

PM asks people to take 'right decision' in next polls

UNB, Kulaura, Moulvibazar

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has urged people to vote for the BNP-led alliance candidates in the upcoming general elections to maintain continuity of development, peace and democracy.

She hoped the people, who want development, peace and progress, will take the right decision in the 2007 general elections, as they did in 2001.

The prime minister made the call while addressing two public meetings at Kulaura in Moulvibazar and in Kishoreganj

Shots fired along tense Korean border

AP, Seoul, South Korea

Gunfire rang out yesterday along the heavily armed no man's land separating the divided Koreas, as regional tensions mounted in anticipation of communist North Korea's plan to test its first atomic bomb.

South Korean soldiers fired about 40 shots as a warning after five North Korean soldiers crossed a boundary in the Demilitarised Zone separating the two country's forces, South Korean military officials said.

It was unclear whether the North Korean advance was intended as a provocation, or was rather an attempt to go fishing at a nearby

stream, an official at South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said on condition of anonymity, citing official policy.

Four of the North Koreans were unarmed and the fifth carried a rifle, the official said. No one was hurt, and the North Koreans retreated.

While such border skirmishes are not unheard of, they are relatively rare. Saturday's incursion was only the second this year, the official said. The North sometimes orchestrates border skirmishes to jack up tensions at sensitive moments in international standoffs.

Earlier in the day, North Korea's neighbours applauded a U.N.

Security Council statement warning the country not to follow through on its threats to test its first nuclear weapon, perhaps as early as Sunday. Japan said it will push for punitive measures if Pyongyang doesn't heed international opinion.

The statement adopted by the council on Friday also called on North Korea to return immediately to talks on scrapping its nuclear weapons program or face unspecified consequences.

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Hasina reiterates her must reforms

UNB, Dhaka

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina has demanded a nonpartisan chief of the caretaker government, transparent ballot boxes and electoral rolls with photos of the voters to ensure credible parliamentary polls slated for January.

"Proposals for electoral reforms will have to be implemented, failing which agitation will continue," she said in her opening remark at Awami League Central Working Committee (ALWC) meeting at its Dhanmondi office yesterday.

Hasina also demanded removal of those election officers appointed at district and upazila levels on "political considerations".

Questioning the track record of former chief justice KM Hasan,

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Thousands wrongly put on US terror watch lists

AP, Washington

Thousands of people have been mistakenly linked to names on terror watch lists when they crossed the border, boarded commercial airliners or were stopped for traffic violations, a government report said Friday.

More than 30,000 airline passengers have asked just one agency the Transportation Security Administration to have their names cleared from the lists, according to the Government Accountability Office report.

Hundreds of millions of people

each year are screened against the lists by Customs and Border Protection, the State Department and state and local law enforcement agencies. The lists include names of people suspected of terrorism or of possibly having links to terrorist activity.

"Misidentifications can lead to delays, intensive questioning and searches, missed flights or denied entry at the border," the report said. "Whether appropriate relief is being afforded these individuals is still an open question."

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2 RMG workers killed in bus plunge in Savar

JU CORRESPONDENT

Two garment workers were killed and 32 others, mostly female workers, were injured as a bus carrying workers of a garment factory plunged into a ditch at Palashbari on Nabinagar-Kaliakoir highway at Ashulia yesterday.

The accident took place at 6:45 in the morning when the bus full of workers from Starling Creation Ltd were headed out from Kalampur of Dhamrai for the factory at Berun in Yarpur in Savar.

The bus fell into a roadside ditch

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Extortionists shoot Rab man, 2 others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Extortionists shot three people including a Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) member in the city's Mohammadpur area yesterday.

The injured are Alamgir Hossain, 35, an assistant sub-inspector of

Rab-2, Md Nurunnabi, 45, a contractor and his brother-in-law Md AbdulAziz, 26.

Rab picked up Nasiruddin Ahmed, an accountant of Japan Garden City, Mohammadpur, in this connection.

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102 more arms licences void in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Barisal district administration cancelled firearms licences of 102 people in the fourth phase of such step during the present government.

Earlier 402 firearms licences out of 1725 in the district were cancelled in three phases during the last three years.

The cancelled firearms licences mostly belonged to opposition party leaders and activists, and civil and defence officials, sources said.

The deputy commissioner signed the fourth letter of cancellation of 102 firearms licences on September 26, 2006 under the Arms Act, sources at Barisal district administration said.

The recent cancellation list

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PHOTO: STAR

Awami League (AL) leaders are seen at the party's Central Working Committee meeting at its Dhanmondi office in the capital yesterday. The meeting discussed the ongoing BNP-AL dialogue on electoral reforms.

Eminent citizens hail AL-BNP dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-eight eminent personalities of the country yesterday hailed the kicking off of the much-awaited dialogue between the main opposition Awami League (AL) and the ruling BNP.

In a joint statement, the personalities under the banner of Nagorik Somaj wished success to the process and hoped that it would create the culture of tolerance in the country.

Dr Khan Sarwar Murshid, Dr Musharraf Hossain, Dr Anisuzzaman, Dr Mustafa Nurul Islam, Mujibul Haq, Dr Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Laila Rahman Kabir, Kamal Lohani, Dr Rongolal Sen, Dr Ajay Roy, Ibrahim Khalid, Dr Hamida Hossain, Dr Quazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, Rofiqun

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Sehri, Iftar timing

| Ramadan | Oct | Sehri | Iftar |
|---------|-----|-------|-------|
| 14 | 8 | | 5-42 |
| 15 | 9 | 4-34 | 5-41 |
| 16 | 10 | 4-34 | 5-41 |

Prayer Timing

October 8

| | Azan | Jamaat |
|---------|-------|--------|
| Fajr | 4-34 | 4-45 |
| Zohr | 12-45 | 1-15 |
| Asr | 4-30 | 4-45 |
| Maghrib | 5-42 | 6-00 |
| Esha | 7-30 | 8-00 |

Source: Islamic Foundation