

CG accountable to people, though not elected: CA

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhrudin Ahmed has said the present caretaker government is not an elected one but accountable to the people and so it is carrying out reforms as per their demand.

He made the remarks when the envoys of eight Asean countries in Dhaka made a joint courtesy call

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SSC exams begin today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The secondary school certificate (SSC), Dakhil and SSC Vocational examinations under the country's nine education boards begin today.

A total of 1,029,885 examinees will appear at 1,908 centres across the country for the examinations that will continue till April 4.

Of them, 796,073 will sit for the SSC examinations under seven education boards, 169,387 for Dakhil examinations under the

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EC Jt Secretary Zakoria made OSD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The controversial Joint Secretary of the Election Commission (EC) Mohammad Zakoria was finally made officer on special duty (OSD) yesterday as part of the move to restore the image of the EC.

In a circular, the establishment ministry also transferred joint secretary of the parliament secretariat Rafiqul Islam as joint secretary of the EC.

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2 ex-BNP MPs join LDP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two former BNP lawmakers--Abu Yusuf Mohammad Khalilur Rahman and Abdul Gani--yesterday joined Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Welcoming the two former lawmakers to the LDP at its office at Moghbazar in the city, Col. (retd.) Oli Ahmed, executive chairman of the party, urged the army-led joint forces not to create panic among the common people by seizing minor things like peacock and deer.

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Prayer Timing

March 8

| | Azan | Jamaat |
|---------|-------|--------|
| Fajr | 5-10 | 5-45 |
| Zohr | 12-45 | 1-15 |
| Asr | 4-30 | 4-45 |
| Maghrib | 6-07 | 6-11 |
| Esha | 7-30 | 8-00 |

Source: Islamic Foundation

INTEGRATED SERVICE AT CTG PORT

Pvt operator faces non-cooperation

RAFIQ HASAN from Chittagong

The first day of taking over the charge of Chittagong Container Terminal (CCT) operation by private company Saif Powertec observed disturbance in goods delivery due to 'non-cooperation' of the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) operators.

Power failure also added to the disturbance in the loading and unloading activities, sources said.

As the operation of the CCT was brought under an integrated service, the charge to handle the container up to the delivery point was handed over to the private company that started operation of the terminal from early morning yesterday.

Visiting the terminal yesterday afternoon, this correspondent found that several hundred clearing and forwarding (C & F) agents had gathered at the jetty to get delivery

of goods while a number of rubber tire gantry (RTG) cranes and straddle carriers -- two vital equipment for moving containers up to the delivery yard -- stood idle.

Only two of the eight RTG at the terminal were operative.

By yesterday afternoon, Saif Powertec unloaded over 200 containers from the Pacific Express that was carrying 428 containers.

The operators of those RTG cranes left the terminal much earlier abandoning the container movement activities, the agents said.

Although the CPA operators were supposed to operate those cranes until arrival of the Saif Powertec's own operators, they are not doing the job and the delivery of goods is being hampered, Saif Powertec officials told The Daily Star.

Several C & F agents said their

containers arrived in the morning but they are yet to know when they would get delivery of the goods whereas earlier they used to get delivery within a few hours of arrival.

"I have prepared all the papers and documents regarding my consignments but I cannot bring the containers up to the delivery yard for customs checking," said AKM Fakhrul Islam, a C & F agent.

"The C & F agents are moving door to door for getting delivery of the urgent import consignment. The port officials are sending us to Saif Powertec whereas the Saif Powertec officials cannot say anything about my container," he said.

"In my consignment, there are

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PHOTO: AFP

Bangladesh speedster Mashrafe Bin Mortaza sends down a delivery during a devastating opening spell in their World Cup build-up match against New Zealand at the 3Ws Oval in Barbados on Tuesday.



ICC WORLD CUP 07

Tigers stun Kiwis

Second warm-up against Scotland today

AFP, Bridgetown

Bangladesh pulled off a major shock on Tuesday when they defeated New Zealand by two wickets here in a World Cup warm-up.

Pace bowler Mashrafe Bin Mortaza proved to be the hero with both bat and ball.

After taking 4-44 to limit the Black Caps to 226 all out, he then smashed two successive sixes off the hapless left-arm James Franklin to secure victory in the 49th over of an enthralling contest.

New Zealand came into the tournament as many peoples' dark horses for the title having swept world champions Australia 3-0 in a recent home series.

But they never managed to get into grips with either the clever pace of Mortaza or the left-arm spin of Abdur Razzaq.

Off-spinner Daniel Vettori took three wickets for the Kiwis as he tried to put a brake on the scoring but Mortaza's big hitting was the

final say as Bangladesh celebrated their first-ever win over New Zealand.

Earlier, New Zealand all-rounder Jacob Oram, who came into the World Cup nursing a broken ring finger on his left hand, batted through pain to rescue the Black Caps.

Oram top-scored with 88 off 107 balls as New Zealand were all out for 226.

Bangladesh were indebted to the pace-spin attack of Mortaza and Razzaq who shared eight wickets between them.

Fast-medium Mortaza, who learned his trade under the watchful gaze of West Indies legend Andy Roberts, took 4-44 while Razzaq's flighted, left-arm spin earned him figures of 4-26.

New Zealand will play another warm up here against Sri Lanka on Friday before switching to St Lucia for their first round Group C

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Khaleda asks women to uphold democracy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Urging women to come forward to contribute more for the welfare of the nation and the country, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday said conscious women should play a key role in upholding democracy, and sovereignty and independence of the country at a crucial time.

She recalled that in the past women had played a historic role time and again in critical situations, and hoped they would do so also in future if needed.

The immediate past prime minister was speaking at an exchange of views meeting with women from different professions

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PHOTO: PID

Envoys from the Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries in Dhaka met Chief Adviser Fakhrudin Ahmed at his office yesterday.

Indonesian plane crash kills 23
117 survive

REUTERS, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

An Indonesian passenger jet over-shot the runway and burst into flames yesterday as it landed in the cultural capital of Yogyakarta, but most of the 140 people on board survived.

Dozens of passengers leapt from the national carrier Garuda Airline plane's emergency exits into surrounding rice paddy fields to escape the inferno, which reduced the aircraft to a smoldering wreck of twisted metal.

Twenty-three people, including two Australians, died in the crash, health ministry national crisis center chief Rustam Pakaya said in a late

afternoon text message to Reuters.

Earlier a provincial government official had put the death toll at 48, while Garuda had subsequently said it was 22.

Pujobroto, chief spokesman for Garuda, said flight GA 200 was a Boeing 737-400 plane carrying 133 passengers and seven crew when it crashed at around 7 a.m. (0000 GMT) after a scheduled flight from Jakarta.

One survivor told Reuters that passengers had been warned the flight would be turbulent.

"As we approached the ground and I could see roofs from our

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Death of women at child birth still high

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

The Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) in the country stands at an alarming 3.2 per thousand births as around 87 percent of pregnant women still depend on unskilled birth attendants, with three expecting mothers dying every hour due to complications from pregnancy and childbirth.

Although to fulfil the Millennium Development Goal (MDG), the MMR should have been 2.75 per thousand by 2000 under the Emergency Obstetric Care (EOC) project taken in 1994.

"The MMR is still high as medical facilities have not reached the rural areas as it should have been. Of the total maternal mortality across the country, 80 percent takes place in

rural areas," Prof Sabera Khatun of Bangabandhu Medical College and University (BSMMU) said.

She also said that while the rate is 7-40 per lakh in developed countries, it is 320 in Bangladesh.

To reduce it, it is necessary to ensure medical services in every upazila, poverty reduction and recruitment of more doctors and nurses as well as building awareness, she added.

Directorate of Family Planning sources said a total of 16,000 mothers die due to causes related to pregnancy and childbirth every year and skilled birth attendants conduct only 13 percent of the deliveries.

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