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4-party human chains foiled by police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid police interruptions and heavy rainfall, BNP-led four-party alliance partially managed to carry out their countrywide demonstration of forming human chains yesterday.

The demonstration was scheduled demanding immediate release of detained BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and her elder son Tarique Rahman, who is also a senior leader of the much

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

EC biggest obstacle to JS polls: AL

UNB, Dhaka

Senior Awami League (AL) leaders yesterday said the Election Commission (EC) has proved itself to be the biggest obstacle to holding the next parliamentary polls.

"With the inclusion of some undemocratic clauses in the Representation of People's Order Act (RPO), 1972 and making party registration mandatory at the last time, the Election Commission has proved itself to be the biggest obstacle to holding the elections."

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Pakistan govt reappoints 8 sacked judges

AFP, Karachi

Eight judges among dozens sacked by Pakistan's former president Pervez Musharraf were reappointed by the government yesterday, a move condemned by many lawyers as a political stunt.

The decision comes two days after former prime minister Nawaz Sharif quit the government over differences with leading coalition

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

JS, UPAZILA POLLS

Loan defaulters may have to repay in full to contest

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN

Loan defaulters will not be allowed to contest the upcoming upazila or national polls unless they pay off their debt before announcement of the election schedules, says an Election Commission (EC) high official.

Like the previous instances, the defaulters this time will not get the opportunity to reschedule their loans to be entitled to candidacy.

The EC is going to finalise it soon as loan defaulters are not getting the stipulated time to reschedule their loans as per the amended Representation of People's Order (RPO) and the new Upazila Parishad Ordinance.

sources say.

"Now the only way for the loan defaulters to contest upcoming elections is to repay their total loans before announcement of the poll schedules," the EC official adds.

"The EC will soon issue a circular in this regard," says the official. Earlier, complexity surfaced over the timeframe during passage of the RPO and the Upazila Parishad Ordinance.

The EC also faced problems in the recently held city corporation polls when aspirant candidates, who were also loan defaulters, alleged they did not get the stipulated one-year time to reschedule their debts.

The City Corporation Election

Ordinance, 2008 was published as gazette on May 14 and the elections were held on August 4. The aspirant candidates who were loan defaulters did not get the one-year time in that election.

Against this backdrop, the EC directed the returning officers concerned to declare eligible those who would repay their entire loans.

The EC is now planning to practise the same guidelines in the upcoming upazila and national elections.

"Those who will repay their entire loans before submission of their nominations will be eligible for contesting the elections as they don't get six months' time to reschedule their loans," Election

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



JUST ANOTHER NIGHT IN DHAKA CITY... Traffic situation in the capital is constantly going from bad to worse. The sudden downpour yesterday afternoon together with the heightened security in the streets due to political protests led to this insufferable queue on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue yesterday evening.

PHOTO: STAR

Politicians with no graft cases can contest polls if they surrender ill-gotten wealth

UNB, Dhaka

Politicians facing no corruption cases or investigations won't be barred from participating in elections if they voluntarily approach the Truth and Accountability Commission (Tac) for clemency, surrendering their ill-gotten wealth.

Tac Chairman Justice Habibur Rahman Khan said this yesterday, citing the relevant law.

Apparently unhappy about the responses so far from politicians and businessmen, the Tac chairman told the regular weekly briefing that among the 184 individuals applied for clemency, there is no politician.

About the reasons behind reluctance of politicians to come to the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

No legal bar to sending Khaleda, Tarique abroad

Home adviser says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Affairs Adviser MA Matin yesterday said there is no legal bar to releasing BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and her elder son Tarique Rahman from jail to facilitate their treatment abroad.

He said the process of freeing Tarique, senior joint secretary general of the BNP, has made headway. "But everything cannot be disclosed right now."

Matin was talking to reporters after a brief meeting with Law Adviser AF Hassan Arif at his secret office.

On Tarique's treatment after he grazed his forehead slipping on the bathroom floor in his prison cell at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) Monday, Matin said he was getting

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Bhuiyan, Tarique, Babar, 11 others get HC bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted bails to 14 bigwigs, including former LGRD minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman and former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar, in 22 criminal cases.

Following separate petitions filed by the accused, an HC bench comprising Justice Sharif Uddin Chaklader and Justice Md Emdadul Haque Azad ordered the bails in cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), the govern-

ment and individuals.

The court also stayed proceedings of most of the cases and issued rules asking the state to explain why the petitioners should not be granted regular bail and why proceedings against them should not be quashed.

With yesterday's bail orders, this HC bench has so far granted ad interim and anticipatory bails to at least 60 political persons, including detained BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami and Khaleda's former parliamentary

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Brac wins prestigious Hilton prize

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Brac, a leading non-profit organisation in the country, has been selected for the 2008 Conrad N Hilton Humanitarian Prize worth \$1.5 million for its contribution to alleviating human sufferings.

The Hilton Prize, the world's largest humanitarian prize, presented annually by the Conrad N Hilton Foundation, will be given on October 20 in Geneva, Switzerland, said a press release.

The prize is awarded in con

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

1 killed, 7 bullet-hit in city gun attacks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A suspected drug peddler was gunned down allegedly by his partners at the city's Jatrahari last night while unknown criminals pumped 10 bullets into the Lalbagh unit president of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) at Dhanmondi.

In another incident, at least six persons were bullet-hit as criminals indiscriminately fired at a rickshaw garage in the city's Gulshan yesterday afternoon.

The deceased drug peddler was identified as Mohammad Batan,

35. Jatrahari police said they found him in a playground in Bhanga Press area at about 8:30pm.

Police suspect that Batan was shot dead by his partners following an internal feud over the drug business.

BCL leader Sagor Ahmed Shahin, 34, was attacked by armed criminals at about 9:30pm near the Beximco office on Road-1 at Dhanmondi when he went to meet Awami League (AL) leader and Beximco Vice-Chairman Salman F Rahman.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

SECOND PRSP TO BE PLACED AT NEC TODAY

Elevated expressway for capital by 2011

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government in its second PRSP has planned to construct an elevated expressway in the capital and a Dhaka-Chittagong expressway by 2011 in a bid to ease traffic congestion in the capital and to speed up communication with the port city.

The government also plans to upgrade Dhaka-Chittagong, Dhaka-Khulna, Dhaka-Sylhet, and Dhaka-Tangail highways to four lanes, and to construct the already planned Padma Bridge by 2011.

A draft of the second PRSP (Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper for 2009-2011) will be submitted to the National Economic Council meeting today, which will be chaired by the chief adviser.

The second PRSP also includes a plan to construct a ring road around the capital and a flyover

across Pragati Sarani in Gulshan area.

A Tk 2,50,000 crore cost has been projected for implementing the second PRSP, at least 20 percent of which has been projected for the education sector, while 19 percent has been projected for infrastructure building, and 11 percent for the health sector.

The government has planned to set aside Tk 67,780 crore for non-discretionary expenditure including payment of interests and defence expenditure.

The projected revenue earning has been set at Tk 2,29,285 crore while domestic borrowing has been set at Tk 33,939 crore for resource mobilisation.

There is however a projected budget deficit of at least Tk 49,236 crore.

Domestic borrowing will be

kept within 3 percent of GDP, while non-concessional borrowing will be limited to 1 percent of GDP, the draft PRSP says.

"The government would not borrow from the central bank except to cope with daily cash requirements or to face problems of natural disasters, national security, or other exceptional circumstances on temporary basis," it adds.

To increase revenue earnings, the government will extend the tax net and value added tax (VAT), and will introduce unified tax identification numbers (TIN) for income tax and VAT.

The government will also introduce public-private partnership for decentralising tax collection efforts, the draft says.

The new PRSP also plans reduction of average protective tariff to

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

রাজধানীর ব্যস্ততম উত্তর জনপদ

উত্তরায়

ফিনিট্র ফাইন্যান্স এন্ড

ইনভেস্টমেন্টস লিমিটেড -এর

৬ষ্ঠ শাখার

আজ

শুভ উদ্বোধন

২৮ আগস্ট, ২০০৮

উত্তরা শাখা

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সেক্টর # ৬, উত্তরা, ঢাকা

ফোন : ৮৯৫৮১০৮, ৮৯৫৮৬৭৯



ফিনিট্র ফাইন্যান্স এন্ড ইনভেস্টমেন্টস লিমিটেড

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Be healthy during Ramadan; pay attention to what you're eating

Good food-habits and healthy living in the month of Ramadan:

In the month of Ramadan, our foods and food-habits undergo a great transformation. During the month, our daily diets are often deficient in micro- and macro-nutrients that are crucial to our health. As a result, a number of internal imbalances start building inside the body. And our lives are disrupted by dehydration, low pressure, drowsiness and restlessness and other such symptoms that stem from a lack of proteins and vitamins in our diet.

Therefore, during the holy month, it is important to make sure that we consume foods that adequately provide the body with essential proteins, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals. In addition to traditional food-items, we must endeavour to add nutritious food-items in our daily diet. Keeping everyone in the family healthy during the holy month is only a matter of paying attention to the food-items we consume.

Rahima Sultana Rita
Nutritionist and Culinary expert

Horlicks

Wishing everyone the best of health