

www.bsrm.com

১০০=৮৫

**BSRM Xtreme** 500W  
the next generation steel

15% LESS STEEL REQUIRED COMPARED TO GRADE 60 STEEL

For more information  
Phone: 2854901-10 E-mail: mail@bsrm.com

কঠিন কল্পনা পরিচালনা

CHANGHONG  
DVD Player Free with  
21" and 29" Colour TV

TRANSTEC  
TV + DVD  
@ Tk. 17,000 only

think electronics... think DIGITAL

**TRANSCOM**  
DIGITAL

Your Trusted Electronics Retailer

Customer Care Center: 8853388-9, 01712 885483

# EC still can cancel party registration

## CEC claims commission's authority not curtailed in RPO changes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda yesterday claimed that the Election Commission's (EC) authority to take action against registered political parties breaching certain registration provisions was not curtailed.

"Some people say that it has now been difficult for the commission to cancel registration. But it is not true," the CEC told reporters on EC Secretariat premises.

He made the remarks when his attention was drawn to the latest changes in

the Representation of the People Order (amendment) ordinance.

The bill passed in parliament on February 24 curtails the EC's power to cancel a political party's registration for violating the provisions regarding nomination of parliamentary candidates and formation of associated bodies.

It is however true that the new law made harder the criteria for registration of a newly floated political party.

According to the new law, a new party seeking registration must have functional headquarters, offices in at least one third

of 64 districts and 100 upazilas or metropolitan thanas, and a minimum 200 voters as members in each of the units.

Previously, it could qualify for registration if it had headquarters and offices in 10 administrative districts and 50 upazila or metropolitan thanas.

The caretaker administration empowered the EC to scrap a political party's registration for failing to pick parliamentary contenders from the panel prepared by the grassroots and forming associated bodies with teachers, students and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

### 500 database centres for regular update of voter list

Agreement signed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than five hundred permanent database centres at a cost of Tk 206.70 crore would be set up across the country to provide adequate infrastructures at upazila, district and divisional levels for regular maintaining and updating voter list with photographs.

Under the project, some 481 centres will be set up at upazila level while five regional centers at divisional level and 16 centres under the jurisdiction of police station.

To this effect, the Netherlands government and the United Nations Development Programme

SEE PAGE 7 COL 6

## BNP to dissolve dist bodies before council

### Convening committees to get 2-month time to form full committees

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

BNP will form convening committees in its organisational districts to prepare for councils planned to reorganise the party down to the grassroots level.

Before that, the party will dissolve the district committees that are long past their tenure. The decisions might come after the April 2 by-elections, said sources close to the high-command.

The convening committees will be tasked with organising councils to elect full committees within two months since their formation.

After reorganisation of the district level committees, the party will focus on holding national council as per the Election Commission's registration guidelines.

At talks with the EC before the ninth parliamentary polls, the political parties agreed to hold councils within six months after the first sitting of parliament, and ratify the provisional changes they made to their constitutions to get registered.

This leaves them time till July 25.

"We hope we'll be able to reorganise the party in line with the Representation of the People Order. We might need some more time though to complete everything properly," BNP standing committee member Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman yesterday told The Daily Star.

Earlier on Sunday, the standing committee, highest policy-making body of BNP, began reviewing the reports by six central teams commissioned to gather the grassroots'

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## Changes in civil admin, armed forces

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has transferred several officials to new posts in the latest shuffle in civil administration and armed forces yesterday.

Seven officers of the armed forces, including three National Security Intelligence (NSI) directors, who were on deputation from the army, have been ordered to return to their military jobs.

Maj Gen Anup Kumar Chakma has been attached to

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## BNP demands EC action for fair by-polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP has suggested the Election Commission (EC) inform polling agents about the number of ballot boxes before vote casting begins in the coming by-election and ensure the agents' maximum presence in presiding officer's room to make vote counting credible.

A four-member BNP delegation led by Vice-Chairman MK Anwar also told the commission that formation of the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## ACC starts probe into Koko's case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has started investigation into the case of money laundering filed against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's younger son Arafat Rahman Koko.

"The task of requisitioning necessary documents and papers has started in connection with the case," an ACC official told The Daily Star

SEE PAGE 7 COL 8



Locals through the water pump station at Bashabo to collect water yesterday. The area has been suffering from poor water supply.

PHOTO: STAR

## Rights bodies slam KL over job-cut policy

### 92 more workers back from abroad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Migrants' rights bodies yesterday slammed the arbitrary retrenchment of Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia, saying such policies go against international labour laws and humanity.

They demanded that the government immediately form an inter-ministerial taskforce to ensure that these 'cheated' workers are reinstated in their jobs where possible or get at least some form of compensation.

They also stressed the need for a database being maintained of the returnee workers so that the government can help in their rehabilitation.

Meanwhile, 92 workers returned from abroad yesterday.

"The situation has created a huge frustration among workers and their families," said Sheepa Hafiza, director (training) of Gender Justice and Diversity and Advocacy, Brac at a press conference on the issue at the Dhaka Reporters Unity in the capital.

BRAC, Manusher Jonno Foundation, Warbe Development Foundation, Ain o Salish Kendra

(ASK), Bangladesh Obhibashi Mohila Sramik Association (BOMSA), IMA Research Foundation, Human Rights Development Information Centre, Obhibashi Karmi Unnayan Program and Bangladesh Construction and Wood Workers Association jointly organised the press conference.

Participants came down hard on the government's negligence to protect the interests of migrant workers, most of whom are returning home without any compensation of any sort.

Many Bangladeshi workers are being retrenched though they have valid documents because of Malaysia's policy of pushing "foreign workers out first" in the wake of the global financial crisis.

Malaysia has already cancelled 55,000 work visas of Bangladeshis, who have already spent large sums to acquire those.

Reading out a statement, Sheepa Hafiza said, "Malaysia should ensure jobs for those already in Malaysia on work permits."

She said that as the foreign minister and expatriates' welfare minister visit Malaysia for

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## Huji man on 4-day remand

To be quizzed in CPB rally attack case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Maulana Sheikh Abdus Salam, a founding member of Harkatul Jihad al Islami (Huji) and the ameer of Islamic Democratic Party (IDP), was taken on a four-day remand yesterday in connection with the bomb attack on a CPB rally on January 20 in 2001 that killed five people.

He was arrested by the intelligence on Monday at his home in Bashundhara Residential area.

CID inspector Matiar Rahman produced him before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court yesterday seeking remand for seven days and the court granted four days.

According to CID sources, six others were placed on

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

## RMG owners fear unrest ahead

### Seek govt help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BGMEA leaders yesterday sought assistance from the government to check labour unrest that they fear will flare up in the coming months.

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) leaders fear many garment factories would be shut in the near future and factory owners would not be able to pay wages to workers on time due to decreasing exports caused by the global financial meltdown.

They demanded the government provide owners of those factories easy loans so that they can pay their workers and no

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

## Frequent reshuffle troubles govt officials

Observes secy-level committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The secretary level committee on administrative development at a meeting yesterday observed that the government officials are facing serious difficulties in discharging their duties due to frequent reshuffles in the administration.

Secretaries of different ministries and divisions attended the meeting held at the cabinet division at the Secretariat in the wake of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

## PM given documentary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was presented with a documentary titled 'History of Liberation' depicting the Liberation War of Bangladesh, a private television channel reported yesterday.

DVD copies of the documentary were handed over to the PM by Chairman of the TV channel ATN Bangla Mahfujur Rahman.

The premier congratulated him for making it, the TV reports said.

Prayer Timing		
March 25		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-20
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-20	6-25
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation



PHOTO: STAR

The photo on the left shows the fishing cat the villagers of Rajnagar in Moulvibazar beat to death while the picture on the right shows the carcass of another fishing cat killed by the villagers of Lalpur in Natore.

## Two fishing cats beaten to death

STAR REPORT

Villagers in Natore and Moulvibazar, in two separate incidents yesterday, beat two fishing cats to death.

Villagers at Lalpur in Natore beat a fishing cat to death after it attacked a domestic animal in a neighbouring village.

A goat killed in Gokhrabad village had marks on its neck, which locals identified as belonging to a large cat. They put together a team and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

**THE LEADER IN PRIVATE ICD SECTOR**

**ESACK BROTHERS INDUSTRIES LTD.**  
(CONTAINER YARD)

We vow to dedicate to our clients' satisfaction

To render the best service to our clientele, we have:

- International Standard Yard with 32 acres of land.
- Closest to the Port and Customs (only 1/2 km away)
- Prefabricated warehouse of 2,60,000 sq ft.
- 80,000 Sqft Multi-purpose Shed for direct cargo stuffing
- Appropriate and adequate container handling equipment.
- Highly experienced professional management.
- Online service for quickest flow of information.
- Security surveillance with CCTV coverage.
- Electronic weighing scale - 80 Tons.

MIDDLE HALISHAHAR, BANDAR, CHITTAGONG-4103  
PABX# 031-713885, 2512720 (Auto Hunting), 720133-34, FAX# 880-31-713886,  
Web Address: www.ebilyc.net, E-mail Address: info@ebilyc.com