



The Daily Star

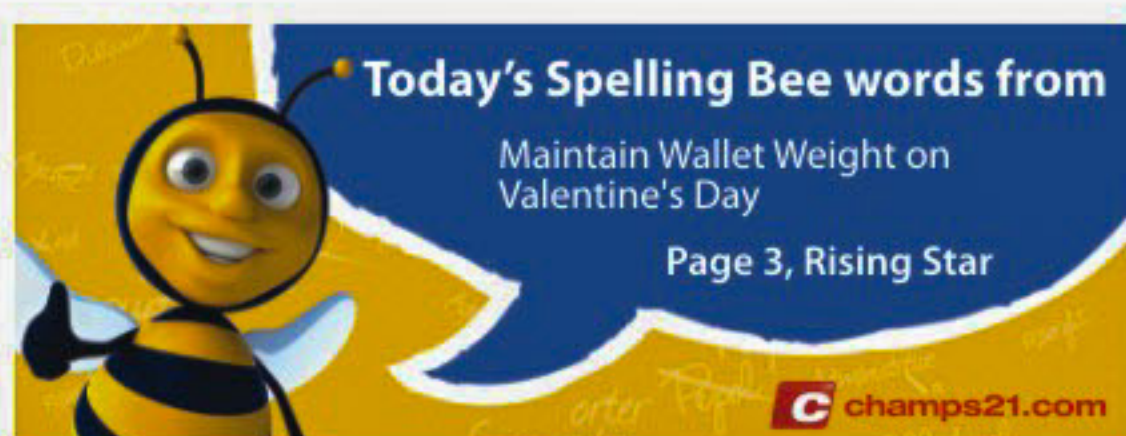
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OTHER SIDE OF THE MOON

Md Ali Akbar looks into the flip side of the 2-yr extension of the retirement age

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BACK IN RACE?

Republican presidential candidate Rick Santorum wins trio to upset party front-runner Mitt Romney

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BNP rejects new EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rejecting the appointment of chief election commissioner (CEC) and election commissioners, BNP said yesterday it will not take part in any polls under the newly formed Election Commission (EC) as the entire process of its formation was illegal.

But the ruling Awami League (AL) and its allies said the appointments made by the president through a search committee and in consultation with all political parties must be considered a milestone in the democratic process in the country.

President Zillur Rahman yesterday appointed former parliament secretary Kazi Rakib

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Rakib made CEC

Four election commissioners also appointed; oath today

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

President Zillur Rahman yesterday formed a new five-member Election Commission with Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad, a former secretary, as the chief election commissioner amid political tension in the country.

The four other new election commissioners are Mohammad Abu Hafiz, a former additional secretary; Mohammad Abdul Mobarrak, a former joint secretary; Brig Gen (ret'd) Mohammad Zabeed Ali; and Mohammad Shahnewaz, a former district and sessions judge.

The new Election Commission (EC) will have a five-year tenure, and will hold the next parliamentary election scheduled for early 2014.

The Cabinet Division issued a gazette notification to that effect.

Main opposition BNP rejected the new EC saying the party will not take part in the next election under the new commission as "it was formed illegally". But ruling Awami League (AL) wel-



Kazi Rakibuddin

comed it terming the appointments as a milestone for democracy.

Members of the civil society appreciated the appointments saying the new chief election commissioner (CEC) is very competent, free from political influence, and has the ability to work independently.

The swearing in ceremony will take place at 4:30pm today in the office of the chief justice. Sources said the new EC might start working in a day or two.

The Daily Star talked to Rakibuddin Ahmad yesterday. Asked about his reaction, he said he neither got the gazette notification about his appointment nor did he take the oath yet. "Once I take the oath, I will talk to the media," he said.

The president formed the new Election Commission a day after the Search Committee, formed to recommend persons for the appointments, proposed ten names to him.

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EMINENT CITIZENS HAIL NEW EC PAGE 2

NEWS ANALYSIS

Uphill task ahead

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad is a fortunate man. He takes charge of an Election Commission (EC) now resting on a record of many encouraging successes. The more important thing is that the new EC under his leadership could see people's overwhelming confidence restored in it.

His predecessor ATM Shamsul Huda was the man under whose leadership the EC has scaled new heights, through setting new standards. So, Rakibuddin may not need to expend much effort or spend much time, as Huda did, to bring back people's confidence in the EC. But people's expectations now run very high and it was the immediate past EC under the leadership of Huda which gave rise to such expectations.

Rakibuddin and his team will need to work hard to live up to people's high

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Admin put thru' promotion glut

No posts vacant yet 649 elevated to top 3 notches

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the biggest promotion spree in the civil administration, the government yesterday promoted 649 officers to the ranks of additional secretary, joint secretary and deputy secretary against no vacant posts.

Of the promoted civil servants, 127 joint secretaries have been elevated to the rank of additional secretary, 264 deputy secretaries to the post of joint secretary and 258 senior assistant secretaries to the post of deputy secretary.

Most of them are from the 82 and 85 batches of the Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) who were earlier left out of promotion.

With the large-scale promotion, the civil administration now turns severely top-heavy as the number of officers already holding the three ranks are nearly double. Now there are about 1,500 deputy secretaries against 830 approved posts, 500 joint secretaries against 250 posts and 148 additional secretaries against 108 approved posts.

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Armed with sticks and sharp weapons, activists of the pro-ruling party student body Bangladesh Chhatra League clash with Islami Chhatra Shibir men on the Chittagong University campus yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

SHIBIR-BCL CLASH

2 students killed at CU

University shut till Feb 16; hartal called in Ctg for today

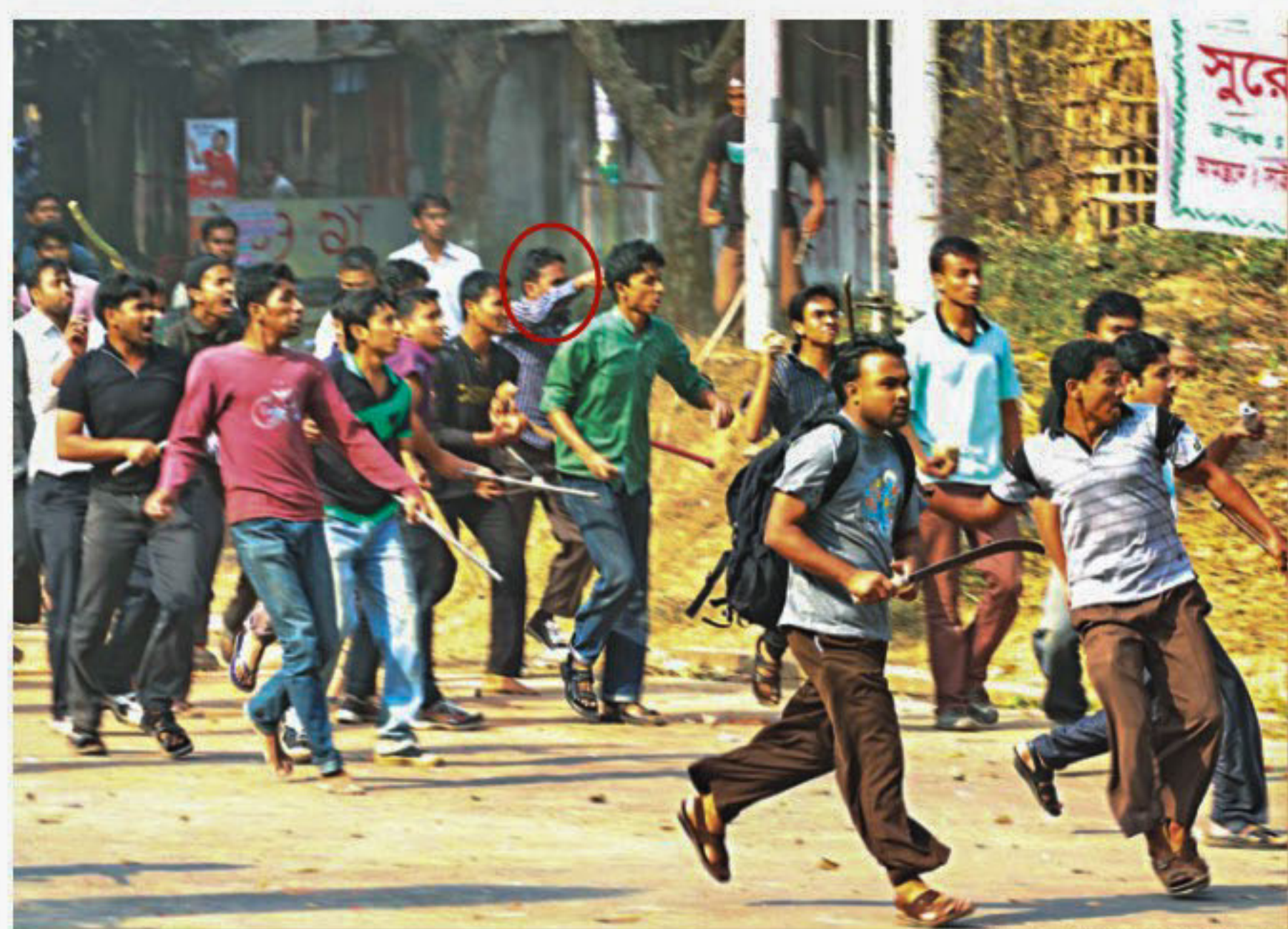
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two Chittagong University students were killed and around 40 others injured in fierce clashes between Islami Chhatra Shibir and Bangladesh Chhatra League activists on the campus yesterday.

While Shibir, a pro-Jamaat-e-Islami student organisation, claimed both the victims to be its members, BCL said one of them was an activist of the pro-Awami League student body.

The dead, Masud bin Habib, a student of English, was the general secretary of Shibir's Suhrawardy Hall unit

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Armed Chhatra Shibir activists attack Bangladesh Chhatra League men on the Chittagong University campus yesterday. The activist marked in the photo is carrying an iron rod covered with red tape. He was killed later on during the clash.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

All issues to be settled with India

PM tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday in parliament reiterated that her government would continue to work on all unresolved problems with India, including the proposed Tipaimukh Dam.

"We have already taken initiative to resolve the Tipaimukh Dam issue and other problems with India. We have told the Indian government to include our

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BSF won't stop firing, totally

Says its chief; rights boss rejects his remark

STAR REPORT

Chief of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) U K Bansal has said it would not be possible to put a total stop to the firing along the India-Bangladesh border as his troops must take steps to stop the offenders.

"It would never be possible to totally stop firing; for as long the criminal activities continue along the border, we shall have to prevent the offenders. And that is the

duty of BSF," he told the BBC Bangla service on Tuesday.

The BSF director general's comments came amidst growing concerns over some recent BSF excesses on several Bangladeshis. The BBC to the fact referred that New York-based Human Rights Watch has recently dubbed BSF as a "trigger happy force."

Following the barbaric torture of a Bangladeshi youth recently by

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PORN ROW Three Indian state's ministers resign

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Three ministers belonging to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Karnataka resigned yesterday after they were caught on TV watching allegedly pornography video clippings on their mobile phones sitting inside the state legislature.

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BPL T20 opening ceremony today

SPORTS REPORTER

The opening ceremony of the inaugural Bangladesh Premier League T20 tournament will take place today at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

President Zillur Rahman will inaugurate the first edition of the competition involving the six franchises named Barisal Burners, Chittagong Kings, Dhaka Gladiators, Khulna Royal Bengals, Duronto Rajshahi and Sylhet Royals. In the country's sports history, an event of such financial magnitude has not been seen.

The tournament proper will kick off tomorrow with matches between Barisal Burners and Sylhet Royals and Chittagong Kings taking on Duronto Rajshahi.

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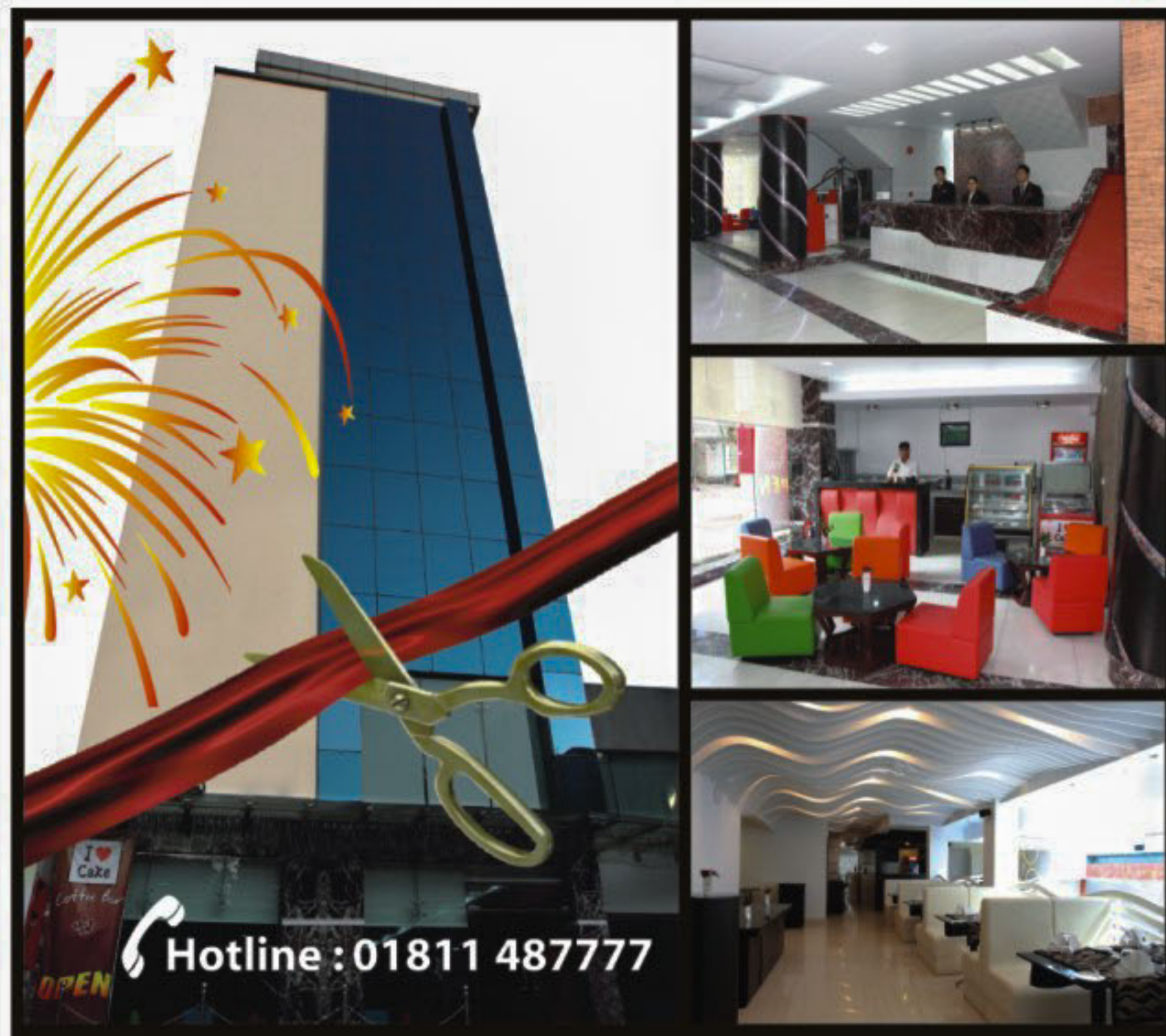
East Bengal rejected BPC report

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

The report of the Basic Principles Committee, which clearly stated that Urdu would be the language of the state of Pakistan, was submitted to the constituent assembly on September 28, 1950.

It came under fire

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2



Grand Opening



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