#### REGISTRATION, CORRECTION

### EC introduces online service for voters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission yesterday introduced an online application system for registration of new voters, correction of existing electoral roll and switch between polling areas.

"We have introduced the new system today [Wednesday] aiming at making registration, correction and change of polling areas easier and smoother," said Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad at a press briefing at the EC's conference centre.

The application forms will be available at EC's website www.ec.org.bd.

The online system would ensure that the existing voters can correct their information, if need be, before the EC prepares the smart NID (national identity) cards, EC officials told The Daily Star.

Currently, there are around 9.61 crore voters in Bangladesh. The EC has recently taken an initiative to provide smart NID cards to around 9 crore voters by 2016. The rest of the voters will get their cards later.

Addressing yesterday's press briefing, the CEC said citizens upon reach- were present at the press briefing.

ing 18 years could apply for registration at home. The existing voters can check their information of NID cards and apply for correction, if needed, online.

Besides, the voters would also be able to learn about their polling station online and apply for fresh NID cards in case of loss and damage.

After filing an application, prospective voters will get an appointment with officials concerned online to complete the task.

"We have introduced the new system after checking and rechecking different technical issues so that our national database of voters does not get jeopardised," the CEC observed.

NID wing Director General Brig Gen Sultanuzzaman Md Saleh Uddin said the new system would minimise the possibility of inserting wrong information during registration as the voters would put their information themselves.

also continue besides the online one, he added.

The previous manual system would

Top officials of EC and NID wing



Nagorik Oikya convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna being taken to a Dhaka court yesterday in connection with a case filed for his alleged attempt to instigate a revolt in the armed forces.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

#### Studies go on but in fear

said schools have been kept open in the city and rural areas. But student attendance in the city is very low. "It appears parents are unwilling to send their children to schools on security

grounds," he said. "But there is no such problem in the suburbs and rural areas," he said.

Bangladesh has more than 1.0 lakh primary educational institutes with 1.95 crore students, according to Bangladesh Economic Review 2014, a government publication.

Sabera said attendance at her school was unaffected despite the ongoing political turmoil.

A trip inside rural areas of Bagerhat and Khulna also made it clear; the

schools had children either in classrooms or playing on the playground during breaks. There was no sign of anxiety among them.

While the children get to schools in rural areas without trouble, it is the just Tk 50 on the bus. teachers who are risking their lives.

under arson attack on Khulna-Mongla highway, which Sabera and Tamanna take. The incident has made them more nervous.

Teacher Jahanara Khatun, who has to travel 21km from Jessore to get to her school, said, "During the initial days of the blockade, every moment on the highway was scary. I felt that it [a petrol bomb] would come any

Gas oil

Gas oil

671400 barrel

SUPPLIER

QUANTITY

UNIPEC,

Furnace oil

40000 MT

Furnace Oil

80,000 MT

CHINA

For nearly 40 days, she has gone to school in motorised threewheelers, and not on the usual bus. The change in mode of transport costs her Tk 120 a day, which was

Teachers do not get paid much and Early this month, a truck came the extra costs put additional pressure on her family.

> "None is free from fear of attacks. But we have to be courageous. Rural areas have so far been immune to the turmoil. So if we do not go, children will stop coming to school," said

> Facing the same dilemma, Tapu Rani Roy, a 33-year-old college teacher, has to travel nearly 25km to Digraj near Mongla port from her home in a

> > PETRO CHINA,

Furnace Oil

40000 MT

SINGAPORE

**PHILIPPINES** 

Gas Oil

Gas Oil

783300 barrel

671400 barrel

village of Bagerhat. She is out the door by 7:00am and

in college by 9:00am. "The roads are quiet early in the morning which makes me even more nervous," said Tapu while returning home from work one afternoon.

After their work is done for the day in the late afternoon, Sabera and Tamanna has to take the bus home where their kids wait for them. But the two have to wait inside the bus until all seats are taken.

frustrated Sabera.

## Manna facing

FROM PAGE 1

Amid controversies over the leaked phone calls, Manna had gone to his niece's house on Monday night.

The group of five to six men who picked him up identified themselves as detectives. They also told Manna's niece that they would take him to the DB headquarters on Minto Road, family sources said.

But on Tuesday morning top DB officials denied that they arrested him.

Officials later said the Rab arrested Manna from Dhanmondi on Tuesday night, a claim Manna rejected while talking to his family members in the court yesterday.

Police said the elite force handed Manna over to the detectives after Tuesday midnight.

According to family members, Manna could not recognise those who detained him or the place they took him to, as he was blindfolded.

Nilom Manna, his daughter, told The Daily Star, "Baba [father] told us

that they [those who detained him] behaved well with him."

Arguing against the remand petition, Manna told the court, "Everything I said during my two conversations is already public. What additional information will you [police] collect from me when I have nothing new to say about this? There is no need of taking me on remand."

On the allegation of instigating the armed forces to revolt, Manna told the court he never said anything like that in the conversations.

The former vice-president of Dhaka University Central Students Union also protested that during the conversations he talked about the need of dead bodies to intensify the antigovernment movement.

But prosecutors said they needed to quiz Manna to know the names and addresses of those, including a Bangladeshi living in Australia, "involved in a conspiracy" against the government.

# \$960m oil import okayed

Gas Oil

Furnace oil

20,000 MT

\$71.32 \$ 375.63

FROM PAGE 16 Corporation (BPC) said the price has been fixed on the basis of oil price in international market on February 6.

Gas oil

The actual price of oil is the average of oil prices over five days during the time of shipment, he said.

However, the government last week gave the nod to import 13 lakh tonnes of crude oil at an estimated price of \$104-\$114 per barrel.

Jet A-1

4252200 barrel 720000 barrel

The price of Brent crude oil was around \$60 per barrel in the international market yesterday.

The official said as the oil price

fell in the international market the premium decreased by \$0.20 to \$4.5 in January-June period of this year compared to the previous six

A BPC official said as the oil price fell in the international market the BPC has now become a profitable organisation. He said the BPC board has decided that if the trend of low price persists, it would form an energy development fund using a

action following the issuance of war-

Jamiruddin Sircar and Rafigul Islam

Mia, among others, attended the meet-

ing at jurist TH Khan's Mohammadpur

Paris night drone mystery

Drones have appeared over landmarks

in central Paris for the second night

between 23:00 on Tuesday and 02:00

Up to three drones were seen near

the Invalides military museum, Place

de la Concorde and two of the old city

authorisation from the city.

knowing who is operating them.

terror plot?

BNP standing committee members

# Tigers look to prey

FROM PAGE 1

Melbourne Cricket Ground today.

None of those defeats last year would matter an inch if Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and company can ace this challenge and take one step into the quarterfinals; and for that, rest assured, they will have to play out of their skins.

The good news for Bangladesh is that their inform batsman Mushfigur Rahim, who had hurt his right thumb during training recently batted in the nets yesterday and is fit to play the game. The Lankans on the other hand will hope that they can get a good replacement for Jeevan Mendis who is out of the World Cup due to a hamstring injury.

Bangladesh's head-to-head record against the Lankan Lions isn't anything to speak about. They have won just four out of the 37 encounters. In addition, the Lankans have witnessed six wins at the MCG and have spent several good moments here.

Their recent form however has been a worry. From losing the series to New Zealand and getting thumped by them in the first match of the World Cup, to painstakingly edging out Afghanistan, there are plenty of areas for them to work on.

The jittery state is exactly what the Tigers are hoping to use in their favour.

Surveillance or However, Bangladesh themselves have a number of issues to contend with. For one, their top-order batting needs to be sorted out. Both India and Australia have posted 300-plus totals here and that seems to be the par score in this World Cup.

There's also the case of playing at the MCG for the first time. This will be the first premier venue in Australia that the Tigers will be playing in and it won't be a surprise if some of the play-

ers make nervous beginnings. The Tigers however are expected to receive ample support at the stadium, which boasts a 90,000-plus seating arrangement. While there are more Sri Lankans in the city as compared to Bangladeshis, fans are hopping in

from every corner. "I have heard that a lot of Bangladeshi supporters are coming in from Sydney as well. It will be nice to play in front of such a huge crowd. Hopefully we can make them happy," a confident Mashrafe said at the pre-

match press conference yesterday. When asked about the run of defeats in 2014, players and management often pointed towards that one defeat against Sri Lanka. Many of them believed that that defeat initiated a

chain reaction. At the MCG today, the players have the opportunity to wipe that nightmare out once and for all. The stage has been set; all that is required now is for the actors to put in the performances of

their lives. Meanwhile, Gary Wilson and Kevin O'Brien struck brisk half-centuries as Ireland held their nerve to clinch a thrilling two-wicket victory in their Pool B match against United Arab

Emirates in Brisbane on Wednesday. Wilson hit 80 off 69 balls while allrounder O'Brien smashed 50 off 25 to help Ireland overwhelm UAE's total of 278 for 9 with four balls to spare for their second consecutive win of the

tournament.

On Tuesday, district administra-

five bodies were found. But fire

service officials said eight bodies were

recovered during Tuesday's rescue

mistakes in registering the names of

missing people, magistrate Rajibul

Asked whether there had been any

# Seven more bodies

FROM PAGE 1

Manikganj district administration tion officials announced that only handed over the bodies to their relatives, said Md Rajibul Islam, additional district magistrate.

on board the single-decker vessel MV Mostafa, are still missing according to their family members, he

operation.

said that relatives did not register the names of some missing people. People are still gathering in the

Ferdous said the rescue operation would continue to find out the missing persons.

# Continuous court dodging the reason

SUPPLIER

QUANTITY

Asked, officials at Gulshan and Cantonment police stations said they didn't get the warrants till 7:00pm.

However, Public Prosecutor Mosharraf Hossain Kajol told The Daily Star, "If police want to arrest Khaleda Zia now, they can do so. There is no legal bar in this regard."

Meanwhile, the BNP-led 20-party alliance warned the government that any attempt to arrest Khaleda would hasten its fall.

"As part of its last effort to stay in power, the government has moved to arrest Khaleda Zia," BNP Joint Secretary General Salahuddin Ahmed said in a statement on behalf of the

alliance. The court also issued arrest warrants against ex-BNP lawmaker Kazi Saleemul Haq and businessman Sharfuddin Ahmed in the orphanage graft case for not appearing before it.

Following the issuance of the warrants, journalists rushed to Khaleda's Gulshan office where she has been staying since January 3.

The development comes at a time when the country is going through a political turmoil. The BNP-led alliance launched a non-stop blockade on January 6 and called a series of shutdowns to put pressure on the government for an early parliamentary elec-

As the opposition's agitation turned violent, ministers and leaders of the AL-led alliance accused Khaleda of instigating violence. They also demanded her arrest.

Special court Judge Abu Ahmed Jamadar yesterday directed the counsel

of Tarique Rahman, Khaleda's elder son and an accused in the orphanage case, to produce him before the court

on March 4, the next date for hearing. BNP Senior Vice Chairman Tarique, who is on bail in the case, has been

His lawyer, Sanaullah Mia, also an adviser to the BNP chief, has been representing him in the court.

Unlike her son, Khaleda didn't file any application seeking an exemption from appearing before the court in person.

Since the case proceedings began eight years ago, she appeared before the court only on seven dates out of 63, claimed Public Prosecutor Kajol.

court hearings, and her lawyers filed petitions for adjournment, citing various reasons, including her illness, lack of security and hartals. The court accepted the petitions. The BNP chairperson, who last

appeared before the court on noon. December 24 last year, skipped hearings on four consecutive dates --January 7, 15, and 29, and yesterday. Her counsels yesterday filed four

petitions with the court, seeking adjournment of hearing.

counsels, said they filed two petitions mentioning that Khaleda couldn't appear before the court for security

In the other two petitions, Sanaullah appealed to the court to adjourn recording of the complainant's depositions, as two writ petitions

were pending with the High Court.

Jahanara.

"There is no alternative transport here on this highway. So, we have no choice but to ride the bus. Appeals to get a move on since the sun is setting make no difference to bus staff," said

PETCO TRADING, PETOLIMEX

Gas Oil

MALAYSIA

Furnace Oil

80,000 MT 223800 barrel 1902300 barrel 60,000 MT \$71.32 \$ 375.63 \$71.32 TURKISH BUMI SIAK PUSAKO, PETROLEUM CO. INDONESIA Gas oil Furnace Oil Gas oil 223800 barrel

Furnace Oil 80,000 MT 223800 barrel 80,000 MT \$71.32 \$71.32 \$375.63 \$71.32 \$375.63

VIETNAM

Furnace Oil

Gas oil

writ petitions with the HC for its direc- night to discuss the next course of

residence.

deepens

**BBC ONLINE** 

media report.

gates.

months. During January to June this year the government's total demand for

tive to transfer the cases from the

The special court, set up at

It also turned down the petitions

The court later recorded the state-

Supreme Court Bar Association

Bakshibazar in Old Dhaka to hold trial

of the two graft cases, rejected all four

that Khaleda's counsels filed seeking a

ment of ACC Deputy Director Harunur

Rashid, complainant of the orphanage

President Khandker Mahbub Hossain,

also adviser to the BNP chief, said they

would decide on the next course of

action after consulting with senior

and do everything in line with the law

so that Khaleda Zia gets justice," he

He said the cases against the BNP

According to the charge sheet of the

told reporters at his office in the after-

chairperson were "politically moti-

orphanage case, Khaleda, Tarique and

four others embezzled Tk 2.1 crore by

vated".

"We will approach the higher court

stay order on the arrest warrants.

Special Judge's Court-3, saying she rants.

petroleum products is 27 lakh tonnes.

part of the profit.

wouldn't get justice from it.

petitions yesterday.

living in London since 2008.

On previous occasions, she skipped

Sanaullah Mia, one of Khaleda's

The BNP chief had earlier filed the

forming the charity that exists only on The statement of the other case said the BNP chief and three others abused power to collect Tk 6.19 crore for Zia

Charitable Trust during the BNP-led government's tenure between 1991 and 1996.

The charities were named after Ziaur Rahman, founder of the BNP. Meantime, pro-BNP lawyers sat last

embassy, close to Place de la Concorde. However, some of the latest drone

flights have been captured on film and will be analysed by a 10-strong team of investigators set up after the first incidents.

Eiffel Tower and above the US

#### running and police are no closer to There were five sightings by

(01:00 GMT) on Wednesday, French

At least seven people, who were

Flying drones over Paris at night is illegal and daytime flights require Five drones were seen the previous MV Mostafa sank with around night in similar areas, including the 200 passengers in the Padma after

being hit by cargo vessel Nargis-1 Sunday morning. After conducting round the clock salvage operation, rescuers recov-

sized vessel to the shore.

control room to register names of their missing relatives, he added. Deputy Commissioner Rashida

ered 70 bodies and pulled the cap-