

Mohiuddin to take oath from PM today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will administer the oath of office to Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury at her office in Dhaka today.

City Awami League (AL) leader and AL-backed Nagorik Committee candidate Mohiuddin was elected mayor for the third time consecutively, defeating the ruling BNP-led four-party coalition candidate Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin in the May 9 CCC polls.

Forty-one CCC ward commissioners and 14 women ward commissioners from the reserved seats will also take oath today in the capital, administered by LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan.

Mohiuddin will attend a meet the press programme at Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium today at 2:30pm.

He will meet Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina at her Dhanmondi residence this evening.

Mohiuddin will offer 'fateha' at the grave of Bangabandhu Sheikh

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40 injured as BNP factions engage in gunbattle

OUR CORRESPONDENT, from Kushtia

At least 40 people including a woman were injured, 18 of them bullet-hit, in a gunfight between supporters of two rival BNP men at village Mahiskundi in Daulatpur upazila of the district on Tuesday night.

Sources said the two BNP men --

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Yunus questions banks' urban lending from rural deposits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Grameen Bank founder Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday raised the ethical question of banks' lending to urban borrowers from the deposits of rural people.

"We have to think about whose money we are giving to whom," he said.

The noted economist said it cannot be accepted that the money deposited by the villagers would be disbursed among the entrepreneurs in the towns.

"A bank will have to lend a significant amount of money in the places from where it collects deposits," he suggested in a lecture on the ethics in banking.

The Grameen Bank managing director said Bangladesh Bank should include a provision in the banking laws to ensure lending to the rural entrepreneurs.

Prof Yunus said as the money collected from the rural areas is channelled into the urban areas, the villagers are deprived of economic prosperity.

Former adviser to the caretaker government Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud also stressed banks' role in extending loans to farmers and small entrepreneurs.

He said farmers and small entrepreneurs seem to have lost out in the competition with the big businesses who mostly receive loans from the commercial banks.

The eminent economist found that small enterprises have been bypassed both by the formal banking and microcredit programmes.

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Prime Minister Khaleda Zia visits a stall after inaugurating the National Tree Plantation Campaign and Tree Fair 2005 at the National Parade Square yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Heat wave to continue for another week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The current heat wave sweeping the country will persist for another week, while a severe heat wave may pass over most of Rajshahi, Sylhet and Khulna divisions, met experts said.

The sultry weather has made the life of general people miserable, with heat so intense that city roads and highways melted at many points while the city streets wore a deserted look in the afternoon.

Met office sources said a delay in the arrival of the monsoon is to blame. "We assumed to set the monsoon in the country within the first week. But we guess it will take a few more days," said Arzumand Habib, the deputy director of the met office. "The monsoon cloud will reach our Chittagong coast after four to five days, we guess, and will

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Police chase Bangladesh Chhatra League workers when they attempted to move towards Dhaka University campus with a procession from the High Court area yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

3 killed, 50 hurt in tornado

UNB, Nilphamari

At least three people died and 50 others were injured in a tornado that razed to the ground more than 1,500 houses in four unions of the district on Tuesday night.

The tornado lasting barely two minutes devastated Gumnati and Bamunia unions of Domar upazila and partially ravaged adjacent Panga Matukpur and Dimla Sadar unions.

Scores of trees were uprooted.

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JS body accuses DPHE ex-chief engineer of Tk 13.5cr graft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary probe body has accused former chief engineer of the Department of Public Health Engineering Farid Uddin Ahmed of embezzling Tk 13.50 crore and recommended legal action against him.

The probe body yesterday

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Crackdown ordered to bust drug ring

Narcotics board wants change in law to skip case-logging at sessions court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday ordered the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) to take drastic action to check smuggling and transportation of drugs in the country and to destroy drug peddlers' dens.

The high-powered National Narcotics Control Board (NNCB) at a meeting yesterday at the conference room of the home ministry also suggested amendment to the Narcotics Control Act to ease pressure on the sessions court which is tasked with dealing the drug cases at present.

Presiding over the meeting, State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar said problems in the existing law are resulting in huge case-logging, adding that 30,000 cases are at present awaiting disposal in Dhaka alone.

"It has become impossible for the

sessions court to dispose of the huge number of cases filed every day," Babar said.

As the huge amount of drugs cases is slowing down the pace of trial, the NNCB suggested that from now on the magistrate's courts deal with the cases involving minor drug-related offences.

The draft amendment to the Narcotics Control Act will be discussed at the next meeting of the NNCB.

The meeting asked the DNC to gear up anti-drugs operations across the country, especially in the border regions.

"We have information that there are 21 phensidyl factories in Indian territory near Bangladesh borders. We have ordered to tighten security at the border areas to stop smuggling of phensidyl," Babar said.

The government has asked the

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3 BNP men, journo hurt in blasts

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Three BNP leaders including a municipality chairman, and a journalist were injured in a bomb attack in Alamdanga in Chuadanga on Tuesday night.

The injured are Mir Mohiuddin, Alamdanga municipality chairman and vice-president of district unit BNP, Atiur Rahman Mukul, bureau chief of local daily Mathabhangha, and BNP leaders Rahim Uddin and Ismail Hossain.

Communist War, supposed to be a new faction of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP), claimed responsibility for the attack.

According to police, outlaws waiting outside hurled six bombs at

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Prayer Timing

June 2		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-45	6-50
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

WATERGATE SCANDAL

Ex-FBI top boss was 'Deep Throat'

AFP, Washington

Former FBI deputy director Mark Felt was revealed Tuesday as "Deep Throat", the source of secret details on the Watergate scandal that brought down President Richard Nixon in the 1970s. Felt's family and the Washington Post, which ran stories based on his information that shook the White House, confirmed that Felt was

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Mark Felt

Afghan mosque blast kills 20

AFP, Kandahar

A suicide bomb attack on the funeral of a leading cleric killed by suspected Taliban militants left at least 20 people dead in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar including one of the country's top policemen, officials and doctors said.

Around 40 people were wounded when the blast ripped through a mosque in the centre of the city, the birthplace of the hardline Islamic

Taliban regime that was ousted by US-led forces three and a half years ago.

The yesterday's attack was the worst in Afghanistan this year and one of the most serious since the fall of the Taliban, which gave shelter and support to Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda network.

It came as prayers were given for Maulvi Abdullah Fayyaz, a close supporter of US-backed President

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