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ACC staff selection gets delayed over legal tangle

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

Unfinished legal formalities are delaying staff selection for the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

At the end of the last week, it was found that the two committees formed to screen employees of the now-defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption (Bac) are not legally mandated to select staff members for the ACC, sources said.

The ACC had hurriedly formed

the committees without looking into the legal aspects, the sources added.

The committees were to submit reports to the commission by December 12, but they failed to do so because of the legal barriers.

Appointed earlier this month, the committees are looking into the profiles and career records of 1,106 Bac staff to select honest and efficient ones for the ACC. One committee deals with the first class officials

and the other rest of the staff.

Referring to the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, an official said the ACC will have to formulate a rule under which these committees will screen the Bac employees. The rule will need the president's approval for enforcement.

As the ACC had not formulated such rules before appointing the committees, some officials questioned the legality of what the

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PHOTO STAR

A relative attends to a patient on a drip yesterday at Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital dogged by an indefinite work abstention by intern doctors.

Pakistan, India hold first arms talks

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan and India yesterday held the first talks on conventional weapons during their current peace dialogue, a day after the rivals discussed reducing the risk of nuclear war.

The meetings of key officials in Islamabad focused on building

mutual confidence between the South Asian neighbours and reducing the danger of military escalation through misunderstanding, officials said.

"This is the first meeting after the start of the latest round of composite dialogue and the two sides will explore CBMs (confidence-building

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Rab nabs 5 Ctg Shibir men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested five police-listed criminals and cadres of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) in the city yesterday.

The Rab members nabbed the criminals from a hotel, known as a stronghold of the ICS, student wing of ruling Jamaat-e-Islami, in Chawk Bazar.

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Treatment hampered as interns on strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of patients seeking admission to Sir Salimullah Medical College and Mitford Hospital are not getting proper treatment, as the interns went on a work abstention programme Tuesday, demanding punishment of a student.

Students of the medical college

led by Bashir Ahmed Khan of third year Monday attacked and beat up Dr Saiful Islam Eline, general secretary of the intern doctors' association.

About half of the beds at the surgery, medicine and gynaecology and obstetric departments were found empty yesterday, as admission process was hampered in the

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Modern voting system not before 2007

SHAKHAWAT LITON

A modern voting system to curb poll fraud will not be in place before the next general election scheduled for early 2007, as the Election Commission (EC) has been unable to move ahead the necessary reforms, sources said.

The election commissioners are still in talks on introducing a modern Electronic Voting System (EVS) and voter ID cards. They are not optimistic, however, that the new measures will be in place by the next

national polls.

The EC had decided a year ago to introduce EVS and was to hold meetings with major political parties to seek their opinions on the issue. But the decision has remained confined to paper.

Officials at the EC secretariat said many countries are adopting modern voting systems. Even India this year successfully held its general elections by using electronic voting machines, a move appreciated the world over.

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Dhaka hopes to be ready by Dec 28 for Saarc summit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka hopes to finalise by December 28 'minute-by-minute' preparations for the 13th Saarc summit on January 9-11, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan said yesterday.

The preparations are going on target time and minute-by-minute details of the three-day summit are being thrashed out, he said.

"No lapses would be tolerated in the foolproof security that we have ensured," Morshed said while updating reporters on the preparations for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) summit at his office.

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AHSANULLAH MURDER CASE

Witnesses getting threats, prosecution tells court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday adjourned the hearing of Awami League lawmaker Ahsanullah Master murder case until December 18, as the prosecution lawyers said they could

not produce witnesses before court because goons hired by the accused were threatening them.

The prosecutors yesterday submitted a petition before the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 alleging that hired

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Prayer Timing

December 16

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-20	5-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-22	5-25
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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