

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

SURAJNATH 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 Rabiu Islam and Anwarul Islam—are now lobbying for regularisation of their

appointments, concealing their previous service records, sources said.

Rabiu 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, Rabiu and Anwarul respectively assumed additional charges of controller of examinations (cadre) and controller of examinations (non-cadre) on February 13 this year.

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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.

Rabiu 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 Rabiu 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 (PBPC) 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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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.

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 Collymore 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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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.

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

PHOTO: STAR

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

## 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 Muqdadiyah, 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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## 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.

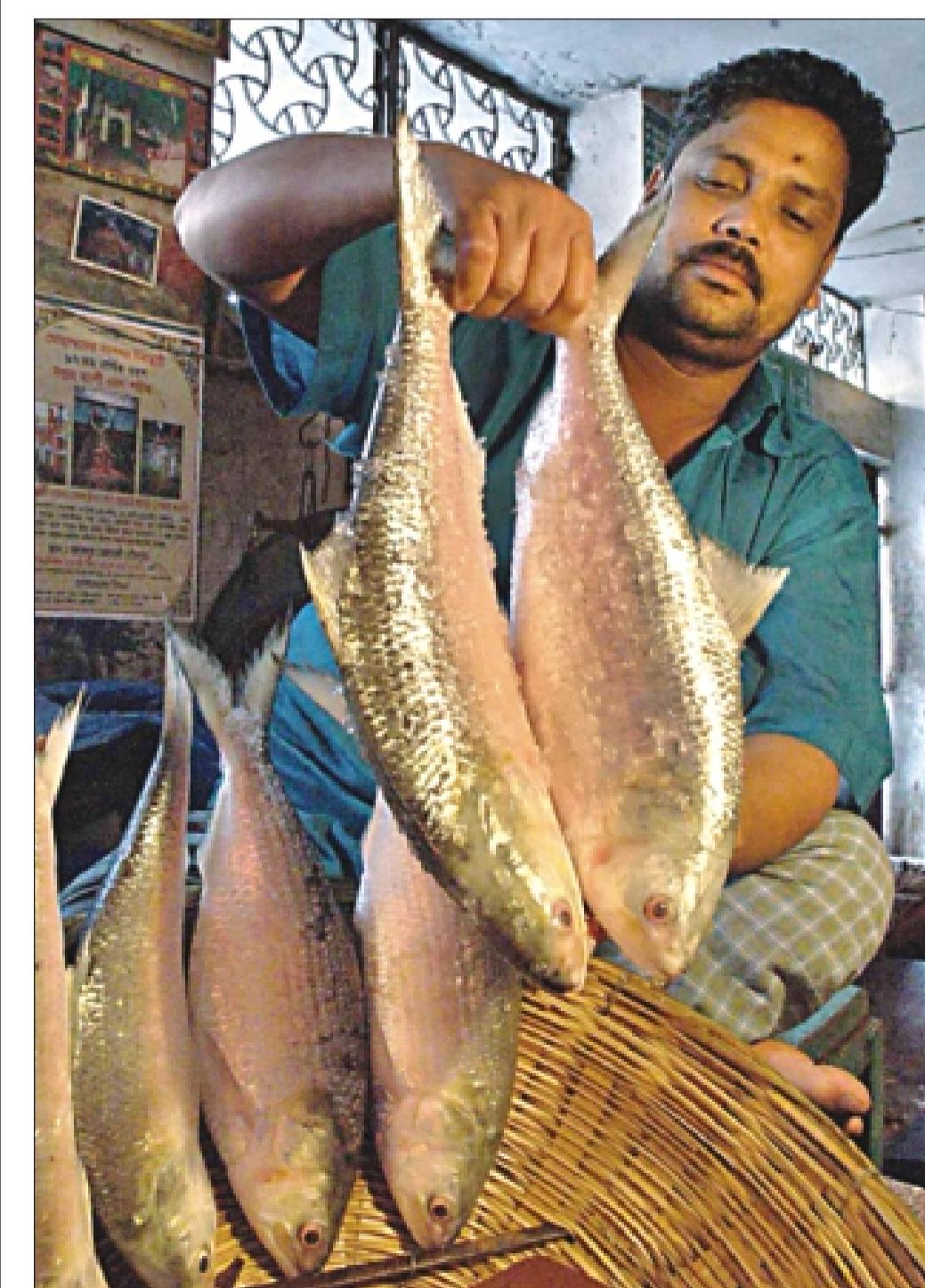
They also suggested holding the upazila elections immediately and arranging special budgetary allocations to bring dynamism in the local authorities.

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 Muzaffar 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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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.

Ex-state ministers Fazlur Rahman, Aman, ex-MP Gias sued for extortion

STAR REPORT

Former state ministers Fazlur Rahman and Amanullah Aman and lawmaker Giasuddin were sued yesterday on charges of extortion and criminal activities.

Our staff correspondent from Rajshahi reported that Ex-state minister for youth and sport Fazlur Rahman and his four associates were accused of extortion and criminal activities in a case filed with a Natore court.

Rustom Ali, an employee of North Bengal Sugar Mills Ltd

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Inqilab Khulna bureau chief held for bribery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Joint forces yesterday arrested city bureau chief of a Bengal national daily while he was taking bribe from forest officials of Sundarban Forest Division (SFD).

ATM Rafique of Dainik Inqilab was arrested by the forces at around 7:50pm from his office for allegedly receiving Tk 20,000 from two west wing officials of SFD.

The two forest officials, M Mahmudullah, deputy ranger of Satkhira sadar range and Yunus Ali, travel inspector, were present during the raid led by Major Yusuf.

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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