

UK ready to help hold fair polls

UNB, Dhaka

Britain is ready to extend all assistance to Bangladesh in holding the stalled ninth general election in a free and impartial manner acceptable at the international level.

Jason Grimes, head of the Political Wing of the British High Commission in Dhaka, showed

the willingness during a meeting with Communications and Civil Aviation and Tourism Adviser Maj Gen (retd) MA Matin at the latter's office yesterday.

During the meeting, they also discussed matters of mutual interest.

Appreciating the initiative of the present non-party government in holding a fair and impar-

tial election in Bangladesh, Grimes said: "Country's law and order have seen improvements."

The adviser said the government would take all necessary steps and implement those for the welfare of the people.

He also told Jason Grimes that the government would ensure transparency in all its activities in holding polls acceptable to all.

One gets 32 yrs' RI for keeping heroin

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a person to 32 years' rigorous imprisonment for possessing 600 grams of heroin in October, 2005.

Judge Mohammad Rabiul Hassan of the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court handed down the sentence in presence of Idris Ali alias Abul Kashem of Chakbaria Balladanga in Naogaon district.

The court acquitted Zahura Begum alias Anjana, Sona Miah and Subash Pramanik as the charges brought against them were not proved.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of 12 prosecution witnesses.

According to the prosecution, a team of Narcotics Control Department (NCD) led by its divisional deputy director Abdullah Al Baqui raided the house of Idris at Rampura Banshree and seized 600 grams of heroin, Tk 80,000 in cash and gold ornaments from there. The NCD also arrested Idris, Zahura, Sona Miah and Subash from the spot.

Later, a case under the Narcotics Control Act was filed against them with Khilgaon Police Station the same day.

Assistant Public Prosecutor Sahidul Islam Sardar appeared for the state while Mazedur Rahman Mamun defended the accused.

Tremor jolts Chittagong

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A minor tremor jolted the port city and its adjacent areas yesterday.

The quake measuring 3.48 on the Richter scale shook the city at around 8:47am and lasted for 14 seconds.

The epicentre of the tremor was located at 124 kilometres off the country's lone seismic observatory centre at Ambagan in the city, sources said.

It was the 2nd tremor that shook the city this month, they added.

Former security guard found dead in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered body of a former security guard of a private firm in city's Gulshan area early yesterday.

Abdul Quddus, 40, who worked as a security guard for a private firm in Gulshan 2, was found lying on the road beside the office with severe injuries on his chest, shoulder and legs, said police sources.

Quddus was charged for his alleged involvement in stealing Tk two lakh from the private firm after joining there two years back, said the victim's family sources.

He left the job after the incident, they added.

Over 300 structures demolished in Chittagong

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) demolished more than 300 structures at Bayezid Bostami Road as of yesterday as part of an on-going drive to ease traffic jam and expand the road.

The drive began on Thursday aiming to expand the Bayezid Bostami Road from Sholoshahar Gate No- 2 to Oxygen Intersection.

The road will be expanded from the existing 30 feet to 90 or 100 feet, sources said.

The authority in its drive cleared illegal structures from Sholoshahar to Polytechnic Intersection as of yesterday.

CDA Magistrate Tahera Ferdous led the drive.