

Two ECs meet
polls officials
of greater
Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

Election Commissioners Brig Gen (Rtd) M Sakhawat Hossain and Sohul Hossain yesterday exchanged views with election officials in greater Mymensingh at the Circuit House in the town.

Deputy Commissioner Shamsul Alam, Police Superintendent Rafiqul Islam and Maj Anisur Rahman of the joint forces were also present at the meeting that discussed ways to hold a free and fair election, meeting sources said.

Deputy Election Commissioner for Mymensingh region Emran Hossain and district election officials of Mymensingh, Kishoreganj, Tangail, Netrakona, Sherpur and Jamalpur attended the meeting.

Shakhawat Hossain told newsmen that they will sit with representatives of the civil society on April 26 in Dhaka, to be followed by such meetings in districts.

Later the two election commissioners visited the zonal election office at Kalibari Road in the town.

3 arrested in
Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Khagrachhari*

Joint forces, in a drive conducted yesterday in Fenirkul, Karbaripara and Masterpara of Ramgour upazila, arrested three top criminals from their houses, police sources said.

Arrested Mohammad Kazi Ruhul Amin, 65, son of Hazi Abdus Sobahan, Md Shaha Alam, 50, son of Majir Ullah and Abu Taher, 50, son of Dudu Mia were involved in extortion and other anti-social activities, they said.

Later, they were sent to Khagrachhari jail hajat after producing before the court of the first class magistrate, Ahmed Kabir.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Long queue for rice and other commodities at fair prices being sold under the supervision of Bangladesh Rifles on Town Hall premises in Mymensingh yesterday.

Move to pay arrears to
agitating jute workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Zonal coordinator of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) Shamim Ahmed has said Tk 19.77 crore has been allocated by the government for payment of arrear wages and salaries of workers and employees of eight state-owned jute mills in Khulna-Jessore area.

This fund will be placed under the disposal of Khulna zonal office of BJMC tomorrow (Wednesday), he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Shamim Ahmed who is also

General Manager of Crescent Jute Mills said Tk 15 crore out of Tk 19.77 crore would be required for payment of arrear wages and salaries to agitating workers of the four laid-off jute mills.

He said the Privatisation Board will have to intervene to sell the four state-owned jute mills laid off in the wake of labour unrest in Khalishpur industrial belt.

BJMC is no more able to run the mills due to severe financial crisis. The laid-off mills are heavily burdened with bank loans and other

liabilities amounting to more than Tk 1300 crore, he said.

Admitting government's alleged indifferent attitude towards reopening the laid-off mills, Shamim said there is a plan to sell those to private entrepreneurs.

He did not give any details of the conditions BJMC might place in case the mills are finally sold out.

Meanwhile, security forces are still in full control of Khalishpur industrial belt.

The labour colonies are also being guarded by law enforcers.

Extortion cases against 2 ex-MPs
in Meherpur, C'nawabganj

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Extortion cases have been filed against two former BNP lawmakers in Meherpur and Chapaina-wabganj.

In Meherpur, the case has been filed against former BNP lawmaker Abdul Ghani who was elected from Gangni upazila (Meherpur-2 constituency). Ghani is now a leader of Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) led by dissident BNP leaders Col. (Rtd) Oli Ahmed and Prof Badrudozza Chowdhury.

Sirajul Islam, president Bhoral BTD High School managing committee, filed the case with Gangni police station on Friday. Officer-in-Charge of the police station Masudul Alam said the case is being investigated.

The complainant alleged that the then lawmaker Abdul Ghani called him to his house through his cousin Enamul Haq in January 2004 and demanded Tk 6 lakh for appointment of two teachers in the school.

He later handed over Tk 5 lakh

Allegation of
land grabbing
against Satkhira
BNP men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

Four persons here demanded return of their lands allegedly grabbed by a section of BNP leaders in last five years.

Niranjan Kumar Mondal, Narendra Nath Mondal and Harendra Nath Mondal of Munshigonj village in Shyamanagar upazila and Kawsar Ali Moral of Ahmadiyya community at Jyotindranagar

at the press conference held at Satkhira Reporters Club on Sunday claimed that a group of local BNP leaders and activists occupied their 20 bigha land in November 2001 after the BNP-Jamaat led four-party alliance came to power.

Since then the victims moved from door to door and also approached the local administration to get back their lands, but to no effect. They did not file case fearing retaliation by the grabbers, they said.

The grabbers are still threatening them to face dire consequences if they file case or complaint to higher authorities.

They alleged that the grabbers occupied the lands forcibly by making false deeds.

They said, they submitted a complaint to the Chief Advisor (CA) to the caretaker government, and to the joint forces on February 12 seeking their intervention.

They are still waiting for action against the land grabbers, they said.

7X3

Explosives
found on
Companyganj
border

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*

Rab personnel recovered some explosives from Companyganj border yesterday afternoon.

Acting on a tip off, the elite force recovered five pieces of explosive power gel each weighing 125 grams, five electric detonators and a revolver (point 32).

These were wrapped in a plastic sheet and abandoned on the eastern bank of Dholai river near Kolabari.

The explosives were deposited with Companyganj police station and a case was recorded, police said.

JMB man, outlaws held
in Rajshahi, Naogaon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Rajshahi*

An alleged JMB militant and six PBCP outlaws were arrested from Bagmara in Rajshahi and Raninagar in Naogaon districts yesterday.

Police teams led by Bagmara thana officer-in-charge Mirza Golam Sarwar arrested JMB militant Abu Sayed, 45, from Konabaria village and five outlaws belonging to PBCP (Purba Banglar Communist Party).

Sayed was accused in a case for a murder allegedly committed by JMB militants in 2004.

Police also held Siraj, 37 and Malek, 23 of Konopara village; and

Saiful, 40, Razzak, 30 and Kachu Shah, 32 of Aloknagar villages. Saiful was accused in the case for murder BNP leader Prof Wahed. He was absconding since the murder, police said.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members arrested outlaw cadre Nikhil Chandra Ghosh, 42, from Bhandara village in Raninagar upazila of Naogaon district.

4X2

1.5X2

2X2

5X4