unveiled a draft list of parliamentary constituencies with 133 of the 300 seats redrawn, and invited appeals against it by June 1, if any.

Officials at the EC Secretariat said they received the appeals concerning 43 seats by Monday, and the number might go on increasing till expiry of the time limit.

Election Commissioner Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hussain however said yesterday appeals from only six or seven constituencies have merits and the remaining ones do not contain sufficient substances.

"We will decide whether we will hear all the appeals or only those with merits," he told reporters at

his office.

The EC will start hearing of appeals from the second week of June so that it can publish final list of the re-demarcated parliamentary constituencies by the end of the month.

Sakhawat said they have received some appeals even from constituencies with no changes in their boundaries.

"These appeals contain demands for re-demarcation of the seats," he added.

Major political parties are opposing the EC move saying it would create obstacles to holding the ninth parliamentary polls by the year end, as per the announced electoral roadmap.

The EC however repeatedly said this would in no way hamper holding of parliamentary polls in time.

The constituencies from where appeals have been filed include Sirajganj-1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, Faridpur-1, 2, 3 and 4, Dhaka-2 and 10, Chittagong-3, 5, 6 and 13, Chandpur-1 and 4, Pirojpur-2 and 3, Satkhira-3 and 5, Comilla-7 and 8, Barisal-1 and 3, Gazipur-1 and 2, and Sylhet-1.

Officials at the EC said they received 1,057 appeals concerning 43 seats by Monday, and the number might go on increasing till expiry of the time limit.

Election Commissioner Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hussain however said yesterday appeals from only six or seven constituencies have merits and the remaining ones do not contain sufficient substances.

"We will decide whether we will hear all the appeals or only those with merits," he told reporters at

**DIALOGUE WITH GOVT**  
**BNP to announce stance soon**

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) is likely to spell out soon its position on joining the ongoing political dialogue with the caretaker government.

Senior BNP leaders told UNB last night that they were seeking opinions from leaders of all tiers of the party, including district level leaders and ex-MPs, on the issue of joining the dialogue.

During the exchange of views with them, a consensus is

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

**Home mulls reviving 1996 murder case**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The home ministry is seriously considering reviving the murder case of an expatriate Bangladeshi who was killed 12 years ago in Dhaka inside Zia International Airport (ZIA).

The home ministry has decided to seek law ministry's advice as to whether a petition should be filed with the higher court to review the judgment of the case by a lower

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

**POWER PLANT CASE**  
**Hearing on HC rule begins**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday started hearing on the rule it had issued earlier on a writ petition filed by former prime minister Sheikh Hasina challenging legality of trial proceedings of the barge-mounted power plant corruption case against her.

An HC bench comprising Justice Mohammad Abdur Rashid and Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam also fixed today for further hearing on the matter.

Trial of the corruption case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) is going on in the Special Judge's Court-1 on the Jatiya Sangsads Bhaban premises.

Hasina's counsel Barrister Rafique-ul Huq yesterday submitted before the HC that as per Section 6(A) of the Criminal Law

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

**Ex-MP Salim gets 7 yrs in extortion case**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

ADhaka court yesterday sentenced former BNP lawmaker from Bagerhat MAH Salim to seven years' rigorous imprisonment for extorting Tk 12 lakh from the owner of a construction firm in September 2006.

Salim was also fined Tk 50,000 in default of which he will have to suffer two months more in jail.

Judge Nigar Sultana of the Fourth Assistant Sessions Judge's Court handed down the sentence in the presence of the convict.

This is the first time Salim, also chairman of private television channel Channel 1, has been convicted in a case since his arrest on March 7 last year under section 16(2) of the Emergency Power Rules.

Earlier, the prosecution and the

Village named after language martyr Salam

UNB, Feni

Language martyr Abdus Salam's ancestral village Laxmanpur in Daganbhuiyan upazila of the district has been renamed Salamnagar.

The village was renamed under a government move to show respect to the language martyrs and the Birsreshthas.

The government, earlier, decided to rename the nine villages and one union of seven Birsreshthas and three language martyrs for their heroic deeds and struggles in 1971 and 1952 and establish a library and a memorial museum in each of their villages through local district councils.

Under the plan, Feni Zilla Parishad, with the technical assistance of LGED, constructed

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

**Subsidence continues in 10 Dinajpur villages**

**Cultivable lands at Barapukuria go under water**

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

Several pieces of land in 10 villages adjacent to the Barapukuria coalmine in Dinajpur have subsided recently and the cultivable lands have now gone under water.

Sources said many pieces of land over the coalmine Phase-1101 and Phase-1103 has subsided and the monsoon rain coupled with the pumping out of water from underneath have created shallow water bodies. The mine pumps out a staggering 1,300 litres of untreated water an hour.

Sources in the Barapukuria Coalmine Company Ltd said at

least 30 acres of Boro have gone under water since the starting of the recent land sinking early May. A 200-foot stretch of road connecting six villages also went under water a few days ago.

According to the coalmine sources, the land sinking occurred on the surface over Phase-1101 (coal extraction completed) and Phase-1103 (extraction ongoing) due to a major geological fault.

Sources said the geological fault is 1,200-1,400 feet under phases 1101 and 1103.

The coalmine officials claimed only nine acres of land have

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



ASSAULT OF JOURNO  
Tangail jailer transferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The jail Directorate authorities yesterday transferred Tangail jailer Nazrul Islam to Meherpur