

COMMITTED TO People's Right to Know

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Thus they spoke

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Krishak Samik Mukti Andolon chairman yesterday expressed his bile at the Election Commission (EC) for calling him for such a trifle business as talking on the voter list. "Have you called me for such a trivial matter?" Krishak Mohammad Sadek asked the EC in wonder. Sadek was not sure but guessed he has participated in at least 40 elections. "I have been fighting for a long time with the 'cock' symbol to drive my 14-point demand home," he told reporters with evident pride after yesterday's EC dialogue with political parties.

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CEC censures parties for 'mistrusting' each other

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Aziz yesterday criticised the political parties for "mistrusting" each other and said the system of caretaker government is a "vote of no-confidence" in the political government.

"I am sorry to say that political

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## Most of name-only parties skip EC talks

Leaders lack idea about new voter list; CEC happy with outcome

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Of the 72 political parties invited to the first day of dialogue with the Election Commission (EC) on the voter list yesterday, only 35 showed up while the rest kept away apparently displaying a lack of interest in the issue.

The participants, mostly leaders of nondescript political parties, however, offered an amusing treat for the witnesses when many of them nonchalantly expressed their ignorance about electoral laws, and particularly about whether to prepare a fresh electoral roll or updating the existing one.

"I did not know that it is still possible to include in the voter list the people who have recently

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Chief Election Commissioner MA Aziz shakes hands with representatives of political parties after yesterday's dialogue on voter list held at his office.

Dhaka trying to gather exact content of talks

Foreign secy tells of Bush-Sing discussion on Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka is trying to gather the content of recent discussion on Bangladesh between US President George W Bush and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin said yesterday.

He said he did not yet know about the content of their discussion, which reportedly included some

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PRESIDENTIAL AMNESTY AL asks PM to explain her points behind advice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Awami League (AL) yesterday asked the prime minister to explain on what grounds she had recommended presidential amnesty to Mohiuddin Jhantu who was sentenced to death in a double murder case.

The Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC) at an emergency meeting observed that the presidential clemency to Jhantu, a ruling BNP man, amounts to violation of the constitution and was politically motivated.

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Diplomacy is not a CBA job

FM lashes out at 'Tuesday Group'

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan yesterday apparently lashed out at a reported move by the "Tuesday Group" of western diplomats for holding an election seminar in Dhaka and categorically said the Bangladesh constitution cannot be changed following demand of any other country.

"Foreign diplomats cannot

bargain with a government like trade union. Diplomacy is not a CBA job. No diplomatic norms allow a country to change the constitution of another country," he told reporters when his comments were sought on the group's planned election seminar here, likely in December.

Morshed said: "I don't know about the Tuesday Group and its terms of reference, and don't know

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SCBA secy's house raided twice

Moudud files defamation case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed yesterday filed a defamation suit against Secretary of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) advocate Enayetur Rahim for issuing 'false statement' about him on the issue of presidential amnesty granted to a murderer.

Although lawyers said it is a non-cognisable offence, Metropolitan Magistrate Mizanur Rahman issued a warrant of arrest against the SCBA secretary immediately after filing of the case. The court asked Enayetur to surrender before it by July 31.

A police team twice went to Enayetur's Kalabagan residence last night, but he was not at home then, family sources told The Daily Star. But the Dhanmondi police, when contacted, denied the claim.

On Monday, Enayetur issued a statement, saying that Moudud had gone to Sweden and received hospitality at the house of Mohiuddin Jhantu, who was sentenced to death in 1982 in a double murder case, before the president granted him amnesty on January 13 this year.

Moudud, accompanied by his lawyers, filed the case with the Court

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FROM LONDON

## LIFE AFTER BLASTS

Where all hell broke loose

It was the usual Aldgate Station. Overused stairs showing the material below the crust. The dirty walls. That mechanical smell that always hangs in tubes is very much there as the station opened for the first time Monday after the July 7 blast that

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Bombers remain out of reach

The notice boards posted at the entrance to the tube stations say it all they have vanished into thin air.

Four faces of the last Thursday's suspected bombers look at the commuters with a call written above

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Bangladesh MP may be barred from entering UK

Britain makes list of hate campaigners

As Britain grapples to come to terms with the wave of terrorist attacks, the government plans to launch a massive programme in September to 'understand' the Muslims and stop the spread of extremism among the young.

The plan includes up-close dialogues with the Muslim community by its segments and bringing transparency in what the mosques do and the role of the faith-based educational institutions such as madrasas, British Minister for Race and Faith Affairs Paul Goggins told a press conference yesterday at the

Home Office in London. Networks will be set up in Muslim communities to talk to the people to find out what they think and why they incline to become extremists. Secular Muslim groups will also be involved in the process.

Civil servants aided by community leaders will listen to the Muslims, try to understand their problems and seek solution from them. Then the exercise will be put in an activity framework.

Britain also plans to have more restrictive laws in allowing people

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## Fruit juices missing the fruits: BSTI test

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Packaged "fruit juices" under different popular brand names sold in the market contain no real fruit extract but artificial flavour, poisonous colours, high level of chemical preservatives and sweetening agents which are extremely hazardous to public health, experts said yesterday citing a Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute (BSTI) test report.

The BSTI carried out the test at the request of the Consumers'

Association of Bangladesh (CAB).

"If consumed routinely, such standard and poisonous food items can cause severe damage to vital human organs like the liver, kidney and heart," said Prof Harun Yusuf of the biochemistry department at Dhaka University. (DU). "Poisonous colours cause liver cancer," he added.

Eight out of 12 brands of so-called juices, collected as random samples for the test, have been found below the BSTI standard, said

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## BTRC warns operators over interconnectivity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

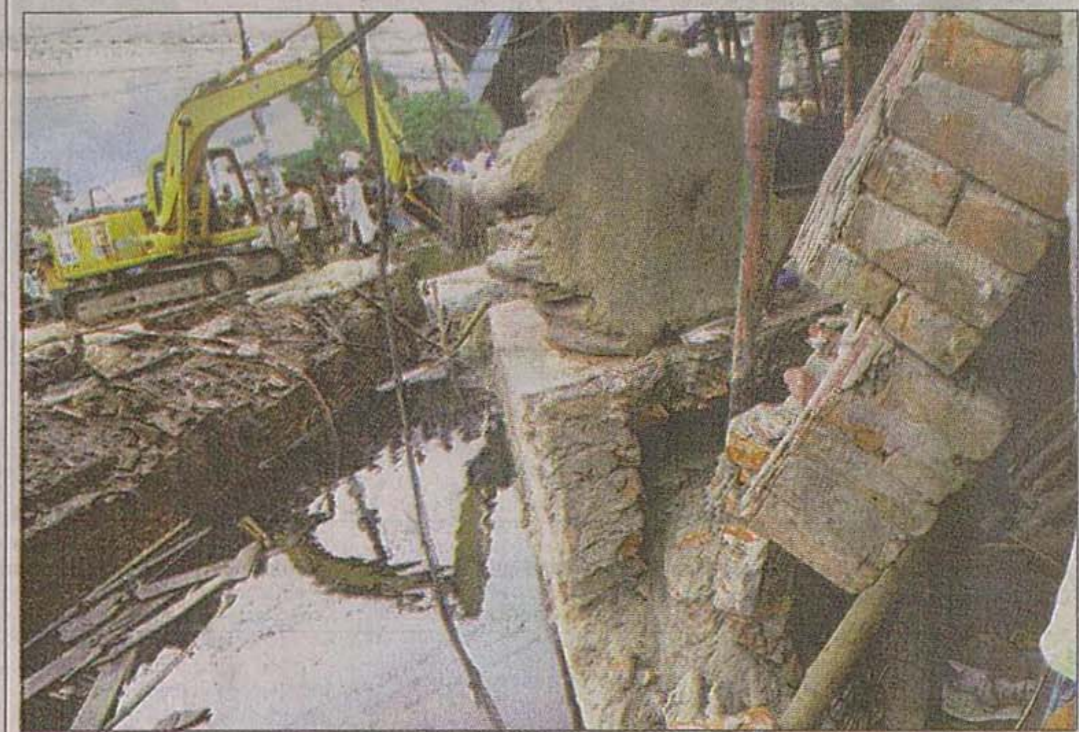
Bangladesh Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (BTRC) warned of drastic punishment if any fixed or cell phone operators fail to resolve interconnectivity congestion bilaterally.

The BTRC, the country's telecom watchdog, at a meeting on Monday directed all fixed and mobile phone operators to stick to their service licence obligations and not to provide cell phone service by fixed

phone operators and vice versa. The BTRC also directed to establish the customer's right to enjoy uninterrupted telecommunications services and congestion free traffic flow across the telecom networks.

It directed the public switched telephone network (PSTN) of the fixed phone and mobile phone operators to ensure interconnectivity among themselves as per clause 47 of Bangladesh Telecommunications Act 2001.

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Authorities demolish illegal structures on the canal near Zia Swarani in Shanir Akhra under the DND embankment area yesterday.

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