

TEAM MEETS HASINA
EU asks parties
to support CG
in holding polls

UNB, Dhaka

German Ambassador Frank Meyke who holds the current presidency of EU has urged all political parties to offer their support to the caretaker government in its effort to address the key electoral issues and participate in the general elections.

The German ambassador made the call after his meeting with Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence.

Dr Stefan Frowein, ambassador of the Commission of European Communities, and the Dutch ambassador were present in the hour-long meeting.

Talking to newsmen, the
SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

19 changes
at DS level

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government made 19 changes last evening in the deputy secretary (DS) level of the administration in three categories.

Nine DSs have been transferred, eight OSDs (officer on special duty) posted to different ministries and two others placed on deputation.

Nousher Ahmed Chowdhury of establishment ministry has been transferred to Fisheries and Livestock; M Mahbul Alam, director general (DG) of Life Insurance Corporation, to Agriculture; Khandakar Atiar Rahman of Fisheries and Livestock to Establishment; Uttam Kumar Mandal, deputy commissioner (DC) of Shariatpur, has been made OSD; AFM Faruq Hossain of
SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

14-party leaders
get bail in
Jamaat case

UNB, Dhaka

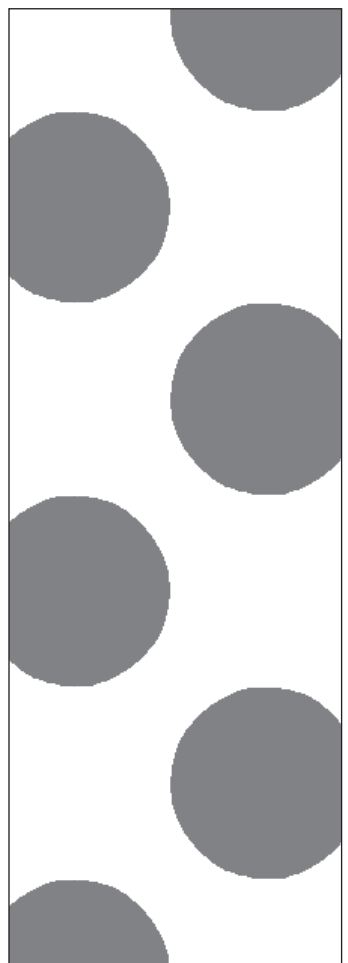
The High Court yesterday granted ad-interim anticipatory bail to some 37 leaders and workers of the Awami League-led 14-party combine accused of murders in a case filed by Jamaat-e-Islami following the October 28 political unrest.

The accused 14-party leaders, including Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil, yesterday surrendered to the court and prayed for bail in the case.

Among others granted bail are Awami League leaders Tofail Ahmed, Abdur Razzak, Sahara Khatun, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya and Haji Selim, JSD President Hasanul Huq Inu
SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Prayer Timing		
November 6		
	Azan	
Fajr	5-00	5-35
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-25	5-30
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation



CANDIDATES IN POLLS

Disclose names of those who whitened money

CPD recommends to interim govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) recommended to the caretaker government that it should instruct the National Board of Revenue (NBR) to disclose the names of those electoral candidates who had taken advantage of the recent tax amnesty which allowed them to whiten their undisclosed earnings.

The amnesty provided black money holders with an opportunity to legitimise their illegitimate earnings by paying 7.5 percent tax on their incomes instead of the highest rate of 25 percent. NBR has been keeping the names of the beneficiaries undisclosed so far.

CPD also recommended that the caretaker government takes steps through the Election Commission (EC) to make it mandatory for electoral candidates to

open specific bank accounts for the purpose of their electoral expenses to ensure more transparency in campaign spending and to curb 'shadow election financing'.

The civil society think-tank made the recommendations in a document titled Economic Programme: CPD's Recommendations for the Caretaker Government, which was presented to journalists by the organisation's Executive Director Debapriya Bhattacharya at a news briefing yesterday morning in the CPD Dialogue Room in the capital. He also submitted the document to Adviser to the Caretaker Government Dr Akbar Ali Khan in the evening for the government's consideration.

"CPD's recommendations regarding electoral reforms need to be scrutinised from a legal point of view. I will ask NBR to look into the legal question," Dr Akbar told journalists after receiving the rec-

ommendations.

The think-tank also urged the interim government to make arrangements through the EC for co-ordinating with various departments of the finance ministry and the Auditor and Comptroller General's Office, the implementation of provisions for financial disclosures of candidates, so the disclosures can be authentic.

According to the Representation of the People Order 1972, candidates are obliged to get a 'clean' report from the Central Information Bureau (CBI) of the central bank, but candidates receiving adverse reports frequently get stay orders on the reports from the High Court through writ petitions. To thwart the practice CPD suggested that the caretaker government may pursue the chief justice to add a couple of benches for speedy
SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

CG to disburse
fund for priority
projects only

Finance adviser says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fund disbursement to the new projects, taken in the current fiscal year despite not fulfilling 'strict economic criteria', would be suspended until the next government assumes office, Finance Adviser to the Caretaker Government Dr Akbar Ali Khan said yesterday.

Following a meeting with Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, Akbar told reporters that finance and planning ministries were asked to scrutinise the projects one by one and to disburse fund only to the priority projects.

Stressing the urgency for taking measures to cut government expenditure in maintaining macro-economic stability, Akbar said election and political unrest might put tremendous pressure to the government coffers. In the coming days, increased election expenses would multiply that pressure, he added.
SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



Policemen conduct a special search of motorbikes in the capital following a drive-by shooting on the house of former law minister Moudud Ahmed Saturday. The photo was taken from the TSC roundabout in Dhaka University yesterday.



Mirpur Road after movement of vehicles came to a halt during a clash between Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Bangladesh Chhatra League activists on the Dhaka College premises yesterday.

POWER SECTOR
TIB may be
asked to back
up graft report

UNB, Dhaka

Adviser for Power and Energy Hasan Mashud Chowdhury yesterday hinted that he might invite the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) to substantiate their reports on corruption in the country's power sector so he could initiate action.

Competent sources said Lt Gen (retired) Mashud, the immediate-past army chief, dropped the hint during his maiden meeting with the top officials of the power ministry and its subordinate organisations at the ministry's conference room.

TIB's recent report painted a grim picture of corruption in the power sector.

The adviser held his meeting amid the nagging power crisis across the country that necessitated about 700-MW load shedding even at the start of the winter season when normally the demand of electricity remains at a lower level.

Power Secretary ANH Akhtar Hossain, PDB Chairman ANM Rizwan, Desa Chairman Nazrul Hasan and other chiefs of different
SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

JOINING BNP-LED ALLIANCE
Party opposition puts
Ershad in double mind

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman HM Ershad changed his mind not to join the BNP-led four-party alliance immediately as he has been facing tremendous opposition from a number of senior party leaders including even the pro-BNP ones.

Sources said most JP leaders who were lawmakers in the eighth parliament along with a number of pro-BNP others opposed the decision to join the four-party coalition as they think it is likely to face disaster in the upcoming elections.

Meanwhile, the BNP high command is continuing its efforts to bring Ershad in their coalition as soon as possible. Sources said the BNP is trying to mount pressure on Ershad in this regard.

Hearing about Ershad's latest stance, a representative of Tarique Rahman called Ershad over telephone on Friday and discussed the matter of the former military ruler's joining the four-party alliance.

JP sources said a group of former lawmakers led by Presidium Member and Ershad's younger brother GM Quader have taken position against the party chairman. They are planning to leave
SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

the party to float one of their own if Ershad unilaterally decides to join the BNP alliance.

A JP source said the BNP and JP leadership could not reach a consensus on their dealings.

The BNP leadership had assured Ershad of benefits like 45 seats and financial help for the JP candidates to contest the election.

But getting no final decision of the BNP high command in this regard, Ershad decided that he would finalise his decision about joining the four-party alliance after November 12, the deadline of Awami League's ultimatum to the caretaker government chief for realising its 11-point demand.

If the caretaker chief fails to realise Awami League's demands, it might boycott the election, in which case the JP will contest the election individually.

After Friday's meeting of the party presidium, however, Ershad told reporters that no matter Awami League and its allies take part in the election or not, the JP would join the four-party alliance.

But just a day after, the JP central leaders now think it will be unwise to join the four-party alliance before the 14-party's extended November 12 deadline.

Cold causes massive
blackout in Europe

AFP, Paris

A sudden weekend surge in demand for electricity in Germany due to freezing weather plunged much of Europe into blackness as France and other power exporting countries found their grids overtopped.

The power outage nearly caused an unprecedented Europe-wide blackout, energy supply companies said.

Authorities said it underscored an urgent need to create a coordinating agency for the entire continent.

Swathes of France, Italy, Spain, Belgium and the Netherlands went dark for up to an hour late Saturday as cold Germans rushing to switch on heaters sucked up electricity from Europe's interconnected networks.

Automated switching protocols meant the grid in France -- a net exporter of electricity to Germany and other countries due to its fleet of nuclear power stations -- was massively called on to meet the shortfall in Germany.

"It all happened in several seconds," said Pierre Bornard, a senior executive at RTE, a subsidiary of the French electricity giant EDF that handles electricity distribution.

In France, more than five million people, or nearly one-tenth of the country, were left without power, especially residents of Paris and its suburbs.

"We weren't very far from a European blackout," Bornard said. Winter temperatures that fell to below freezing in parts of Germany, Europe's most populous country, triggered the incident.

The west German city of Cologne was the first place to go black as strained power networks

failed to shift electricity supplies to German consumers. The failure of two German high-voltage transmission lines compounded the problem.

The Cologne-Bonn airport was affected, but generators were started to prevent disruptions to air traffic.

A spokesman for the private Germany energy company EWE admitted that the German network suffered a "spike" it was unprepared for.

The automatic switching by France's EDF network simply transferred the problem to that country, and beyond.

France's high-speed train services were disrupted, with delays on a dozen lines. Various parts of Italy were affected, particularly the northwestern Piedmont area, which lost electricity for around 30 minutes.

Several areas of Spain were also hit, including Madrid, and the eastern Catalonia and Valencia regions, according to Spain's REE company.

There were no immediate reports of any injuries as a result of the blackout.

Bornard said that, as the huge imbalance was detected, computers in the power networks simply shut down part of the output. "It was the only way to avoid a complete meltdown," he said.

RTE said 5,200 Megawatts -- nearly 10 percent of the output at the time -- were "immediately interrupted".

Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi said Sunday that a common European authority was needed to
SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

2 cases against
Prothom Alo
editor, publisher
discharged

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman and Publisher Maftuz Anam were yesterday discharged from two defamation cases -- one filed by former chief whip Khondaker Delwar Hossain and the other by a leader of Islami Chhatra Shibir.

Metropolitan magistrates Mohammad Rafiqul Islam and Quamrunnahr discharged them when they along with their lawyers appeared before the courts and
SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Why UP polls
won't be held
within certain
time

HC show cause on govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court (HC) bench yesterday issued a rule upon the government to show cause within four weeks as to why it shall not be directed to hold Upazila Parishad elections within a stipulated time.

The bench comprising Justice Nozrul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury issued the rule following a public interest litigation filed by AQM Shafiq Ullah, Dr Badiul Alam Majumdar and Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury.

The petitioners claimed that although the Upazila Parishad Act,
SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Moudud accused of
'distorting history'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Moudud Ahmed, law minister of the immediate past four-party alliance government, omitted from the constitution the Proclamation of Independence and several chapters that dealt with provisions for declaring emergency, taking oaths of office, and amendments to the constitution.

Rather, the minister included a new preface to the constitution that allegedly distorted the real history of the proclamation of independence.

The latest version of the constitution with a new preface written by
SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

former law minister Moudud Ahmed was published on the last working day of the eighth parliament by the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

In the new preface, Moudud Ahmed wrote, "The elected political leadership failed to give directions to the people at that critical moment (25 March, 1971). In that situation, in response to the indispensable demand of the time, the then Major Ziaur Rahman of the army, made the historic declaration of independence".

The latest version of the constitution with a new preface written by
SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

BNP divided over
EC reconstitution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP leaders are divided over asking the chief election commissioner (CEC) and other election commissioners to resign for holding a free and fair election, sources said.

Party insiders said liberal leaders have no reservations if the president and chief adviser takes any decision against the CEC and his colleagues.

But the party hardliners, who are now in command, want to back CEC MA Aziz and other election commissioners.

A former state minister speaking
SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

anonymously said the hardliners who had earlier played a negative role in party's bad times are now showing "great" enthusiasm for the CEC and other controversial Election Commission officials.

He added that these men are responsible for the present crisis regarding the EC.

The sources said a group of leaders who are known as liberal and committed to the party leadership wants to see a positive end to the crisis. They believe it will help ensure a free and fair election. But
SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



A woman waters her vegetable garden at Nandi Para on the city outskirts from where farmers supply a huge amount of vegetables to the capital.

BSF kills 1

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) gunned down an unidentified person yesterday at Bashalgaon near the Indian border under Haripur upazila of Thakurgaon, according to witnesses and BDR sources.

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) could not confirm the nationality of the victim. However, local witnesses claimed that the victim was an Indian national.

Villagers at Bashalgaon said BSF troops from Barrah camp in India fired at least 15 gunshots as the victim approached the main pillar 351 -- 500 meters into the Indian territory.

BDR sources said BSF sent a letter to BDR urging to receive the body, but BDR officials informed BSF in a reply letter saying the victim was not a Bangladeshi national.