

EU for election timeline thru' talks among people, media

UNB, Dhaka

German Ambassador Frank Meyke, who holds the current EU presidency in their diplomatic corps, yesterday said the people and the media here could discuss and find out an appropriate timeline for elections in Bangladesh.

"The European Union is confident that this government will proceed as promised to have electoral reforms, to have elections and sustainable democracy after the elections," he told reporters after a meeting with Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury.

Asked if the EU looks for a timeframe for holding the stalled polls, he said there are tasks ahead

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Corrupt PSC officials get promotion

SURANJITH DEABNATH

A few Public Service Commission (PSC) officials earlier punished on charges of abuse of power and corruption have recently been promoted to vital posts at the commission, including two sensitive positions of controller of examinations.

PSC sources alleged that these appointments have been made superseding senior and deserving officers. The appointments might be confirmed at a meeting of the PSC Departmental Promotion Committee today, they added.

The two controllers of examinations—PSC directors Rabiul Islam and Anwarul Islam—are now lobbying for regularisation of their

appointments, concealing their previous service records, sources said.

Rabiul Islam and Anwarul Islam were made officers on special duty (OSD) on June 16, 2002 and October 1, 2003 on charges of corruption, irregularities and negligence of duty. But now they have regained their positions allegedly convincing the caretaker government high-ups that they were the victims of "political persecution" during the BNP-led government's tenure, sources said.

Besides the posts of director, Rabiul and Anwarul respectively assumed additional charges of controller of examinations (cadre) and controller of examinations (non-cadre) on February 13 this year.

Former PSC chairman Prof Mostofa Chowdhury had submitted a written complaint to the establishment ministry against the two during the Awami League rule. The ministry made them OSD during the BNP-Jamaat rule.

Rabiul later filed a case challenging the government order for recruiting controller of examinations ignoring seniority. But the High Court on February 18 rejected his plea giving him the post.

There is an allegation against Rabiul for misappropriating Tk 8.97 lakh from a World Bank-funded project on PSC reformation as he failed to explain the project expenditure at the commission's

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More cases filed against Mamun, Harris Chy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Separate cases were filed against Giasuddin Al Mamun, business partner of Tarique Rahman, and Harris Chowdhury, political secretary to former prime minister Khaleda Zia, with two police stations in the capital on Monday night.

Khairul Bashar, general manager of Abdul Munem Ltd, a construction firm, filed an extortion case of Tk 10.31 crore with Shahbagh Police Station against Mamun.

In the statement, Bashar mentioned that Mamun extorted the

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4 JMB cadres, 2 outlaws held in Bagmara

STAR REPORT

Police arrested four militants of Jama'atul Mujahideen, Bangladesh (JMB) and two activists of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) from Bagmara upazila yesterday, reports our staff correspondent in Rajshahi.

Meanwhile in Bogra, superintendent of police (SP) yesterday received a threat mail from JMB asking the law enforcers not to harass female activists of the banned Islamist outfit, our staff correspondent reports.

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Cops press charge against Huda in arms case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Dhanmondi police yesterday pressed charges against detained former communications minister barrister Nazmul Huda for possessing illegal firearms and ammunition.

Meanwhile, a Narayanganj court ordered to attach movable properties of former Awami League lawmaker Shamim Osman yesterday, as he did not appear before the court on time.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Amirul Islam of Dhanmondi Police Station, who is also the investigation officer (IO)

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PHOTO: PID

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed addresses police personnel at the inaugural ceremony of the Police Week at Rajarbagh Police Lines in the capital yesterday.



Spirited Tigers take on England today

SPORTS REPORTER

It will be another opportunity for a spirited Bangladesh to challenge the record books when they meet England in a World Cup Super Eights match in Barbados today.

There are only three Test-playing teams including England that the Tigers have yet to conquer in one-day internationals, and their splendid 67-run victory over South Africa gave a clear indication that they can beat anybody to fool the statistics.

The match starts at 7:30pm Bangladesh time with state-run BTV and SET Max beaming the live coverage from Kensington Oval in Bridgetown.

England won all the previous seven matches over the last seven years against Bangladesh quite convincingly, but it will not guarantee them another success as Bangladesh have already proved that their first round victory against India was no fluke, rather they can win on their own — something they

did against the mighty Proteas.

Michael Vaughan's boys are under pressure as they made their semifinal chance vulnerable, having lost both big matches in the second stage against unbeaten Australia and Sri Lanka. Their only victory came against Ireland and interestingly, they are yet to beat any full ICC member country in the competition as their two first round wins were against lowly Kenya and Canada.

On the other hand, Bangladesh got their confidence back in their dream World Cup run after poor showings against Australia and New Zealand in the second round, when they outplayed South Africa, their first win in eight attempts against the Proteas. The stunning Tigers win not only dethroned the Africans from the top spot of the ICC one-day rankings but also kept their hopes of making the semifinals alive.

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De Villiers puts SA in charge

STAR SPORT MONITOR

AB de Villiers hit a solid century as South Africa moved towards a huge total in the crunch match against West Indies at the Grenada National Stadium in St. George's Park yesterday.

The young opener was batting on 142 while Herschelle Gibbs on 16 as the Proteas raced to 254 for two in 42 overs. De Villiers smashed nine fours and a six on way to his maiden ton off 115 balls.

The hosts struck early, when South Africa captain Graeme Smith (7) played a terrible stroke, stepping down the track, trying to hit an outswinger from Corey Collimore over the top and a thick edge handing the wicketkeeper Denesh Ramdin the simplest of catches.

But after that it was South Africa all the way as de Villiers and Jacques Kallis put up 170 runs for second wicket, with the latter scoring 80 off 83 balls that contained six fours and one sixer.

The early West Indies celebrations were premature for the wicket

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PHOTO: STAR

Vehicles are seen stuck on Mirpur Road at Kalabagan in the capital at 1:00pm yesterday.

Govt to build service-oriented police force

CA says at Police Week opening

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday said that the caretaker government is committed to build up a service-oriented and professional police force sensitive to human rights and democratic values.

He also said that the government attaches highest priority to bringing quick reforms in the force.

The CA was speaking at the inauguration of Police Week 2007 at Rajarbagh Police Lines.

Addressing the police officers, Fakhruddin said that in keeping with time and to serve the people better, the police force has to undergo changes in their behaviour and modes of activities. There have to be transparency and accountability in the force, he added.

Responding to the various problems of the police members, he assured that the government would take initiatives to solve these in

phases, including increasing family rations and risk-allowances.

"The police force has a vital role in implementing the present government's massive reform programmes to establish a society free from corruption and terrorism," the CA said adding that they have to work for the country's socio-economic development as well as to protect the constitutional rights of citizens.

Fakhruddin also stressed the need for capacity building and modernisation of the force to successfully combat sophisticated crimes like money laundering and cyber crimes.

Describing the new Legal Service Delivery system in all police stations of Dhaka Metropolitan Police "revolutionary," the CA said that the police force must ensure its sustainability and extend this service to the rest of the country.

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Female bomber kills 16 at Iraqi cop camp

Four more GIs slain, 2 US helicopters come under fire

AFP, Baghdad

A woman veiled in black and strapped with explosives blew herself up outside a police station in Iraq yesterday, killing 16 people, many of them volunteering to join the US-backed police force.

The bombing hit the restive town of Muqadiyah, in the flashpoint province of Diyala that has become Iraq's second danger hotspot after Baghdad where five people died in a car bombing and Iraqi forces clashed with insurgents.

Police First Lieutenant Mohammed Ahmed said the woman detonated her charge amid a group of people at a kiosk opposite a police station where would-be recruits were buying application forms to join the US-backed security force.

Another 32 people were

wounded in the attack, local police said.

Interior ministry spokesman Brigadier General Abdul Karim Khalaf confirmed that the bomber had dressed in the all enveloping traditional black abaya, worn by women in the area, cloaking them from head to toe.

The attack was the latest evidence of stepped up sectarian and insurgent killings outside Baghdad where a nearly two month massive US-Iraqi security crackdown has seen American officials boast about signs of progress.

Although execution-style killings have fallen drastically in Baghdad, car bombings have continued — the latest on Tuesday killing five people near Baghdad University, Iraq's biggest

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PHOTO: STAR

A fishmonger in the capital's New Market yesterday asks Tk 1,000 for this pair of hilsha. The price of hilsha has almost doubled as its demand is rising ahead of the celebrations of Pahela Baishakh, the Bangla new year.

Call for strengthening local govt bodies to reduce corruption

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday urged the government to strengthen the local government bodies for decentralisation of the administration and reduction of corruption.

They also suggested holding the upazila elections immediately and arranging special budgetary allocations to bring dynamism in the local authorities.

Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan), a non-government organi-

sation working to promote good governance, organised the roundtable at the Jatiya Press Club. Its President Prof Muzaffer Ahmad chaired the discussion moderated by former justice Quazi Ebadul Haque.

Former minister and Jatiya Party leader Sheikh Shahidul Islam proposed that all power should be delegated to the local governments while doing away with the secretariat and the Prime Minister's Office

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Prayer Timing		
April 11		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-35	5-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-24	6-28
Esha	7-45	8-15
Source: Islamic Foundation		