

Abduction of Monir 2-hr shutdown at Ctg business centres today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Different business associations will observe a two-hour shutdown at traditional business centres in the port city today protesting the abduction of businessman Haji Monir Ahmed.

The associations include Amir Market Businessmen Welfare Association, Chittagong Flours Mills Association, Khatunganj Businessmen's Association, Amir Market Banik Samity, Chaktai Shilpa and Banik Samity, Khatunganj Arotder Samity, Chittagong Wholesale Super Dealer Association and Chaktai Baboshayee Samity.

They will also hold a protest rally at Amir Market at 11 am with Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) president Farid Ahmed Chowdhury in the chair.

Industrialist and former commissioner of Patiya Poursava Monir Ahmed was abducted by armed men on Tuesday. Police could not rescue him even after three days of his abduction.

10 hurt as rival groups clash at Saifur's reception in Habiganj

UNB, Habiganj

At least 10 people were injured in a clash between rival groups at a reception accorded to Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman at Nabiganj upazila here yesterday.

Witnesses said the clash erupted when a group of people led by recently expelled Nabiganj Thana

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Table with Sun Rises and Sun Sets for Apr 27 and Apr 28.

Prayer Timings table for Apr 27 with columns for Azan and Jamaat.

Source: Islamic Foundation

Unofficially elected ward commissioners in 3 cities

BSS, Dhaka

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday announced the names of the unofficially elected 90 general ward commissioners and 30 female ward commissioners from reserved seats of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC).

The elections of the ward commissioners were held on Thursday in which 570 candidates contested for the posts of 90 general ward commissioners, while 103 contested for 30 reserved seats for female ward commissioners.

The unofficially elected general ward commissioners of DCC are : Dr Hafizul Islam Kusum (ward-1), Ismail Hossain Benu (ward-2), Kazi Ali Imam Asad (ward-3), Haji Md Rafiqul Islam (ward-4), Abdul Rauf Nannu (ward-5), Ahsan Ullah Hasan (ward-6), Munshi Bazul Bashid Anju (ward-7), Shahidur Rahman Neuton (ward-8), Monwar Hossain Dipu (ward-9), Md Masud Khan (ward-10), Md Shamim Parvez (ward-11), Runu Akhtar (ward-12), Haji Abdus Sattar (ward-13), Haji Abdul Quader (ward-14), Haji Md Malek Mollah (ward-15), Md Qayum Khan (ward-16), Kazi Hazrat Ali (ward-17), Md Anwar Hossain, Bir Protik (ward-18), AFM Abdul Alim

All five Jamaat candidates lose KCC polls

QUAZI AMANULLAH, Khulna

All the five Jamaat-e-Islami ward commissioner candidates have been defeated in Thursday's Khulna City Corporation election.

They are Dr Kazi Yasin (ward-1), AL Fida Hossain (ward-6), Moulana Habibur Rahman (ward-12), Alhaj Mohammad Salahuddin Khan (ward-25) and Shaikh Jahangir Hossain Helal (ward-31).

Moulana Habibur Rahman was elected in 1994 KCC election from ward no-12.

Nine sitting ward commissioners also lost the polls.

They are Kamruzzaman of ward no. 5, Lutfur Rahman of ward no. 6, Mian Mujibar Rahman of ward no. 11, Md Habibur Rahman Kamil of ward no 12, Shaikh Shahinul Islam of ward no. 13, Hasibul Haq Babla of ward no. 23, Mahmud Alam Babu Morol of ward no. 26, Mujibar Rahman Lulu of ward no. 28 and SM Mozaffar Rashidi Reza of ward no. 30.

Twenty sitting ward commissioners have been re-elected.

The two rival groups of BNP bagged 12 ward commissioner posts, while Awami League candidates got eight. Independent candidates have won in eleven wards.

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Naki (ward-19), Abul Kalam Azad (ward-20), MA Qayum (ward-21), Md Akkel Ali (ward-22), Bina Alam (ward-23), Md Chenar Uddin (ward-24), ABM Enamul Haq (ward-25), Md Nazirul Islam (ward-26), Md Golam Hossain (ward-27), Mosharrif Hossain Manju (ward-28), Shamsul Huda (ward-29), ABM Mustofa Badsha (ward-30), Shajjad Hossain Siddiqui Lablu (ward-31), Alhaj Makhbul Ahmed (ward-32), Md Harunur Rashid (ward-33), Mirza Khokan (ward-34), Shajjad Zahir (ward-35), Khandaker Abdur Rab (ward-36), Md Ruhul Amin Bhuiyan (ward-37), Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (ward-38), Shamim Hasan (ward-39), Anwaruzzaman (ward-40), Md Abu Bakar Siddique (ward-41), Salimullah Salu (ward-42), Abul Hashem Hasu (ward-43), KM Ahmed Raju (ward-44), Atiqul Islam Matin (ward-45), Abul Sayed Bepari (ward-46), Jashimuddin Mahmud (ward-47), Md Harun Chowdhury (ward-48), Md Abul Khair Babul (ward-49), Md Sirajul Islam (ward-50), Md Abdul Latif (ward-51), Motahar Hossain Jahangir (ward-52), Md Ariful Islam (ward-53), Sharmima Imam (ward-54), Alhaj M A Majid (ward-55), Md Chowdhury Alam (ward-56), Khajia Habibullah Habib (ward-57), Haji Md Mujibur

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German high school shooting rampage leaves 18 dead

AP, Erfurt, Germany

A recently expelled student opened fire inside a school yesterday, killing 18 people including at least two children, police said.

The dead included 10 male and seven female victims and a 19-year-old gunman, police officials told a news conference in the eastern city of Erfurt. They said they could not immediately confirm earlier statements that there was a second gunman.

Meanwhile, police said the last 180 students were safely evacuated from the Johann Gutenberg Gymnasium school, located in a residential area of the city.

Police initially said two teachers and a police officer who rushed to the scene were killed in the rampage. Later, police commandos were sent on a room-to-room search of the building.

Shocked and upset students who fled the shooting reported seeing a man dressed all in black roaming the hallways with a gun.

"I heard shooting and thought it was a joke," said 13-year-old Melanie Steinbrueck, chocking back tears. "But then I saw a

teacher dead in the hallway in front of Room 209 and a gunman in black carrying a weapon."

"The guy was dressed all in black -- gloves, cap, everything was black," said Juliane Blank, 13. "He must have opened the door without being heard and forced his way into the classroom."

"We ran out into the hallways. We just wanted to get out," she said.

Outside the school, a police officer with a megaphone urged parents to register their kids' names before leaving the scene. Groups of dazed and shocked students huddled in the street, hugging and crying.

A handwritten sign reading "HILEF" -- Help -- was pasted to a fourth-floor window and the face of a girl could be seen through the window in the classroom.

Police said they received a call at 11:05 am from the school janitor, who said someone was shooting in the building. An initial team of officers arrived on the scene shortly after and entered the

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Road accidents kill six in Chittagong

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least six people were killed and five others injured in separate road accidents in the port city yesterday.

Police said five people, including an army personnel, were killed and five others injured when a Patenga-bound transport Rider, ploughed through some waiting passengers and passers-by at Cement Crossing Intersection at around 9:30 am.

Of the dead, four identified as Sanowar Hossain, 40, an army personnel, and his daughter Fatema, 11, Haradhon Sing, 55, and Md Syed, a butcher by profession.

The identity of other, who succumbed to injuries at Chittagong Medical College Hospital, could not be known.

The injured persons were admitted to CMCH. Of them, condition of two were stated to be critical.

The accident took place as the driver reportedly lost control over the vehicle.

Police arrested the driver of the transport and his assistant.

A case has been filed in this connection.

In another accident, one youth Moyeenuddin, 23, was killed on the spot when a speeding microbus ran over him in front of C&B Colony near GEC Crossing under Khulshi thana at around 8:30 am.

Post-poll violence in Rajshahi city: 10 hurt, 6 arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

At least 10 people including four women were injured in post-election violence in the city.

The miscreants set a club afire, ransacked a grocery shop and three houses during the violence.

Police arrested at least six people for their alleged involvement in the violence.

Nizam ul Azam, the newly elected commissioner from ward no. 21, was injured when the supporters of former commissioner Shahid Ahmed Badal attacked his house in the city's Shagarpara area last night.

They ransacked the house and beat up the family members. A case has been lodged with Boalia thana accusing seven persons.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Oikya Parishad brought out a procession, in Chittagong city yesterday demanding punishment to the killers of Buddhist monk Gyanjyoti.

Plan to repatriate 731 foreigners who served jail terms

M ANWARUL HAQ

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will take measures to repatriate as many as 731 foreigners who have already served out their jail terms.

Those awaiting a return home are nationals of Myanmar, India and Thailand.

A high-level meeting at the foreign ministry held on Monday decided to pursue the matter of repatriation of the foreign nationals with the embassies of the respective countries.

Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Anwarul Alam presided over the meeting joined by, among others, Director General of South East Asia desk Golam Mohammad.

Recently, meetings on their repatriation were also held at the home ministry and the Commissioner's Office in Chittagong.

Bangladesh has informed the countries about its willingness to provide consular access to embassy officials so that they could identify their citizens, verify records and take them back. The home

ministry is learnt to have prepared a detailed list.

The Thai ambassador in Dhaka is learnt to have agreed to seek immediate consular access and repatriate the Thai nationals.

The foreigners were arrested by Bangladesh law-enforcement agencies for various legal violations, including illegal entry, smuggling, gun running and illegal fishing. Some were arrested under the Fisheries Act for intrusion into Bangladesh waters.

A high official of the foreign ministry said, "We want cooperation and support of the respective countries for the early repatriation of the detained foreigners. They have already served out their jail terms and are no longer supposed to stay in prison."

Another official said the country's jails are already overcrowded and the government has to spend a lot on their stay in prison. "We do not want to commit any human-rights violation by detaining them beyond their prison terms," he said.

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Blast at Globe factory: Three employees arrested

UNB, Gazipur

Police arrested three employees of the Globe Insecticides in connection with the Thursday's explosion at the factory that left one person dead.

The arrested identified as mechanic Mohsin Uddin, machine operator Bashir and guard Razu Ahmed, have been taken on one-day remand, police said.

Abdul Kadir, deputy manager of the mosquito coil manufacturing factory, a sister concern of Globe-Janakantha Shilpa Paribar, filed a case with Joydevpur police.

A team of CID led by ASP Aminul Islam visited the spot yesterday.

Meanwhile, the government has formed a two-member committee to probe the explosion.

Additional District Magistrate of Gazipur S M Zakaria has been made convenor while District Ansar and VDP Adjutant MA Halim Mondal member of the committee, said an official handout.

The committee will submit report to the government within seven days.