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Politicisation of EC to destroy democracy: CPB

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday alleged the government has deliberately appointed two 'controversial' commissioners to Election Commission (EC) to destroy the country's democratic process.

CPB President Manjural Ahsan Khan urged all the left-leaning political forces to form an 'alternative left democratic alliance' to protect the country from imperialism, communalism, militancy, bomb blasts and 'misrule' of the government.

He was addressing a party rally organised by CPB city unit at Mukhtangan in the city to mark the fifth anniversary of the bomb blast at a CPB rally at Paltan Maidan on January 20, 2001.

US demands quick UN action on Iran standoff

REUTERS, Washington The United States on Thursday demanded that the UN Security Council, which has the power to impose sanctions, promptly confront Iran over its nuclear ambitions, while Russia and China urged caution.

Rice plans to visit Europe late this month to seek a united front, while the IAEA board is to debate Iran at an emergency meeting on February 2. So far no consensus has emerged on action.

could face sanctions over the West's suspicions it is pursuing a nuclear bomb. Tehran says it needs atomic energy for civilian use.

NEW MOORING TERMINAL 70 more plots for the affected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg The Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) yesterday handed over allotment letters of seventy plots to people whose land was acquired for the construction of the New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT).

families at a function held at the Chittagong Port Training Institute yesterday morning with CPA Chairman AMM Shahadat Hossain in the chair.

Road accident kills Ctg AL leader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg Sadeq Chowdhury, 52, senior vice-president of Awami League (AL) Chittagong north district unit, died in a road accident in the port city yesterday.



Pipes for underground gas line kept on the road near Science Laboratory for the last one week block the footpath and part of the road.

AL demands are illogical, says Moudud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Awami League (AL) must participate in the next election under the existing caretaker government system and Election Commission, as its demands for reforms in the caretaker government and removal of election commissioners are illogical, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed yesterday said.

Horrifying tales of plights of 48 fortune-seekers

PORIMOL PALMA Forty-eight Bangladeshi youths stuck in the Sahara desert for at least ten months came back home on Thursday and told horrifying tales of their plights on their way to the 'lucrative' European job market.

One night they were boarded on pickup vans for a journey across the Sahara to Morocco from where they were scheduled to sneak into Italy or Spain.

the sun during the ten-month stay in the Sahara," Qaiyum said. "We would work for the rebels like fetching water and carrying loads in exchange of a few pieces of bread. Extreme heat during the day and chill at night were also unbearable for us. We were afraid we would not live that way and see our relatives again," said Ariful Islam of Keraniganj.

Shias win Iraq election but without majority

AFP, Baghdad Religious Shia parties surged to victory in Iraq's general election but must find coalition partners after failing to secure an overall majority, according to uncertified results released yesterday.



Bikkhubdha Nagarik Samaj brings out a procession carrying national flags from the Central Shaheed Minar protesting fundamentalism, communalism, and militancy yesterday.

US still sees problems in nuclear deal with India

AFP, New Delhi India and the United States still face difficulties before a landmark nuclear deal can be sealed giving the south Asian giant access to previously forbidden technology, a senior US official said yesterday.

ASIAN HIGHWAY ISSUE Expat experts term it a big failure

STAFF CORRESPONDENT The Benapole-Teknaf route's not being included in the Asian Highway is a big failure of the government, expatriate Bangladeshi communications experts yesterday said.

website-based organisation of the expatriate Bangladeshis, organised the press conference. Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain was the chief guest at the press conference addressed also by ME Chowdhury Shameem, founder and president of scholarsbangladesh.com, and Dr Anwar Karim, a Washington-based Bangladeshi transportation expert.

Future of 6000 Rohingya kids at camps bleak

Former prime minister Iyad Allawi's secular-based Iraqi National List took 25 seats and the Kurdish Islamic Party won five seats.

Future of at least six thousand teenage Rohingya boys and girls living in the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar for more than a decade is uncertain, as they have no access to education after completing primary school.

Nayapara in Teknaf which are approximately 1.25 square kilometre in size and where more than 20,000 Rohingya refugees have been living since 1992.

they found out that he was giving information to the press. Several hundred children encircled an EU-UN team when it visited the camps on November 8 and gave an account of the sufferings they go through in their lives.

First Pluto mission blasts into space



REUTERS, Cape Canaveral The world's first mission to Pluto blasted into space on Thursday after its launch aboard an unmanned Atlas 5 rocket to begin a 9 and a half-year journey to the only unexplored planet in the solar system.

Laboratory, which designed the spacecraft. After two days of delays due to poor weather and a power outage, the 197-foot-tall (60-metre-tall) rocket, built by Lockheed Martin Corp., lifted off at 2 p.m. (1900 GMT) from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

No hartal in Ctg tomorrow

BDNEWS, Ctg Chittagong port city will remain out of the purview of tomorrow's countrywide hartal marking the centenary of Maizbhandar Urs Sharif.

Prayer Timing table for January 21, 2006, with columns for Azan, Jamaat, Fajr, Zohr, Asr, Maghrib, and Esha.