

Ctg tense as AL, 4-party

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expressed the same view, triggering tension among the public.
State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Niasiruddin, also president of Chittagong city BNP and convenor of local unit of the alliance, at the briefing said they are going to make the programme a success in a rightful way since they have permission from Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP).
He said following a central decision made 10 days back, the alliance will observe different programmes marking the three years in power at district level today and in the capital tomorrow.
Accordingly, Chittagong city unit has made all the arrangements, he said, adding, they applied to the CMP for permission to hold the rally on October 1 and got it on October 3. He also showed reporters the permission orders.
On the other hand, the AL applied to the CMP on October 3 for permission but has not yet received it, he pointed out.
On Muslim High School authority's permission for the SBD to use Lalidighi Maidan, Mir Nasir said anyone can hire space but they must require police approval for

holding a rally there.
The minister alleged the city mayor has timed a counter programme to coincide with the alliance rally to create political confrontation and chaos. "It's completely devoid of political decency and a leader cannot make such a decision," he said, urging the AL leader to shift the date or venue of the SBD rally.
Chittagong Bangladesh Jatiya Party President Jahangir Alam, Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shamsul Islam and Islami Oikya Jote leader Abdur Rahim were present.
CMP Commissioner Amzad Hossain, meanwhile, said police will not allow the SBD to hold its rally as the alliance has already obtained permission for its programme.
"We hope the SBD will organise its programme elsewhere, maybe in front of city AL office where they hold such programmes very often," Amzad told The Daily Star yesterday.
Asked if they will impose section 144 to avert any confrontation, the CMP commissioner expressed the hope that the mayor as the guardian of the city will ponder over the situation and act accordingly.



Drainage work on the road near Banani-Kakali rail crossing that started three months ago is left incomplete, causing sufferings to vehicles and pedestrians alike. PHOTO: STAR

Tornadoes and storms

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Burinaga with 24 passengers was moving to Hazaribagh from Basila yesterday evening. Most passengers swam to the riverbanks.
Locals and police rescued four bodies after a frantic search and sent those for autopsy.
One of the dead was identified as Mohsin, Hazaribagh police said.
Our Mymensingh correspondent reported four people including two children were killed and over 100 injured as a three-minute tornado lashed four villages of Sadar and Dhubaura upazilas yesterday afternoon.
The tornado damaged hundreds of kutcha houses and uprooted trees.
Over 500 affected people in Dhubaura upazila have taken shelter at different educational institutions.
Three of the killed were identified as Sagor aged five, Monjila, 2, of Uttar Ranipur village in Dhubaura upazila, and Khalil, 40, of Char Shasha village in Sadar upazila.
Our Barisal correspondent reports a tornado battered six villages in Bhola district leaving two people killed and 50 others injured. About 500 houses were damaged.
The dead are Md Golam Hossain, 18, and Nur Nabi, 27, hospital sources said.
Three travellers -- FB Alam, FB

Hannan and FB Mamta-- capsized near Dhalchar in the Meghna estuary during the tornado.
At least 15 of the 45 fishermen and crew of the trawlers went missing and the rest were rescued by other fishing boats.
Our Rangpur correspondent says at least two people were killed and several hundreds injured as a severe storm swept many villages of Pirgachha and Pirganj upazilas in the early hours yesterday.
Marium Begum, 52, of village Naohati in Pirgachha was killed in house collapse and Harunar Rashid, a fisherman, drowned in river Akhira of Pirganj.
According to a UNB report a storm lashed five upazilas of Lalmonirhat district early yesterday, leaving two people dead and more than 20 others injured.
The dead were identified as Montajuddin, 45, of Char Harinchara village in Sadar upazila and Juthika Rani, 12, of Doljor village in Aditmari upazila.
The storm razed hundreds of thatched houses to the ground, uprooted a large number of trees and damaged standing crops in vast areas.
Divisional railway control room sources said a train derailed near Takina-Aditmari station during the storm yesterday evening.



Transcom GM passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Mohammad Altaf Hossain, general manager of Transcom Limited, died at 11:45pm on Thursday. He was 82.
A former police superintendent, Altaf Hossain hailed from Chotto Gourichanna village in Sadar upazila of Barguna district. He retired in 1983 as deputy director of the Bureau of Anti-corruption (Bac) and joined Transcom Limited the same year.
Altaf left behind his six sons, three daughters, relatives and admirers. He was buried at Banani Graveyard in the capital.
Kulhwani for Altaf Hossain will be held at his Green Road residence after Maghrib prayers tomorrow.

Maathai first African

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Joined in Nairobi by AFP, Maathai said she was delighted at having been awarded the prize and pledged to pursue her environmental work.
"I am very delighted and I thank God for everything," she said. "I will carry on with my campaign and I ask Kenyans to join me."
Maathai said she had been informed earlier in the day by Norway's ambassador to Kenya that she had won the coveted prize and told Norway's NRK radio that it had been the "biggest surprise in my entire life".
Deforestation has been a major problem in Kenya, exposing millions of people to drought and poverty. Maathai's organisation has planted more than 30 million trees and its nurseries now employ tens of thousands of people.
Forests cover less than two percent of Kenya's land, far below the United Nations' recommended minimum of 10 percent which it says is required for a country to sustain life naturally with the availability of rain, underground water, soil fertility and clear air and prevention of soil erosion.
The environment was an important aspect of peace, "because when our resources become scarce we fight over them," Maathai said on NRK.
"We plant the seeds of peace, now and in the future," she said.

US airstrikes

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"Two shops were also destroyed," the doctor said.
The attack took place in a central area of the impoverished neighbourhood, which is the scene of near daily clashes between US forces and Shiite militiamen loyal to radical cleric Moqtada Sadr.
Meanwhile, an Iraqi police officer was shot dead and two others were wounded yesterday as their patrol was attacked near the oil-rich city of Kirkuk, while two US soldiers were injured in a roadside bombing, officials said.
"Unknown assailants opened fire on a police patrol 40km south of Kirkuk at 6:30 am (0330 GMT)," said a commander for the national guard in the area, Anwar Hamad Amin.
"Lieutenant Colonel Ali Hussein was killed and two policemen wounded, one of them seriously," he told AFP.
Later the same morning, a roadside bomb east of Kirkuk hit a US military convoy, injuring two US soldiers, an army spokesman said.
US and Iraqi security forces are a frequent target of bombings and gun attacks in and around the northern city, which is home to a mix of religious and ethnic communities and a notorious hotbed of tension.
On Thursday, the police chief in a town near Kirkuk was shot dead in front of his house along with two security guards.
"Colonel Rashid Ali al-Bayati, 49, was killed with two of his guards in an attack by two men on a motorbike as he returned home from work," said General Anwar Hamad, national guard chief in Taamin province where Kirkuk is located.
"The attack took place at 9:10 pm (1810 GMT)," he said adding that the force was in charge of the police base in the town of Salman Beik, 80 kilometres (50 miles) south of Kirkuk.

Biman F-28 skids

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(CMH) in the capital for further treatment.
Muyeed was also helicoptered to the CMH after giving first aid at the airport's VIP lounge. Abdus Shakur Chowdhury, younger brother of Muyeed, accompanied him in the air force helicopter.
Immediately after the rescue, Muyeed said, "I just feel some pain in my left arm and in the right leg." Deputy Civil Surgeon of Sylhet Mahbub Ahmed, who gave him first aid, said I think there is no fracture in his body, the injuries are minor.
CMH doctors confirmed last night the injuries of both Shahana and Muyeed were minor ones and both of them were out of danger.
State Minister for Education Ehsanul Huq Milon, Whip Fazlul Haque Aspia MP, Juba Dal General secretary Moazzem Hossain Alam MP, Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu MP, Shahjalal University of Science & Technology (Sust) Vice Chancellor Professor Moshleuddin Ahmed and Privatisation Commission Chairman Enam Ahmed Chowdhury were among the injured passengers. They and Safa took first aid at local Noorjahan Hospital.
The injuries of other passengers were also minor. Eight of them took first aid at the OMCH and the rest went to different private clinics.
Monwara Begum, 60, her sons Helal Baksh, 40, and Shahjahan Baksh of Kodomtali, Sylhet, were admitted to a private clinic. They were returning after a bypass surgery on Monwara in Dhaka. Helal's daughter Elina, 6, and their manager were unhurt.
The F-28 craft was added to the Biman's fleet in 1981. Civil Aviation Secretary Akhtar Hossain Khan said during the last 23 years the plane has been functioning well.
Talking to The Daily Star Caab Chairman Air Commodore Zahed Kuddus declined to specify the cause of the accident. He said a three-member probe committee into the accident has been formed headed by Caab Flight Safety Director Habibullah Khan.
The black box and voice recorder were recovered from the cockpit and would be sent abroad to ascertain the causes of the accident, the Caab chief said.

and getting ready to disembark. But, the plane did not land at the right place. It most probably landed far away and soon started to skid. Within a minute we heard a loud bang and we realised we are in for it."
"What I feel the accident occurred due to the carelessness of the pilot. The passengers managed to come out through emergency exits. Luckily, I did not receive any injury, though I am feeling pain in my body," Aspia added.
Zaved Gani of Jagannathpur upazila of Sunamganj district and Kabir Uddin of Nazirbazar under Sylhet Sadar upazila were returning home from the UK. They reached ZIA by a Biman flight in the early hours yesterday and boarded the F-28 craft.
They said, "The craft behaved strange after it touched down and soon ran beyond the runway. Within moments, we heard a huge bang and found the craft skidding. All on a sudden, it stopped with the cockpit buried in the bank of a narrow canal. We scrambled and managed to come out of the craft somehow."
Muyeed Chowdhury, a former managing director of the national carrier, had gone to the cockpit to talk to the crew, who requested him to stay there, said a Biman official.
Muyeed said, "I could not guess any thing wrong as the landing seemed to be all right. Suddenly there was a bang making the plane shake violently. And I knew things are wrong. Within minutes, other passengers managed to get out through emergency exits, but I could not as I was sitting on a small seat near the cockpit."
M Alauddin of Kandiganj village under Bishwanath upazila, who reached ZIA from London at 4:35am yesterday by a Biman flight and boarded the BG-601, said the flight was delayed for about 15 minutes due to a heavy downpour.
"I was sitting beside a porthole and talking to others, who were also from London. But we became mum when we saw the plane going past the runway. Within moments the craft hit the opposite bank of a canal with a loud bang. None of the passengers however sustained any serious injury."

A university

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mention any specific time. The board of governors is to decide that.
Vice-chancellor Dr Aslam Bhuiyan, who began his term in 2003, said the certificate award ceremony could not be held as steps were not taken by his predecessor.
The authorities concerned did not specify reasons for the refusal the first time. But second time round, they said the permission could not be granted until a high-powered evaluation committee submits its report on the performance of private universities, Bhuiyan said.
He said appointments of vice-chancellors to 29 private universities have been suspended on the same ground and that his was not the sole institution to have been refused permission for convocation.
"We are thinking of giving certificates to students without holding convocations," Bhuiyan said without specifying the date.
Meantime, a top official of the University Grants Commission said: "We have given the university six months' deadline to improve its performance, both management and academic. If it fails, we have recommended cancellation of its approval."

Netrakona-2

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Party (BJP) and Abu Abbas of the four-party alliance, observers said.
Ayub Ali Fannu of the BJP (Manju) and Krishak Mohammad Sadak of Krishak Samik Party, independent candidates Shariful Haque, Abul Kalam and Riazuddin will also contest.
The parliamentary seat fell vacant following the death of AL lawmaker Abdul Momin on July 15.
The district administration has taken all necessary measures to hold a fair and peaceful election. All kinds of publicity remained banned since Thursday midnight.
District Commissioner and Returning Officer Hossain Jamil told The Daily Star that a team of 20 police and Ansars led by a sub-inspector will be on guard at each centre. A magistrate with a strike force will also oversee the election at every centre, he added.
Besides, a mobile force will be on hand for every three centres, while Bangladesh Rifles and army personnel will be on patrol.
Alliance candidate Abbas of the sadar upazila was elected in the 1991 general elections, while former government officer and journalist Ashraf of Barhatta was the third runner in 1996.
Political opinions give Ashraf the upperhand over his rival as he may get AL supporters' votes.

AL disappoints

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persistently demanding resignation of the government. It had no major focus on issue-based movement that could have mobilised people against misrule.
Demanding fresh polls, the AL had refrained from joining the House for about eight months, and, when it did join, the House had already passed more than 70 workdays.
Out of a total 226 workdays of the House, the AL has so far participated only in 76 workdays, as it frequently boycotted the proceedings. Its role in parliament was not strong enough against different executive steps that affected people's normal life.
It seemed the main opposition was not interested in participating in parliament proceedings and, on the other hand, the ruling coalition leader had not shown any serious interest to get them in the House. The BNP rather was eager to see the second largest opposition, Jatiya Party (Ershad), in the opposition bench.
In fact, the AL joined parliament technically as its lawmakers faced the risk of losing their membership because of their absence in the House for 90 consecutive days.
The party appears to have walked into the trap the ruling coalition set to keep its main rival out of the House. The repeated AL walk-outs actually benefited the treasury bench, which always feels more comfortable in running the House in absence of its arch rival.
STUMBLING BLOCKS
Awami League needed at least one year to recover from the 2001 election debacle, which was totally unexpected to it. Raising allegation of widespread vote rigging, the party rejected the polls results and declared not to join the Jatiya Sangsad.
The AL experienced another debacle this year as its April 30 deadline for unseating the government miscarried to utter frustration of its midlevel leaders and grass-roots activists.
The main opposition also could not maintain a consistent stance on contesting the by-elections under the coalition regime. The party first decided to boycott by-elections. It later reversed the position and participated in them, and then again abstained from contesting by-elections.
The government filed alleged false cases against thousands of AL adherents. To quell the AL-led

Chronology

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occurred as both engines of the aircraft caught fire while landing from an altitude of 8000 feet on completion of the test flight.
On December 22, 1997 a Fokker F-28 with 89 people aboard crashlanded in Sylhet, leaving 17 people injured. The aircraft landed on its belly in a paddy field, 3 km from the runway, failing to land at Sylhet Airport due to heavy fog.
An Airbus with 220 passengers including nine children on board narrowly averted an accident just before take-off from Sylhet Airport on February 8 this year. Detecting a mechanical fault, the pilot of the Sylhet-Dhaka flight immediately aborted the take-off and brought the aircraft back to the terminal.
On April 2, 2003, a severe storm with a wind speed of up to 111 km per hour, damaged three Airbus A-310s, a Boeing-737 and a Fokker F-28 aircraft at Zia International Airport in Dhaka.
Moreover, an Air Parabat (private airliner) flight from Ishurdi Airport crashlanded on its belly in a field near Savar due to some problems in the two-engine Walter M-601E plane on June 27, 1998. Five crew and two passengers on board escaped unhurt.
Moreover, two trainee pilots died when a Cessna C-150 training flight of Parabat's flying academy crashed on September 27, 1998.
Before independence, a Cargolux, Canada Air CL-44J flight crashed into a farmhouse near Dhaka Airport while taking off on December 2, 1970.
A Macdonald Douglas-built DC-3 aircraft of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) crashed in Charlakti island in the Bay of Bengal, killing all the 20 passengers and four crew on July 1, 1957.

Dam cut by BSF

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The xBDR sent a protest letter to BSF, sources said.
Meanwhile, flood situation has further deteriorated in Kalaroa, Tala and Sadar upazila as more areas have been submerged following incessant rainfall for the last five days. Floodwaters submerged four villages -- Sahapara, Moralapara, Dhalipara and Gazipara in Kalaroa upazila.
Surging waters inundated Kalaroa Upazila Parishad, Kalaroa Government College and hospital areas. Most roads in the affected areas have gone under water. Vehicle movement on Kalaroa-Sharashakti, Deara-Sarashakti, Kalaroa-Chandera roads has remained suspended. Heavy downpour increased the sufferings of flood affected people.
More than 60 thousand people are marooned and they are virtually starving. No relief activities have started until now.

Iraq war was illegal

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of the Iraq crisis, and that the two countries were in regular contact with Germany, Russia and Spain on the issue.
The president added he was "very worried for the future of the situation in Iraq".
"The demons of civil war, of terrorism, continue to act and even to act more and more often and more and more powerfully," he said.
The interview with the Chinese state network was filmed on September 28, before a report by the chief US weapons inspector in Iraq raised accusations that French nationals and businesses took bribes from Saddam.
It was conducted also before attacks on Israeli tourists in Egypt and on the Indonesian embassy in Paris, both of which were condemned by Chirac Friday.
In the CCTV interview, he said the

whole world had to mobilise against terrorism.
At the same time, however, Chirac said it was necessary "to reflect on the causes and origins of terrorism".
Top outlaw
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guns and 13 bullets.
Meanwhile, another group of PBCP (Janajuddha) launched a bomb attack on a shop in front of Chuadanga Sadar Police Station on Thursday evening, injuring three people.
They hurled three bombs on Tanmoy Cloth Store at Hasan Chatter at 7:25pm, leaving trader Mohsin, 40, rickshawpuller Asman, 30, and Sudev, 28 injured.
The injured were admitted to Sadar Hospital. Of them, Mohsin was later sent to Dhaka as his condition deteriorated.

Kerry leads in poll

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cent, was at its lowest point since June down from 54 percent in late September.
Bush's current job approval falls at the midpoint between recent presidents who won and lost re-election.
President Carter had a job approval rating in the 30s in October 1980 before being ousted the following month. President George H.W. Bush, father of the current president, also was in the 30s in October 1992 before losing.
Presidents Reagan and Clinton had job approval levels in the mid-50s in surveys by the Gallup polling organisation at this stage of their successful re-election bids.
Forty-four percent of likely voters approved of Bush's handling of the war in Iraq, down from 51 percent in the late-September poll. Likely voters were about evenly split Bush at 49 percent and Kerry at 46 percent on the question of who is best suited to handle Iraq.
On the question of who would do the best job protecting the country, Bush led Kerry 51 percent to 45 percent among likely voters down from the 20-point lead Bush held in a Sept. 7-9 poll by AP-Ipsos. Bush has had a big advantage on that issue since the beginning of the campaign.
"The biggest thing is that I feel comfortable with Bush on terrorism, foreign conflicts and any threats at home," said Wanda Burkel, a 54-year-old independent from Lake Forest, Calif.
While national polls gauge the potential popular vote, the real race for the White House is playing out one state at a time in the battle for 270 electoral votes a competition that also remains remarkably close.
Eric Schlichting, a suburban Chicago inventory manager who tends to vote Republican, said he definitely doesn't support Kerry, but Iraq is troubling him.
"Up until the last 18 months, I was leaning toward Bush, but the more that happens (there) the worse it gets," Schlichting said. "He sticks to his guns, but his aim is so far off that sticking to his guns is not paying off."

their battlines Thursday before the debate.
Bush declared he would attack Iraq all over again, shrugging off the report that Baghdad had lacked the unconventional weapons at the heart of his case for war.
"Based on all the information we have to date, I believe we were right to take action, and America is safer today with Saddam Hussein in prison," Bush said in a hastily announced prepared statement as he departed the White House.
But Kerry said Bush was being dishonest with the American people.
"President Bush's serious errors in judgement have left us more vulnerable and less safe as the terrorists continue to murder school children and target our brave soldiers," he said as he prepared for the debate in Colorado.
Workers threaten tough agitation after Ramadan
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Labourers and employees of mills and factories of the country will go on tougher agitation programmes after the Ramadan for the implementation of an agreement signed with the government.
Shilpa Sramik Karmachary Rakkha Samannoy Parisad (SSKRSP), a platform of workers organisations, will also hold rallies and view exchanging meetings in the industrial areas of the country during the Ramadan.
The SSKRSP at a rally in Muktaganga yesterday demanded minimum national wages, reopening of all the closed industries and cancelling the decision of privatising four nationalised banks including the Agrani Bank.
It also decided to observe November 3 as black day to commemorate the killings of four national leaders in jail in 1975 and garment workers in Narayanganj in 2003 on this day.
The SSKRSP leaders protested the appointment of foreign advisors in the four banks and said instead of spending Tk 100 crore to this end, national experts can be appointed to curb corruption and political interference in the banks.
Bangladesh Trade Union President Nurul Islam chaired the rally attended by over 20 workers organisations including Bangladesh Trade Union, Bangladesh Jatiya Sramik Federation, Jatiya Sramik Jote, Trade Union Kendra, Garments Sramik Union, Jatiya Sramik League and Railway Sramik League.

Threat against women football blasted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Different political and social organisations yesterday condemned Charmonai Pir's threat to stop the ongoing women's football tournament.
President of Bangladesh Workers Party Rashed Khan Menon and General Secretary Bimol Bishwas in a statement said the group has always opposed on the question of women's rights, our culture and tradition, minority rights and even the Liberation War.
They are gaining strength now through government support and dare to threaten publicly, the statement added.
Eleven left leaning parties also condemned the threat and demanded punishment of those concerned. Besides, they urged the government to take necessary steps to continue women football tournament property.
Bangladesh Nar Mukti Sangsad, Left Democratic Front, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad also demanded punishment of the 'fundamentalist' group.
Left Democratic Front (LDF) in its statement said those who threaten to stop women's sports want to change the state in the Taliban style. LDF also urged the people to be united against the evil force.
Islamic Constitution Movement led by Charmonai Pir Fazlul Karim earlier 'announced their 3-day programme ending today to halt the women's football tournament.
Both Kerry and Bush marked out