

Larma vows to 'resist' polls in CHT

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

President of Parbatty Chattagram Jano Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) and Chairman of CHT Regional Council Jyotirindriyo Bodhipriyo Larma (Santu Larma) has vowed to resist the coming general election in the three hill districts and said the caretaker government is "imposing" the election on the hill people.

"We have to resist the election because the caretaker government, violating the peace agreement, has taken the decision to hold election with an illegal voter list. The hill people will never accept this voter list," Santo Larma said while addressing a gathering at Rangamati Stadium.

Rupayan Dewan, International Relation Secretary of PCJSS, chaired the rally. Gano Forum leader Pankaj Bhattacharya, Ajoy Roy, PCJSS Law Affairs Secretary Saktiman Chakma

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EC warns Hasina, 16 others for violating code

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission yesterday warned 17 more candidates including Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina for violation of the election code of conduct.

The EC served warning notices to these candidates following confirmation by District Electoral Enquiry Committees regarding their violation of the election code during campaigning.

The commission earlier served such notices to some 67 other candidates including BNP Chairperson and Chief of the BNP-led four party alliance Khaleda Zia for misconduct as regards electioneering.

The existing rules provide for a maximum fine of Tk 20,000 as punishment for violation of the code of conduct. None of the violators has received any punishment so far.

The candidates served with the notices are as follows:

Awami League: Sheikh Hasina (Narail-2), Mahbubul Alam (Bogra-6), Mohammad Nasim (Sirajganj-3),

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Campaigning rife with violation of election rules

EU-EOMB report

UNB, Dhaka

The European Union Election Observation Mission in Bangladesh (EU-EOMB) is concerned by politically motivated violent incidents and their effect on overall atmosphere of the electoral campaign.

"It notices that the political parties also bear a significant responsibility in spreading election-related violence," says a report on the first findings of the EU-EOMB released here yesterday.

The EU-EOMB has deployed 31 long-term observers (LTOs) in 14 regional offices since August 30. They have visited 63 districts and will be joined by 30 short-term observers (STOs) today and remain in Bangladesh until after the election day.

The release of the EU-EOMB said the practice by the practice of smear campaigning, the usage of inflammatory language and brutal electoral campaigning material.

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Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Sept 22	5-55 pm
Sept 23	5-48 am

Prayer Timings

Sept 22

Azan Jamaat

Fajr 4-45 5-15

Zohr 12-45 1-15

Asr 4-30 4-45

Maghrib 6-04 6-10

Esha 7-45 8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

War fears grow as Taliban reject US ultimatum



US aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk, accompanied by Japanese Coastal Guards' vessels, sails out from Tokyo Bay, yesterday. Kitty Hawk left its home port of Yokosuka as preparations are reportedly underway for retaliation against Sept 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

USS Kitty Hawk sails out of base

AP, Tokyo

Led by a tugboat and paced by Japanese escort vessels, the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk sailed out of its base near Tokyo yesterday along as US naval forces in Japan continued to redeploy ahead of an expected campaign of retaliation against terrorists.

It was a departure without fanfare for the 40-year-old carrier, which left Yokosuka Naval Base under overcast skies shortly after 7:00 am Friday morning local time for an undisclosed destination.

The only American carrier sta
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India may halt talks with Pakistan

AP, NEW Delhi

newspaper.

Vajpayee reacted strongly to Musharraf's speech on Wednesday accusing India of offering to help the United States fight terrorism to profit from the international crisis and get Pakistan declared a terrorist state.

Vajpayee said he was halting the dialogue process with Pakistan, the Times said.

Neither he nor Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh will honour invitations to visit Pakistan in the foreseeable future, the newspaper quoted Vajpayee as saying. He said

Musharraf's remarks were "a serious setback to the India-Pakistan dia
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REUTERS, Washington

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban yesterday rejected an ultimatum from President Bush to surrender Osama bin Laden and said a US military strike on the country would be a "showdown of might".

"We are not ready to hand over Osama bin Laden without evidence," Kabul's ambassador to Pakistan, Mullah Abdul Salaam Zaeef, said in Islamabad.

He said the government was not bound by an edict from leading Afghan clerics on Thursday declaring bin Laden should be persuaded to leave the country "whenever possible."

Girding his nation for a long "war on terrorism" after last week's hijacked airliner attacks on America, Bush earlier warned the Taliban to turn over the Saudi-born Islamic militant and his lieading

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Arabs won't join coalition if Israel is there

REUTERS, Doha

Arabs will not play a role in any campaign of retaliation for last week's attacks on the United States should Israel take part in such an effort, Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa said.

"It is not possible that Arab states join a regional or an international effort joined by Israel, because Israel is slaughtering (Palestinian) people," he told al-Jazeera satellite television in interview broadcast early on Friday.

Several Arab states have expressed backing for the United States in its call for an international

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PHOTO: A K M Mohsin
High-rise buildings under construction at Panthapath. Owners of empty plots have signed up contracts to build more high-rises on the narrow road. Most have no proper parking facilities.

High-rises on Panthapath raise fears of urban nightmare

MORSHED ALI KHAN

Panthapath, one of the major roads in the city, will become an urban nightmare, once construction of several high-rise commercial buildings there is complete, fear experts.

Total number of floors, currently under construction, along the 1.5-kilometre stretch from the Russell Square up to the intersection near Sonargaon Hotel is 250.

Most of the tall buildings along the road, which is less than 100 feet wide, do not have proper parking facilities. Even if they did, it would not have made much difference.

"The sheer number of commercial buildings and the traffic circulation they are expected to generate on the narrow stretch of driveway would choke the entire area," said Ashikur Rahman, a traffic engineer

of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC).

Rahman blamed the Rajuk for indiscriminately allowing commercial structures on busy intersections all over the city in total disregard for traffic engineering.

"These tall commercial buildings lack adequate parking facilities. The approaches, inlets and outlets of the buildings are faulty and bound to give rise to various problems including traffic circulation," he said.

An architect of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) agreed to Rahman's views. "Just off the Panthapath, there are such crowded residential areas as Rajabazar, Kathal Bagan and Tejburabazar. Several hundreds of thousands of people in these areas will face more load shedding, scar-

city of water and traffic problems when commercial activities begin at these high-rise buildings."

What's worse, expansion work of dozens of old buildings along the road, which do not have any parking facility in complete violation of construction rules, is underway.

There are already over a hundred so-called shopping centres on the Panthapath without parking facilities.

Samorita Hospital, one of the largest private hospitals in the city with more than 400 beds, does not have adequate parking facility as well. There is a car park in the basement that only accommodates less than half a dozen vehicles.

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Young achievers commit to become Nation Builders



The Daily Star yesterday honoured 202 students for their outstanding results in O-level and A-level examinations, at a function at the Shaheed Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium at Mirpur in the city.

Thousands cheer as The Daily Star honours the brilliant performers in "O" level and "A" level examinations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At a colourful ceremony and amidst loud cheers of thousands of students and their emotion charged parents, The Daily Star yesterday honoured 202 students of the county for their outstanding results in O-level and A-level examinations of June 2000 and June 2001 sessions.

The highly spirited ceremony titled "Saluting The Nation Builders of Tomorrow" was participated by world renowned economist and Managing Director of Grameen Bank Prof. Mohammad Yunus as Chief Guest. British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dr. David Carter, veteran litterateur and founder of Biswa Sahitya Kendro Prof. Abdurrahman Abu Syeed were present as special guests.

Held at the Shaheed Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium at Mirpur in the city, the function was sponsored jointly by Aptech Computer Education, Pepsi, and New Zealand Milk.

More than 3000 school children, teachers and guardians from twenty-two English medium schools in Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet attended the award giving cere-

mony.

Sitting in the galleries of the stadium that accommodates around 4000 people, the children cheered with announcement of name of each award winner. The galleries were filled up with colourful banners carrying names of schools and logos. A choir of students from different schools sang patriotic songs during intervals.

The students achieved the outstanding results in O-level and A-

Group photo of students on back page

level examinations held under the Cambridge University and the University of London. The Daily Star gave a "Certificate of Excellence" to each student who received more than six "A's" in two consecutive sittings in O-level and a minimum of three "A's" in A-level examinations.

This was the third endeavour in which brilliant students who did excellent results in O-level and A-level examinations were honoured by a national daily.

The function was presided over by The Daily Star Editor/ Publisher

Prof. Muhammad Yunus called upon the students to come forward to take the challenges of tomorrow when there will be radical changes in the world after 20 years.

"We have to make the blue print today what endeavour we should take to face the challenges of tomorrow when things will happen in a second," Prof. Yunus said on technological development in the future.

He stressed the need for acquiring knowledge through education.

"You have to learn many things as education helps to change personal values, social values and even a nation as a whole."

The Grameen Bank MD called upon the young talents, the nation builders of tomorrow, to work for the country as the nation expects much from them.

"Only young people like you could bring progress and prosperity for the nation", he said.

British High Commissioner Dr. David Carter said young and bright people could together build a better world where there would be no place for terrorism.

He said, "I hope you brilliant

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Give AL another chance to complete its dev work

Hasina urges business community

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Immediate past prime minister and Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the business community to give her party another chance to make the country a model of development, based on the foundation laid by her government in the last five years.

"When we came to power in 1996, we inherited a devastated economy. In the last five years, we had to spend much of our time to clean the garbage created by the past rulers from 1975 to 1996. By doing that, we have also laid the foundation for development. If we are voted to power again, I can

assure you we will be able to turn the country into a model for other developing countries," she said.

The AL chief was addressing a gathering of leaders of the business community at a city hotel. A fraction of business leaders under the banner of Bangladesh Business Forum National Parliament Election 2001 organised the programme for exchange of views.

The function was addressed by, among others, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) President Kutubuddin Ahmed, Acting President of Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI) AK Azad, and

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