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POLL CAMPAIGN EC for ban on use of national leaders' portraits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) has made a move to impose a ban on the use of portraits or names of national leaders in election campaigns by contesting political parties and candidates.

It has also planned to ban the use of religion in election campaigns, according to sources in the EC.

The sources said the EC is taking steps to amend the code of conduct for contesting political parties and

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Saarc preliminary meetings start tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 27th session of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) Programming Committee begins in New Delhi tomorrow to review progress of commitments made during the previous summit held in Dhaka last year.

The committee, to be chaired by the additional secretary of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs,

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POWER CRISIS

WB sees no respite in next few yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Bank sees no respite from the country's power crisis in the next few years, though lenders are showing interest in financing various power projects in the country -- up to 700 MW in private sector and another 1,200 MW in public sector.

The crisis will persist because power demand continues to shoot up by 10 percent every year at a

time when financial condition of the sector is so messed up that private investors have become too sceptic about the government's ability to pay for power.

"At first Bangladesh has to catch up with its load-shedding of 2,500 MW by adding new plants. Then every year you need to add 500 MW base load to the system," said World Bank Senior Energy Specialist Alan Townsend at a press conference at the bank's Dhaka

office yesterday.

Even purchase of power from neighbouring countries may not be possible now because Bangladesh's power sale price to consumers is too low compared to the probable power import rate, he said. But the WB is willing to help Bangladesh if the country is interested.

Severe financial mismanagement, corruption, inefficient operation and lack of tariff adjustment

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Political parties hail Gen Moeen's call for nat'l reawakening

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League (AL), Workers Party and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) have welcomed Army Chief Lt General Moeen U Ahmed's remarks he made at an assembly of the freedom fighters at the national parade ground in which he called for a national reawakening.

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RIVER POLLUTION

Life reeking of toxic stink

PINAKI ROY

Casting a grim look at the black and stinky liquid waste flow in the narrow Devdholai river, Afazuddin Mia, a resident of Nasirabad village by the river in Trimohini area on the outskirts of the capital, said the water is so

toxic that even a snake would not dare to cross it.

"You would not find anything alive in the river water except mosquitoes using it as an ideal breeding place. Sometimes we have to stay inside mosquito net even in daytime," Afazuddin said.

The septuagenarian was narrating the miserable condition of the river and people of the villages along its bank sitting at his small shop beside the river.

Another villager, Yusuf Ali, said, "We used to drink the river water and do other household

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The Devdholai river on the east of the capital is now a nuisance for around 2.5 lakh people of 12 villages as city wastes have dangerously polluted its water, turning it pitch-black and stinky.

Adviser says Mohiuddin to be deported soon

US congressman
asks for delay

UNB, Dhaka

Although Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury yesterday said Major (ret'd) Mohiuddin, the condemned killer of Bangabandhu, will be deported "soon", a US Congressman requested the Homeland Security to delay the deportation.

"Soon," the adviser told

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Move to get more power to fight graft

Emergency Power Ordinance
to be amended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has taken a move to amend the Emergency Power Ordinance-2007 to have powers to formulate special provisions to strengthen the ongoing crackdown on the corrupt.

Once the amendment is made with retrospective effect from

January 12, any rules can be formulated on requirement of the authorities to combat corruption, sources said.

Directed by the government, the Ministry of Home Affairs has prepared a draft of the amendment and the law ministry has vetted it. The chief adviser, who is in charge

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SELLING 18 ABANDONED HOUSES ACC readies Tk 127cr graft case against Abbas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday finalised preparation for filing a Tk 127-crore corruption case against former housing and public works minister Mirza Abbas and 11 engineers and officials of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk) and Public Works Department (PWD).

Violating the authorities' direction in selling 18 abandoned

houses of the government, they in connivance with one another sold the houses on fake auction that resulted in a loss worth Tk 127 crore 64 lakh and 29 thousand to the government as the houses were sold at much lower prices than the market prices, ACC sources said.

Investigation Officer Shafiqul Alam was supposed to file the case with Ramna Police Station last night as approval for the case had

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Admin working for acceptable polls

Says Lt Gen Moeen

UNB, Habiganj

Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Moeen U Ahmed yesterday said the administration is working towards its objective of holding an acceptable national election.

"It is the representatives of the people elected through fair election free from the influence of money and muscle can provide the leadership to steer the nation toward progress," the army chief told the meetings of the officials at Habiganj and Moulvibazar.

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Lt Gen Moeen U Ahmed

Star Cruise from Mumbai to Goa

ALL CLEAR

MEET JOHN & BIPASHA

SMS CLEAR to 5455



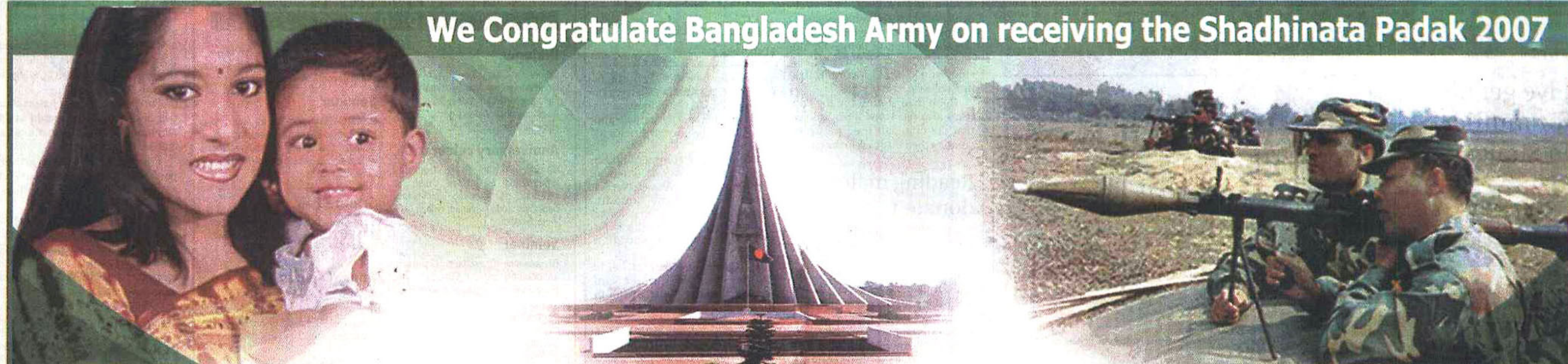
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