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Bangladesh EC has to work transparently for fair polls
UK minister tells Khaleda

UNB, Dhaka

Visiting British Minister of State for Trade Ian McCartney said Bangladesh's Election Commission will have to work in a transparent way for holding free and fair elections in the country.

"The Election Commission will have to ensure an effective and transparent election which will be accepted by the majority people of Bangladesh," said the UK minister while talking to reporters after a meeting with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Banani office yesterday evening.

The British minister said the European governments would like

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Blockade relaxed at Chittagong Port

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Delivery of goods from the premier seaport Chittagong is going to resume today on a limited scale as 14-party coalition relaxed its blockade on rail, road and waterways in Chittagong.

According to sources, the blockading political coalition will allow the goods laden trucks to move from the port to Chittagong city but will continue the blockade on the highways connecting the port city with the capital and other parts of the country.

Chittagong City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury addressing a rally at Lal Dighi Maidan yesterday afternoon asked his followers to allow transporting of

goods up to Chittagong city. But no transport will be allowed to leave or enter the city, he said.

He relaxed the blockade for three days to clear baby foods and perishable items which have been stockpiling in the port yard, according to sources.

The city mayor also went around the port area several times last night with a convoy of trucks carrying blockade supporters. They chanted slogans announcing continuation of the blockade, according to sources.

Dock workers, however, are determined to continue the blockade on the Chittagong Container Terminal (CCT) demanding cancellation of an agreement signed with a private company.

CCT remained paralysed since November 12, due to the dock workers' opposition to leasing out the operation of sophisticated gantry crane to the private company.

The dock workers said the blockade will continue until the agreement is cancelled. They said the company Saif Powertec Limited failed to accelerate handling of containers using the gantry cranes.

The private company handles 10-12 containers per hour although it was awarded the job for accelerating the speed and to handle at least 25 containers per hour, said a leader of the dockworkers.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Bangla Bhai's close aide held in Bagmara

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police arrested an accomplice of notorious Bangla Bhai and one of the organisers of banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) in Bagmara upazila yesterday.

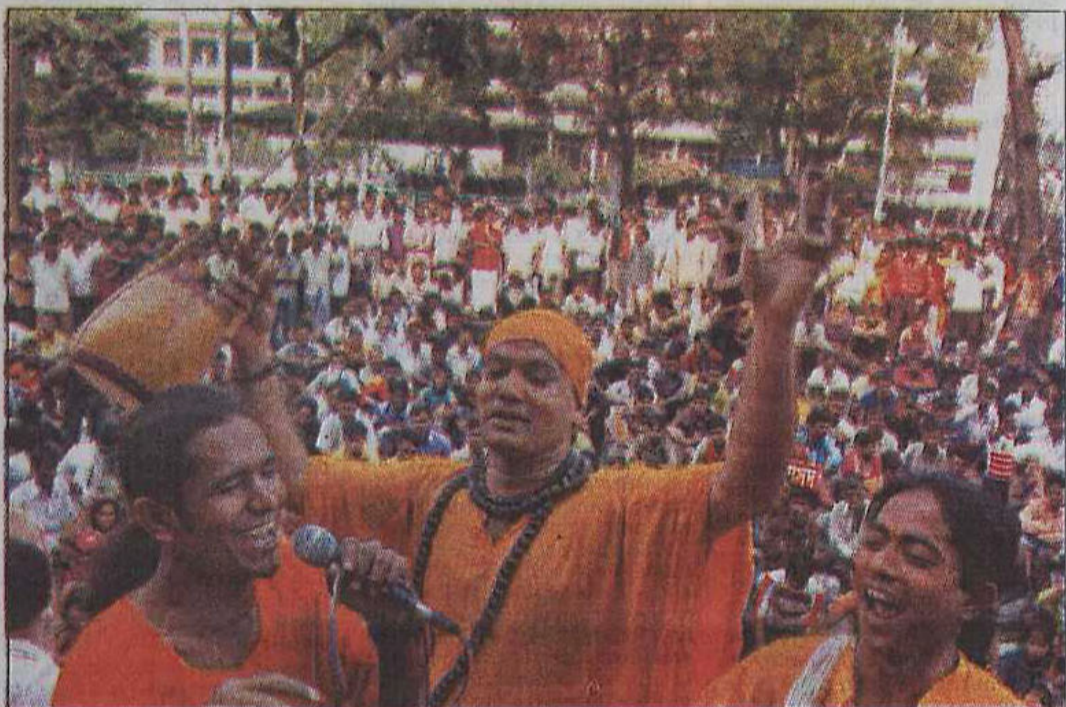
The arrestee, Manju, was working on a cropland at Hamirkutsa village in the guise of a labourer. Acting on a tip-off, a team of Bagmara Police Station went to the village and arrested the JMB man. He had been absconding since August 17 blasts in 2005.

Police said Manju was wanted in Jatrachchi Grameen Bank robbery, mugging and murder cases.

Manju used to distribute books written by Asadullah Al Galib in Bagmara and became one of the organisers of JMB in 2004.



The BNP-led four-party alliance holds a rally at the city's Muktangan yesterday demanding immediate announcement of the election schedule.



Artistes perform at a rally organised by Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal in front of GPO in the capital demanding resignation of the chief election commissioner.

Changes in local admin important for fair polls
Observes BEA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The change of chief election commissioner is not enough to hold a free and fair election, as the officials appointed under political considerations by the immediate past four-party government are controlling the administration relating to election, Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA) said.

At a press conference held in the capital yesterday, the BEA also urged the caretaker government to publish a white paper on corruption of the immediate past government and the existing Election Commission.

It is not possible to hold a free and fair election if the politically biased officials are not removed from the election process, the association said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Accountable leadership vital for ensuring rights

UK minister tells Human Rights Focus Group Discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Accountability and transparency of the political leadership of Bangladesh should be ensured for establishing human rights in the country, British Minister of State for Trade and Investment Ian McCartney said yesterday.

The international community may write to the political parties asking if their electoral promises, particularly on the human rights issues and the international treaties signed by the country, are implemented or not, he said.

The British minister, whose

portfolio also includes human rights in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, was speaking at a Human Rights Focus Group Discussion on 'Violence, vulnerable groups and the future of human rights in Bangladesh.' British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury moderated the discussion that took place at his residence.

The UK minister's visit to Bangladesh, part of a South Asian tour including India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, is aimed at discussing the prospects of and obstacles to economic, democratic and human development of the country.

McCartney also met the President and Chief of the Caretaker Government Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday and was scheduled to meet the business community of the country.

The British minister noted that Bangladesh is still at a stage of theory with regard to human rights, adding, "The important thing to do is the implementation." He suggested consistent and combined approach instead of scattered programmes for more result-oriented actions and added that the UK can re-examine its

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Bogra Jubo Dal leader killed by party men

UNB, Bogra

A local Jubo Dal leader was hacked to death mistakenly by party men during a rally of the BNP-led four-party alliance in the town yesterday.

The victim was identified as Mohon, 26, joint convener of Jubo Dal Sultanganjpara unit.

Witnesses said Jubo Dal activists became angry when 5 to 6 bombs went off on the rooftop of Shabdapaji Market near Zero point, the meeting venue, at around 12:30pm.

Immediately after the explosions, Jubo Dal activists encircled the market and rummaged through it.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Aggrieved officials meet adviser, ask for posting based on seniority

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 100 aggrieved government officials yesterday met Dhiraj Kumar Nath, adviser to the caretaker government (CG) and administrative council member, at his office and demanded immediate posting of administration officials at division, district and upazila levels on the basis of seniority for conducting the next general election.

If joint secretaries, deputy

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

China ready to help broker Indo-Pak peace

AFF, New Delhi

Chinese President Hu Jintao declared yesterday his country was ready to play a "constructive role" for peace in South Asia and that he had made his trip to India to enhance "mutual trust".

Hu, the first Chinese president to visit India in a decade, added in a keynote speech to top government

officials he wanted to "chart a new course" for future strategic relations between the world's two most populous nations.

"China is ready to work with India," Hu said on the third day of his four-day visit to India, stressing Beijing wanted harmonious relations with New Delhi.

Ties between India and China

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

3 outlaws killed in 'shootouts'

STAR REPORT

Three members of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) were killed yesterday in Sirajganj, Pabna and Kushtia in separate 'shootouts' with law enforcement agencies.

Two members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), SI Abdus Salam and ASI Saidur Rahman, were also hurt during the 'shootout' in Sirajganj and they have been undergoing treatment at a local hospital, a Rab press release said.

The victim, Sanowar Hossain, 33, son of late Abdul Zabbar of Kaliaharipur village under sadar upazila, was a leader of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP). He was accused in ten

criminal cases including two for murder and robbery, reports our Sirajganj correspondent.

A team of Rab 12, after receiving a tip-off, raided a secret meeting of PBCP outlaws at 12:00 noon by the river Korotoa at Rajapur village under Belkuchi upazila.

As the outlaws fired on the law enforcement agency, Rab returned fire prompting an hour-long 'shootout', said Rab.

Sanowar's body was found on the spot after the 'shootout' was over, claimed Rab.

Rab recovered a revolver and a bullet from the scene and sent the victim's body to sadar hospital morgue for an autopsy, said the press release.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



Election materials arrive at the Election Commission (EC) office in Dhaka yesterday as part of the EC's preparations for the next parliamentary polls.

Prayer Timing

November 23

	Azan	
Fair	5-05	5-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-21	5-24
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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Dhaka Cantonment

Coming out tomorrow

This week Star Weekend Magazine's cover story focuses on Shykh Seraj, a champion of Bangladesh's neglected farmers. This week's issue also includes a feature on human trafficking, perspectives on Bangladesh and Bangali culture, your favourite columns such as Chintito and Mita and more...

ক্রিং... ক্রিং...

বেবি জিংক

ডায়রিয়া হলে শিশুকে দিন

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