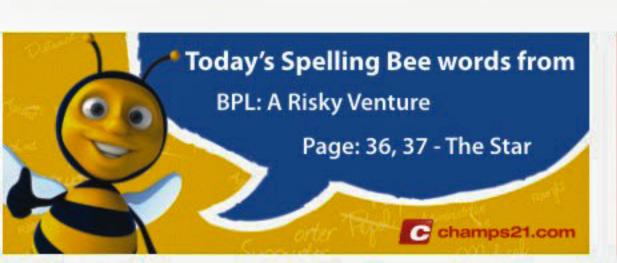
SECOND EDITION

THE DAILY Star ON FR

REGD. NO. DA 781 | Vol. XXII No. 27 | Magh 28, 1418 BS | Rabiul Awal 17, 1433 Hijri

www.thedailystar.net Your Right to Know

24 PAGES PLUS THE STAR PRICE: TK 10.00



SYRIAN CRISIS

Caught up in a maze of hypocrisy

PAGE 15

WARRANT FOR EX-LEADER

The former president of the Maldives awaits arrest

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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 provision 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 SEE PAGE 19 COL 5



where. 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.

PHOTO STAR

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 com-

pany 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 **SEE PAGE 19 COL 4**

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 : Environment (DoE) yesmore fuel and contribute to air pol- : terday fined an illegal lution. They say the average speed: steel re-rolling mill Tk 15 could come down to 4kmph by 2025 ; lakh for polluting air with

Steel mill fined for pollution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

: The Department of SEE PAGE 19 COL 5 **SEE PAGE 19 COL 4**

Work will win hearts

CEC takes oath, pledges to hold fair polls

HASAN JAHID 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.

commission's prime objective. "We will do whatever is necessary to hold free, fair

New EC to be

govt's puppet

Election Commission, saying her party

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

Says Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opposition Khaleda Zia

government is going to

yesterday alleged the

form a "subservient"

Leader of the



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 Zabed 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. He said holding the next election is the The ceremony was emceed by Supreme Court Registrar AKM Shamsul Islam.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

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.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



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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BRAC's 40th anniversary celebration



We are proud to be a part of 40 years of

Potentia









