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Today's Spelling Bee words from
 BPL: A Risky Venture
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SYRIAN CRISIS
 Caught up in a maze of hypocrisy
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WARRANT FOR EX-LEADER
 The former president of the Maldives awaits arrest
 PAGE 7

Anti-graft body left unfettered

Permission not needed to sue corrupt govt officials; anti-graft campaigner hails govt's change of heart

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

In the wake of widespread criticism, the government has backtracked from its position of making it binding on the Anti-Corruption Commission to take permission before filing graft cases against public officials.

On February 28 last year, a bill was placed in parliament seeking a number of amendments to the ACC Act, 2004. The proposed changes included a new provi-

sion for the anti-graft body to ask for a government nod to accuse civil servants.

To the satisfaction of anti-corruption campaigners, the law ministry yesterday at a meeting with ACC officials decided not to include the provision in the law.

"The Anti-Corruption Commission will not need the government's consent to file corruption cases against public officials and also to submit charge sheets in those cases," Law Minister Shafique Ahmed told

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Students clash with bus staff

10 hurt; 15 vehicles vandalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 10 people were injured and 15 vehicles vandalised in a clash between some students of Jagannath University (JnU) and transport workers of Fulbaria Bus Terminal in the city's

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Ceat coming to Bangladesh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India's leading tyre maker Ceat announced yesterday that it plans to set up a tyre manufacturing plant in Bangladesh.

Ceat Deputy Managing Director Anant Goenka said in Mumbai that the company will invest about Rs 250 crore to set up the new facility which is likely to employ 550 people in the first phase.

"The company has already done the necessary

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This recent photo shows vehicles stuck in gridlock on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the capital burning fuel but not going anywhere. According to World Bank and Bangladesh government assessment, traffic jams and brick kilns are the main reasons for the city's air pollution, which is five times the acceptable level.

Traffic jam polluting air

WB study says 20pc pollution-cut can save up to 3,500 deaths, avert 230m cases of respiratory diseases a year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Traffic congestion in the capital and smoke from brick kilns are the main reasons for air pollution in Dhaka

city, according to the World Bank and the Bangladesh government.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests says that vehicles in Dhaka move 14kmph on an average, which

is very slow and causes them to burn more fuel and contribute to air pollution. They say the average speed could come down to 4kmph by 2025

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Steel mill fined for pollution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined an illegal steel re-rolling mill Tk 15 lakh for polluting air with

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Work will win hearts

CEC takes oath, pledges to hold fair polls

HASAN JAHD TUSHER

New Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad yesterday said members of the new Election Commission will win the hearts of the people by holding free, fair and credible elections.

"We want to prove through our work that we are neutral. We will try our best to win the confidence of all," he told journalists in the seminar room of the EC Secretariat.

He said holding the next election is the commission's prime objective. "We will do whatever is necessary to hold free, fair

and credible elections," he said adding that the new commission will maintain continuation of the work done by the outgoing EC.

Earlier, the new CEC and three new election commissioners -- Mohammad Abu Hafiz, Mohammad Abdul Mobarak, and Brig Gen (retd) Md Zayed Ali - were sworn in at a simple ceremony which started at 4:30pm in the Supreme Court Judges' Lounge. Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain administered the oath. The ceremony was emceed by Supreme Court Registrar AKM Shamsul Islam.

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No language Islamic

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

The Basic Principles Committee report led to a series of fast moving events in East Bengal. While the political classes, those in the progressive mould, vociferously argued that a negation of Bangla could only lead to dire consequences for Pakistan, it was the students of Dhaka University who seemed to be putting up spirited resistance to the report.

In April 1951, a dedicated band of students with a left-wing orientation went decisively into buttressing the argument for Bangla. All of them members of the Dhaka University State Language Committee of Action, these young men presented their case in the form of a letter, copies of which were sent to every single member of the

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New EC to be govt's puppet

Says Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia yesterday alleged the government is going to form a "subservient" Election Commission, saying her party

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EC formed on consensus: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the Election Commission has been reconstituted by taking opinions from all the political parties for the first time in the country's history.

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A dance performance at the grand opening of Bangladesh Premier League T20 tournament at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in the capital yesterday. Story on Star Sport.

BRAC's 40th anniversary celebration

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