

#### **DEBUT IN THE HOUSE**

Suu Kyi will take seat in parliament on April 23

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### **BLESSINGS OF NANOTECH**

Applying the technology for well-being of humans, plants and environment

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CHAITRA 27, 1418 BS | JAMADIUL AWAL 17, 1433 HIJRI

#### **'JOY OF FREEDOM'**

A photo show features culture, heritage and beauty of northern Bangladesh

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Your Right to Know

# Neighbours need not worry

India says no common river-linking without MoU; experts in Dhaka find little hope in Delhi's pledges

India says any apprehensions in the minds of neighbouring countries over the proposed linkages of trans-border rivers are "misplaced", as the project has been backburnered.

The river-linking work would start only after memorandums of understanding and development project reports are prepared, Indian Water Resources Minister Pawan Kumar Bansal told a press conference in New Delhi yesterday.

"There is nothing formalised about the interlinking of rivers. Our neighbours have nothing to apprehend. Any apprehensions in their minds are misplaced. I will try to allay their fears....The proposed linkages are on the backburner," he said in

STAR REPORT his first official comments since the Indian Supreme Court gave the go-ahead to the ambitious project in February this

> Pointing out that interlinking of rivers was "a long-drawn process", the Indian minister said though the project was in the national interest, many issues related to the environment, forests and the like had to be sorted out first.

> The remarks come in the wake of growing concern in Bangladesh over the river project, particularly the proposed link between the Brahmaputra and the Ganges and possible adverse effects on the flow of the Brahmaputra into the lower-riparian country.

The minister said that of the 30 SEE PAGE 19 COL 2



As clouds gather, darkness falls over the capital although it's only 11:00am. The darkness is pierced by lightning in the sky. The moment was captured at Shyamoli, Dhaka yesterday.

# DCC polls May 24

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The two Dhaka city corporations will go to election on May 24, the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) announced yesterday.

CEC Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad sought wholehearted support from all political

parties and people to hold the polls freely and fairly.

"We expect that all political parties will

follow the electoral laws for holding a free and fair election," he said, rolling out the

INAM AHMED

**NEWS** ANALYSIS

It is a curiously motley band of people, all vying to be bank owners. A former president and dictator, a young lawmaker, a not so young lawmaker, a retired bureaucrat turned politician, an income tax lawyer, and what not. Suddenly Bangladesh has a bonanza of banks.

POLITICAL BANK' BONANZA

holds for us

What the future

In the shadow of that bonanza lurks the possibility of great distress and surprise. Take the process of giving licence first. The amended Bangladesh Bank Order of 2003 made a significant difference in the process of giving licence. Before that it had clearly been written that the government would issue directives from time to time to give bank licences. This had laid the foundation for putting politics first rather than finance and economy in considering new banks. But then the amendment of 2003 changed this ball game and empowered the central bank's board as the sole authority to consider new SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

#### Alert in Bay Tidal surge kills 1

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A boy drowned and more than 1,000 mud dwellings were destroyed yesterday after a heavy storm coupled with seven to eight feet high tidal waves swept through the coastal areas of Noakhali.

> The eight-year old, SEE PAGE 6 COL 4 .

## 3 heatwaves to follow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least one severe heatwave will hit northern and central parts of the country, including the capital, while two medium to minor heatwaves the other areas this month, according to the weather forecast.

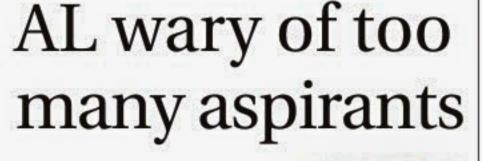
This seems quite hard to anticipate when people are in relief from the scorching sun as the current spell of rain : has reduced the overall temperature by three to four **SEE PAGE 6 COL 6** 

### Wait for BNP surprises

STAFF CORRESPONDENT The BNP will not boycott

the upcoming elections to the Dhaka city corporations, but it has yet to decide whether to back its

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

16.80 lakh

The ruling Awami League is yet to decide whether it will back its candidates or the ones from the 14party combine or the

leaders or lend support to candidates; grand alliance in the long-due polls to the

**SEE PAGE 6 COL 1** 

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

### Population 14.8cr: BIDS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After verifying the fifth census data, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) has said the country's population primarily stands at 14.8 crore.

During the verification BIDS found that 3.97 percent people had been left out in the Population and Housing Census, 2011. This means that around 57 lakh people did not come

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Mr. Dipankar Talukdar, MP, Hon'ble State Minister, Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, His Excellency, Mr. Dan W. Mozena, the US ambassador to Bangladesh, Mr. Naba Bikram Kishore Tripura ndc, Secretary, Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, Mr. Richard Greene, Mission Director, USAID, Mr. Sayem Ahmed, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of Dutch-Bangla Bank, Mr. Sourendra Nath Chokroborti, DC, Rangamati, Dr. Subhra Chakma, DPM Tribal Health, DGHS, K.S. Tabrez, Managing Director, Dutch-Bangla Bank, Dr. Zafarullah Gill, COP, SSFP, Mr. Nikhil Kumar Chakma, Chairman, Hill District Council, Rangamati were present at the event held at Rangamati.

# MAKING AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE EFFICIENT

Dutch-Bangla Bank contributes 320 netbooks to Smiling Sun Franchise Program, an USAID project

Dutch-Bangla Bank (DBBL) is committed to affordable healthcare for all. The DBBL netbooks, worth Tk. 7.25 million will equip all 320 Smiling Sun (Surjer Hashi) clinics to be a part of their newly launched online MIS system.

The DBBL netbooks in conjunction with Smiling Sun's MIS system will provide real-time data for better care of their patients and improve the clinics' performance.



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