EU mission chief hopes for fair polls, all parties' participation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Head of Delegation of the European Commission to Bangladesh Dr Stefan Frowein said the European Union (EU) Election Observation Mission (EOM) expects that the upcoming election in Bangladesh would be held in a fair way and with participation of all the political

Dr Stefan Frowein said this at the Election Road Show held in the port city vesterday to explain the role and background of next EU EOM to Bangladesh

There is lot of rooms to improve the election process and political will is a must to bring about that improvement, he said

The EU selected Bangladesh as a priority country for the EU EOM since the country as a democracy in an unstable region carries enormous strategic potential to act as SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Police raid 12 DU halls, no arms recovered

DU CORRESPONDENT

Police raided 12 residential halls of Dhaka University (DU) on Saturday night but failed to recover any arms or explosives

However, two cocktails went off near Nilkhet police station just after the raid ended at 3:30am.

Sources said the news of hall raid was leaked out hours before the raid was conducted

DU Proctor Prof AK Firoz Ahmed admitted the news leak and told The Daily Star, "The authorities will take legal action against those who were responsible for the leak.'

He claimed that the raid was highly confidential. "Even pro-vice chancellor, treasurer, members of the proctorial body and officer-incharge of Shahbagh police station were not aware about the raid before midnight," said the proctor.

Border guards trade gunshots in Satkhira

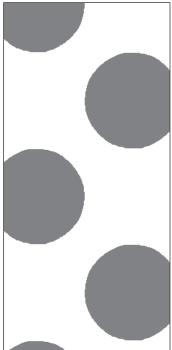
UNB, Satkhira

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) exchanged gunfire on Madra and Kakdanga borders in Kolaroa upazila early yesterday.

The BSF members from Tarali camp and BDR jawans of Kakdanga camp exchanged several rounds of bullet at about 2:00am

Besides, BSF troops from Hakimpur camp in Sawrupnagar **SEE PAGE 15 COL 8**

Prayer Timing		
November 27		
	Azan	
Fajr	5-10	5-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-19	5-22
Esha	7-00	7-30
Source: Islamic Foundation		



Accord with UAE soon for expatriates' welfare

UAE labour minister due next month

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladesh is going to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the government of United Arab Emirates (UAE) shortly that aims at mitigating the sufferings of the Bangladeshi expatriate

The UAE Labour Minister Dr Ali Abdullah Al Kaabi will visit Bangladesh in the first week of December in this connection, said a source in the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment.

In a letter to the Health and Family Welfare Adviser Dr Sufia Rahman on November 21, Bangladeshi Ambassador to the UAE Nazimullah Chowdhury said that the UAE labour minister called

him and discussed the proposed new labour laws of the country which focus on improving the condition of the expatriate workers.

The MoU is going to be signed at a time when there are reports of widespread violations of human rights of the migrant workers in the UAE, especially in the country's construction industry.

According to New York-based Human Rights Watch (HRW), these abuses include unpaid or extremely low wages, several years of indebtedness to the recruitment agencies for paying up fees that UAE law says only the employers should pay, the withholding of the workers' passports and hazardous working conditions that result in apparently high rates

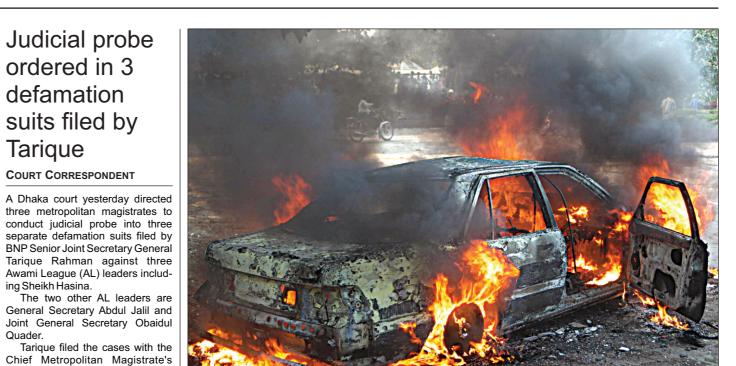
of death and injury.

Most of the UAE's 500,000 migrant construction workers come from South Asian countries, including Bangladesh, the report says.

The embassies of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh repatriated the bodies of 880 construction workers in 2004, HRW said, adding that the UAE government can account for only a few of these deaths 'primarily because it appears not to enforce its own laws requiring employers to report

worksite deaths and injuries.' "Recruiting agencies unlawfully force the workers, rather than their employers, to pay \$2,000-3,000 for travel, visas, government fees and the recruiters' own services." the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



CTG CONTAINER TERMINAL

A car, owned by a Japanese national, mysteriously catches fire at Ramna Tennis Complex car park near Dhaka Club in the capital yesterday.

Businesses seek urgent

steps to resume activities

Tarique sued again for defamation

(CMM) Court on November 19 for

conducting 'malicious campaign

After hearing the petitioner,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Metropolitan Magistrate AJM

Abdullahel Baqui ordered judicial

against him.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Senior Vice-president of Pabna Awami League (AL) filed a defamation case against BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman vesterday for his alleged "indecent remarks" about AL chief Sheikh

M Saidul Haque Chunnu filed the case with a magistrate court in Pabna. The court ordered a judicial inquiry into the matter and fixed January 15 for the next date for the proceedings, a court source said.

According to the filed case Tarique had made the "indecent remarks" about Al President Sheikh Hasina on November 4 at Hawa Bhaban in the capital.

Mashhud finds political situation improving

Power and Energy Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury yesterday said the country's political situation is gradually improving although it has not improved completely. Mashhud, who is a member of the

Advisory Committee on Law and Order, said the caretaker government would launch a countrywide drive, without any prior announcement, to recover illegal arms.

"If such a drive is launched with formal announcement, sometimes it fails to achieve the desired goal," he said.

"The holders of illegal arms are not 'innocent boys', but the government has the ability to control them... and we know how to deal with them," said the former army

He hoped that all the political parties would become electionoriented after the appointment of two new election commissioners by the president.

the council of advisers' meeting scheduled to be held today, sources said.

advisers meeting today for a policy decision after top business leaders of the country urged the government to solve the stalemate "We have urged the adviser to At a meeting with Shipping Adviser Azizul Hague yesterday,

Council of advisers may discuss it today

the five business leaders urged him to take immediate steps for reopening the container terminal, which has been sitting idle since November 12. The shipping adviser assured

The issue of Chittagong Container

Terminal (CCT) deadlock is likely to

be placed before the council of

RAFIQ HASAN

them of taking up the matter before

Operations at the CCT remained suspended mainly due to a serious row over the operation of four sophisticated gantry cranes by a private company, Saif Powertec

resume operation in the port immediately, otherwise, the entire economy of the country will suffer," Mir Nasir Hossain, president of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), said emerging from the meeting

"We do not bother whom the

government gives the charge for running the cranes, we only want to see the port becoming functional again with the cranes operating, he pointed out.

As many as 7,000 containers full of important imported cargo have been stuck up in the ships stranded at the port for over two weeks due to non-operation of the cranes, the FBCCI president said. The port is a basic infrastructure that should be kept above politics, he added.

The President of Internationa Chamber of Commerce (ICC-Bangladesh) Mahbubur Rahman President of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters

124 police inspectors | Hu to elevate transferred in last spell

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday completed 'reshuffle' in six metropolitan police areas by transferring 124 inspector ranked officials -- mostly officers-in-charge (OC) of different police stations

The OCs and inspectors have been transferred to other districts in the range in accordance with a November 15 decision of Advisory Council for Administrative Affairs of the caretaker government.

All OCs of 32 police stations and eight inspectors of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) were transferred.

"The process of transferring the OCs started a few days ago, but could not be completed due to the movement of the 14-party combine," Jahurul Islam, the home secretary, told reporters at his office

Hunt for criminals will go on based on the list prepared by the

immediate past government, he

Asked whether the government is going to revise the list since there is allegation of listing names of the then opposition parties' activists, the home secretary said the list was prepared neutrally where no one has been implicated falsely.

"In a sense, activists from all the parties are there. We can say, in other words, that there is no political activist on the list because criminals do not belong to any party," said the home secretary.

He, however, said, the list will be updated if names of new criminals come up.

On whether law and order may deteriorate due to massive transfer of police officers, home secretary Jahurul Islam replied in the negative. "The officers will not face any problem in their new stations if they are well informed about the area. The crime chart already remains.'

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strategic ties with Pakistan

REUTERS, Islamabad

a four-day visit to Pakistan yesterday during which he promised to work with Islamabad to elevate strategic ties to "a new high" and strengthen trade and economic cooperation. Hu had visited India immediately

Chinese President Hu Jintao ended

before coming to Pakistan, and the Chinese leader avoided taking sides over the South Asian rival's perennial dispute over the Kashmir region, and instead focused on economic partnerships with both countries. A crowd of well-wishers waving

Chinese and Pakistani flags were at the airport in the eastern city of Lahore, as Hu, seen off by Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, left for home at the end of the first visit by a Chinese president for a decade. Pakistan has treasured its rela-

tionship with China, mainly

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Yemeni editor walks free after Prophet cartoons conviction

AFP, Sanaa

A Yemeni court sentenced a newspaper editor to one year in jail and shut his publication for reprinting offensive cartoons of Prophet Hazrat Mohammed(SM), but the attorney general freed the journalist

the one-year jail sentence to Kamal al-Olfi, editor of Al-Rai Al-Aam, and banned him from writing for six months, in addition to closing his private weekly, an AFP correspondent reported.

The court in Sanaa handed down

The court accused Olfi of mocking Islam's prophet by reprinting the controversial cartoons, which were initially published in Danish newspapers and sparked a wave of protests across the Muslim world earlier this year.

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Restaurant bomb kills 15 Afghans

55 Talibans die in Nato strikes

A suicide bomber blew himself up in a restaurant in eastern Afghanistan yesterday, killing 15 Afghans, as Nato said 55 rebels had died in fierce clashes that also killed one of its soldiers. The violence was the worst in weeks after a lull in a Taliban-led insurgency that has left around 3,700 people dead, four times more than last year, with rebels accounting for most of the

The suicide attacker was in a restaurant in the remote town of Urgun in the eastern province of Paktika and blew himself up when

the Urgun district chief walked in, the interior ministry said. "Fifteen people were martyred

One of the three jewellery shops looted at Holland Centre shopping complex in Badda in the capital on

and 25 others including the district chief, Mohammad Mobin, were wounded." it said Paktika provincial governor

Mohammad Akram Kheplwak gave the same toll. He said most of the casualties were soldiers with a militia hired by US forces, who have a base in the area, to assist with patrols and searches. The commander of the militia

and the governor of an adjoining district were among the wounded, Interior ministry spokesman

Zemarai Bashary blamed the attack on the "enemies of Afghanistan and of the government."

This often-used term generally refers to fighters with the extremist Taliban movement driven from power five years ago. The hardliners' insurgency features regular suicide and roadside bombings.

The small hotel and some shops around it were badly damaged, said witness Mohammad Shah Faizi who saw some of the bodies being pulled from the rubble Nato's International Security

Assistance Force (Isaf) said the

blast caused buildings to collapse

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



Despite electronic signals are in operation, a traffic police uses flags to control the movement of vehicles in front of the chief justice's residence at Kakrail in the city yesterday.