



Latifur Rahman re-elected MCCI president

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leading industrialist Latifur Rahman has been re-elected the president of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Dhaka for 2007.

The chamber members gave him the mandate at the annual

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EC asks parties to send their nominees' names, constituencies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday asked the election-contesting parties to send their nominated candidates' names and constituencies and state whether they are being nominated by individual parties or under an alliance by January 3, 2007.

"The political parties who have been allocated an election symbol or who have applied for an election symbol, will have to let the Election Commission know whether those political parties have nominated candidates individually or under

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# DU stuck in session jam for politics

600 exams deferred as indefinite student strike going on since Nov 20

KAMRUL HASAN KHAN

A whopping 600 deferred examinations at Dhaka University (DU) since the last week of October till date caused by political standoff on the campus is taking a toll on the students and dragging them into another spell of miserable session jams.

Around 32,000 students are assumed to be tangled up in the session jams while they are already about two years behind their academic sessions, thanks to an indefinite

nite strike called by 14-party backed student bodies on November 20.

However, officials said, it cannot be predicted how many session jams are on their way as no one can be sure how long the impasse will last.

The DU could not reopen on October 29 after the scheduled Eid and Puja vacation due to the political impasse. This impasse now reached two months and shattered all academic activities including scheduled exams and admission tests for the 2006-2007 session.

Teachers and students of DU are sceptical about any improvement of the situation during the caretaker government's term as they had experienced similar turbulent situation during previous caretaker governments.

According to the proctor's office, at least 384 exams, including 200 under Arts and Social Sciences faculties and 173 under Science faculties have been deferred within October 29 and December 15.

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## Ex-BCL man, criminal killed in 'shootouts'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A former leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and a gangster were killed during Rab claimed shootout in Jhenidah and Kushtia yesterday.

The dead are Giasuddin, 35, ex-organising secretary of BCL Islamic University unit, and Amjad Ali, 32, a cadre of infamous Panna Bahini.

Rab sources said they arrested Giasuddin, a regional leader of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Janajuddho), in Jhenidah town Tuesday afternoon, as he was wanted in five cases, including three, for murder.

But district Awami League (AL)

President and former MP Abdul Hye in a press release yesterday claimed that Giasuddin was a former BCL leader, not an outlaw. He demanded judicial inquiry into the killing, reports our correspondent.

Following his statement, Rab said they along with Giasuddin went to Mothurapur village to recover hidden firearms and arrest his cohorts.

"When they reached Joy Bangla intersection of the village, the accomplices of Gias opened fire, forcing the law enforcers to retaliate," said Rab, adding that Gias received bullets during the "shoot-out" and died instantly.

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## AL says its Islamist allies to work for 'secularism'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League (AL) yesterday justified its widely criticised move of nominating six Islamist candidates, saying that their new allies have agreed to work under the 'spirit of secularism.'

"We have formed a grand electoral alliance with them (the Islamist parties), because they agreed on the issue of secularism," AL Joint General Secretary Obaidul Quader told The Daily Star yesterday when asked why they decided to nominate Islamist militants.

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PHOTO: STAR

A blanket of fog covers the capital for almost the whole day yesterday. The picture was taken from Farmgate at 11:00am.

# Sacrificial cattle pricey for tight borders

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Dhaka city dwellers will have to spend much higher amount this year compared to the previous years to sacrifice animals during the Eid thanks to less availability of Indian cattle in the market and the national election.

The cattle traders said they could not import Indian cattle in huge numbers this year due to strict security measures in the border.

Political leaders will also sacrifice lots of cattle ahead of the national election, which also will up the cattle prices this year, the

traders observed.

"The poll candidates will slaughter huge animals during the Eid-ul-Azha as part of their election campaign," said Mukter Hossain, a cattle trader from Thakurgaon at the city's Agargaon BNP slum market.

During a visit to different cattle markets in the capital yesterday, the first day of this year's sacrificial animal buying festival, customers were found busy only to observe the market and also examine the prices.

"People are now just watching the market and judging the prices...they will start buying in a day or two," said Lal Mohammad at

Gabtoli permanent cattle market.

He said a bull weight between 100 and 120 kilograms is priced at Tk 25,000 this year, which was sold at Tk 16,000 or Tk 17,000 last year.

The buffalo prices also witnessed a sharp rise this year due to the same reason. The lowest price of a buffalo was Tk 20,000 while the highest price was Tk 50,000 in the Gabtoli market yesterday.

"A buffalo, sold at Tk 30,000 last month, is now priced at Tk 50,000," said Falu Miah, a buffalo trader of Gabtoli market.

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## VANDALISM AT SC Court to decide arrest warrants against accused on Jan 14

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court will decide on January 14, 2007 whether the warrant of arrest against prominent lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain and two others in a criminal case filed for vandalising on the Supreme Court (SC) premises on November 30 will be issued.

The other accused are advocate Suhrwardi and Habibur Rahman, an outsider.

Earlier on December 22, the investigation officer (IO) of the case pressed charges against 13 people including Dr Kamal, barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud and barrister Amir-UI-Islam.

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court on December 23 did not pass any order on the IO's plea for issuance of arrest warrant against Kamal and two others, who did not obtain bail from any court in connection with the case.

The IO also showed Kamal and two other fugitives in the charge sheet.

The other accused in the charge sheet -- former Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) secretary advocate Enayetur Rahim, former SCBA vice president advocate Subrata Chowdhury, barrister

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Prayer Timing		
December 28		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-27	5-30
Esha	7-00	7-30
Source: Islamic Foundation		

## RETALIATION FOR SANCTIONS Iran to reduce nuclear cooperation with IAEA

AFP, Tehran

Iran's parliament yesterday approved a bill obliging the government to "revise its cooperation" with the UN nuclear watchdog in retaliation for Security Council sanctions imposed on Tehran.

The text of the bill, which also tells the government to "accelerate" Iran's controversial nuclear drive, was approved by an overwhelming majority in the conservative-controlled parliament, with 161 in favour and 15 against.

The move is set to further inflame tensions over the Iranian nuclear programme, which the Islamic republic has vowed to expand in defiance of the sanctions agreed by the UN Security Council last week.

Iran has refused to heed the council's call to suspend uranium enrichment, a process that Western countries fear could be used to develop a nuclear weapon. Iran insists its atomic drive is entirely peaceful.

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The formulation of the bill gives the government a free hand to limit cooperation with the Vienna-based agency as it sees fit. This could involve limiting UN inspections of its atomic sites, a move urged by several lawmakers.

"Officials from the foreign ministry and the supreme national security council should be left to interpret the text," said Deputy Foreign Minister Hamid Reza Asefi, who promoted the bill on behalf of the government.

Parliament speaker Gholam Ali Hadad Adel echoed comments from other top officials that Iran did not intend to quit the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty but emphasized the government could interpret the bill as it wanted.

"The government should react (to the bill) in a way appropriate to the international pressure.

"This could mean quitting the NPT or staying there. We will give a free hand to the government to take its decisions," he added.

