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The Daily Star

EC reviews preparations for municipal elections

The Election Commission at a meeting yesterday reviewed the preparations for holding municipal polls, reports UNB.

The Commission will announce the election schedules on January 14.

Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena presided over the meeting attended by Election Commissioners Abdur Rahman and Mushtaque Ahmed Chowdhury, said EC officials.

The election to 141 municipalities, out of total 181, will be held February 23-25 under a code of conduct.

Polling in 41 municipalities are not taking place due to various reasons, including non-expiry of the tenure, pending cases and dispute over delimitation.

The municipal election will

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Ganges water flow below average

PABNA, Jan 10: Bangladesh on an average received 1,18,348 cusec of Ganges water at Hardinge Bridge point in last 10 days, reports UNB.

According to Hydrology Department, the quantum of water was 63,938 cusec less than that of the corresponding period of 1998.

Bangladesh on an average received 1,82,286 cusec water in 1998 and 70,829 cusec in 1997 during the first 10 days of January.

As per the water treaty signed between Bangladesh and India on June 12, 1996, Bangladesh is supposed to get 67,516 cusec of water in first 10 days of every January.

Before the signing of the treaty, Bangladesh received on an average 81,442,273 cusec water in 1996.

The highest quantum of water, 89,508 cusec, was received in first 10 days of January in 1987.

3 murdered in Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent CHUADANGA, Jan 10: Armed miscreants killed three people, including a UP member, in two villages of Sadar thana Saturday night.

Police said the miscreants picked up Shamsul Haq, 30, and Tituha UP member Abu Musa Haque, 35, from Hizalgari Bazar and hanged them at village Uktu under Sadar thana.

Both the victims resided at village Chhoto Solua.

In another incident, miscreants shot dead one Shahidul Islam, 35, at village Kotalipara. The bodies were sent to Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. Two cases were filed.

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Prayer Timings

January 11

	Azam	Jamaat
Fajr	5-20	5-26
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-32	5-35
Esha	7-00	7-15

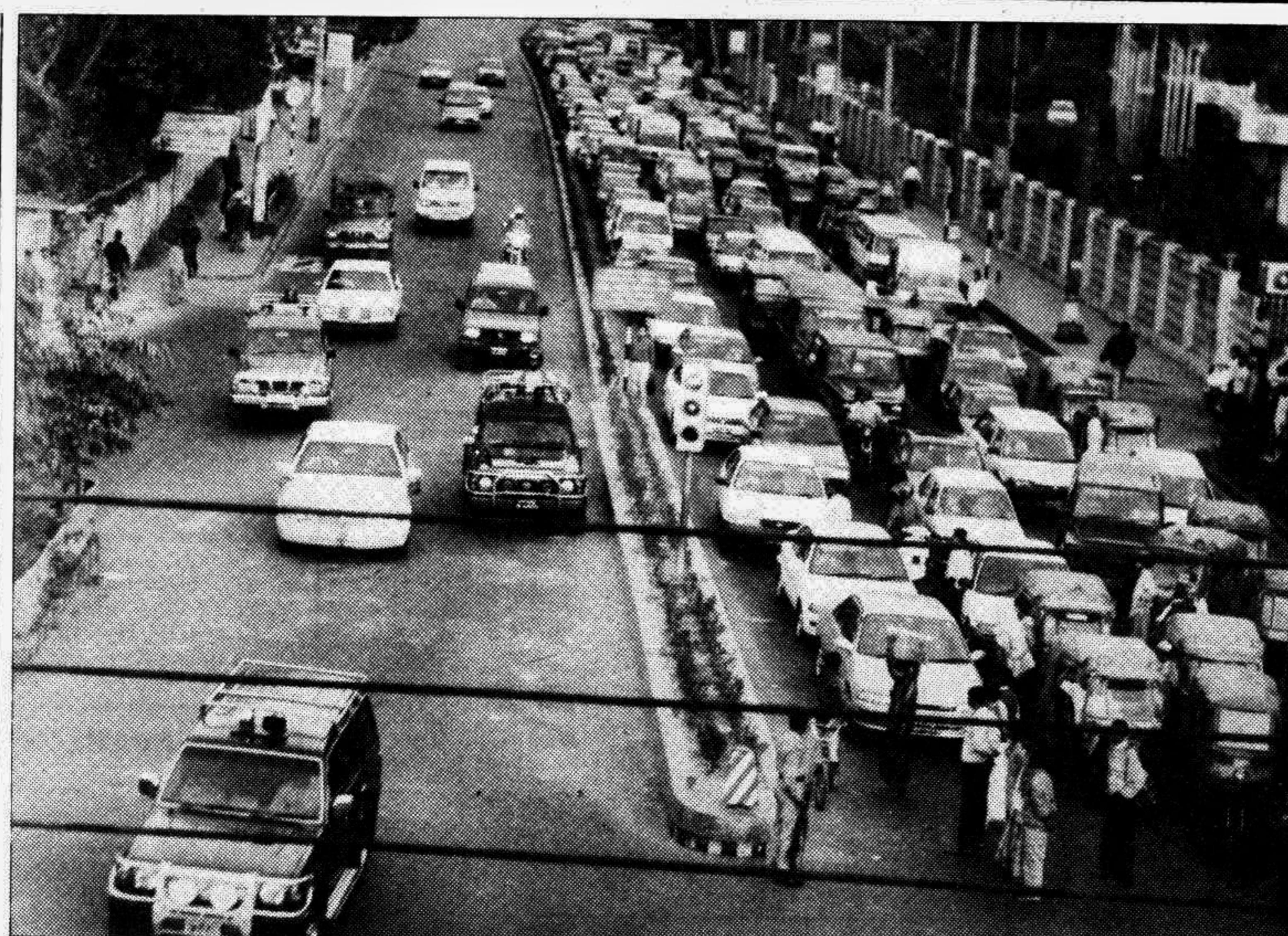
Source: Islamic Foundation

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Sehri, Iftar timings

Ramadan	Jan	Sehri	Iftar
22	11	5-33	5-34
23	12	5-20	5-34
24	13	5-20	5-35



PM takes the wrong lane

Traffic mess in the city forced Prime Ministerial motorcade to skip the jam at Sheraton crossing, making it through the wrong side yesterday afternoon. She made it through but most people could not. The resultant chaos caused by closing of the lane for PM's motorcade tossed the rush hour traffic into total disarray for nearly an hour. Ripples of it also reverberated on other streets.

— Star photo by Sheikh Enamul Huq

SEC rewrites rules to force 'full disclosure'

The capital market regulators adopted new public issue rules prescribing "full and fair disclosure" in the prospectus, for ensuring informed decisions by investors, reports APB.

"The Public Issue Rules 1998, we hope, will enable the investors to make transparent investment decisions," said a senior official of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

The main feature of the new rules is that they require the issuing company to make adequate and full disclosure in its prospectus in terms of Public Issue Rules.

For making a public offer, an issuer company should publish a prospectus in at least two national dailies, apart from making sufficient copies available with market intermediaries.

The new rules made it

mandatory that any order by a regulatory authority "suspending or otherwise limiting the involvement of any officer or director of nominee in any type of business, securities or banking activities" must be made public in the prospectus.

The prospectus should also incorporate whether during the last ten years "any bankruptcy petition filed by or against any company of which any officer or director or nominee of the issuer filing the prospectus was a director, officer or general partner at the time of bankruptcy or within two years prior to that time."

It should also mention if an officer, director or nominee was convicted in a criminal proceeding or criminal proceedings

are pending against him.

The new rules require to elaborate whether any order, judgement or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction against any officer, director or nominee permanently or temporarily enjoying, barring, suspending or otherwise limiting the involvement of any officer, director or nominee in any type of business, securities and banking activities.

Any order of the Securities and Exchange Commission, or other regulatory authority or foreign financial regulatory authority, suspending or otherwise limiting the involvement of any officer or director or nominee in any type of business, securities and banking activities.

The DSE sources said such threats started coming when the DSE council had fined two members Tk 20,000 and "temporarily" suspended them from trading in November last year.

The two were charged with "unethically giving a wide area network (WAN) connection to Olympic Industries".

The threats stopped after a few days. But the moment the surveillance officials detected the November 3, 1997 incident there was pressure from different quarters," one source said.

"Their main target is to remove the CEO and the Secretary," the source said.

When contacted, both the CEO and the Secretary declined to comment on the issue.

DSE officials said the two were restrained from using their cars, travelling by autorickshaw when they came to office yesterday. Many members did the same fearing trouble.

Additional police force was deployed there to prevent any outbreak of violence. BCL supporters brought out a procession at Pahartali today demanding arrest of the killers.

The assailants came by a microbus and fled the scene after killing Helal, local sources said.

BCL blamed the activists of pro-BNP JCD for the killing but JCD denied the charge.

The killing, however, sparked off tension in Pahartali area where some offices of JCD were damaged. The supporters of BCL also put up road barricade there protesting the killing.

Additional police force was deployed there to prevent any outbreak of violence. BCL supporters brought out a procession at Pahartali today demanding arrest of the killers.

The platoons of BDR and five platoons of Armed Police have been deployed in addition to six platoons of KMP as the clashes spread to the entire mill

area and workers' colony after police dispersed the crowd near the GM's office by firing blank shots and tear gas shells.

According to police and witnesses, Siraj and his followers came under attack by the Ibne Zaman group following hot exchange of words when a meeting was being held between the management and the CBA leaders regarding payment of wages and Eid bonus.

Police and witnesses said FM Siraj, 48, General Secretary of the Workers' Union and Manik Mia, 36, its former vice president, were killed and six of the injured are now fighting for life at hospitals as the rival factions of Awami League's labour front clashed with lethal weapons near the General Manager's office at about 1 pm.

The six — Naseem Kabir, 25, Panina Shaikh, 28, Motaleb, 32, Pannu, 30, Farid, 28, and Hasan, 28 — are at the Khulna Medical College Hospital and the Sadar Hospital.

Two platoons of BDR and five platoons of Armed Police have been deployed in addition to six platoons of KMP as the clashes spread to the entire mill

area and workers' colony after police dispersed the crowd near the GM's office by firing blank shots and tear gas shells.

According to police and witnesses, Siraj and his followers came under attack by the Ibne Zaman group following hot exchange of words when a meeting was being held between the management and the CBA leaders regarding payment of wages and Eid bonus.

Police and witnesses said the clash erupted when the villagers tried to snatch an arrested union parashad member from police at about 6 pm.

About one thousand villagers equipped with firearms and rambads attacked the police on board a boat. Police tried to disperse the villagers and at one stage fired five rounds of bullets. Villagers also returned several rounds of shots.

During the clash Liton Mia,

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Arrest of 'int'l terrorist': Where lies the truth?

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 10: Detective Branch police and other intelligence agencies here have started serious investigation whether Syed Nurul Absar, arrested on Friday, is an alleged international terrorist, as claimed by Interpol.

Police sources said they are trying to find out whether Absar maintained any political link or had any connection with smuggling syndicates.

Absar was sent to Dhaka yesterday for questioning by three intelligence agencies.

Absar was arrested by DB police here in a pre-dawn raid at his Chawkbari residence after they got a fax message from Interpol that branded him as an international arms racketeer and extremists.

The sources said the message had at first landed at the Home Ministry from where it was forwarded to the IGP who sent it to Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP).

Detective police of CMP conducted the raid without delay, taking the matter very seriously, the sources said.

But during interrogation

here, Absar informed DB police that, the Interpol message might be sequel to a feud with his wife who left for London in September last year.

DB police could not elicit any other information that validates the allegations made by Interpol.

It is really shrouded with mystery and subject to investigation. Absar may be released if nothing is found during joint interrogation in Dhaka", he said.

Meanwhile, Absar's aged mother Syeda Nehelu Akbar Roishati at a press conference at the Chittagong Press Club today demanded justice for her son who, she claimed, was arrested on false allegations.

She also sought cooperation of the media in finding out the truth through fair and impartial investigation.

The allegations sent to the government by Interpol are fictitious and fabricated. My son is not involved in smuggling or explosives and he never went to Libya, Czechoslovakia or Germany," she asserted.

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Aziz Bhai now on DB remand

By Staff Correspondent

Aziz Mohammad Bhai, arrested for alleged involvement in the killing of film actor Sohel Chowdhury, was placed on a two-day remand of the Detective Branch of Police yesterday.

Sohel was gunned down in front of Club Tramps at Banani in the city in the early hours of December 18.

Aziz was produced before the CM's court yesterday afternoon on completion of interrogation by the Special Branch. SB interrogated him since Thursday.

A bail petition moved on behalf of Aziz was rejected by the court. DB then took him under its custody.

The investigating officer of Sohel murder case along with some other DB officials started interrogating Aziz yesterday evening at the DB office. The interrogation continued till the filing of this report late last night.

DB officials refused to give details. Sources close to the investigators, however, said Aziz continued denying his involvement in the killing.

SB officials claimed that they arrested and interrogated Aziz on the basis of evidence which proved his involvement in activities against social and economic interest of the country.

Besides, SB charged Aziz with involvement in international smuggling, evasion of tax, woman and drug trafficking, leaking state secrets through different foreign missions and his private satellite television channel.

SB is likely to submit a report to the authorities in two days.

Death of Salman Shah

Hearing of petition to form judicial probe body Jan 14

Dhaka District and Sessions Judge Court has fixed January 14 for hearing a petition for formation of a