

## Two ECs meet polls officials of greater Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Election Commissioners Brig Gen (Rtd) M Shakawat 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.

Shakawat 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.



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.

## 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.

## 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.

### 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.

## 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 Chapainawabganj.

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 Badrudoza 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

to Enamul Haq in presence of the lawmaker at his (lawmaker) house, Sirajul Islam said in the complaint.

Enamul Haq, headmaster of the school, is also accused in the case filed under section 385/386/420/406 of BPC (Bangladesh Penal Code), the OC said.

Earlier, another case was filed against former lawmaker Ghani about two months ago for alleged misappropriation of government CI sheets given for relief.

When contacted yesterday,

Ghani's family said he is in Dhaka. There was no response when this correspondent tried to contact Ghani repeatedly over cell phone.

UNB reports from Chapainawabganj: An extortion case was filed against former MP and district BNP president Prof Shahjahan Miah and his two associates with Shibganj thana Monday night.

Panullah, a businessman of Jalmachhbari village in Shibganj upazila, filed the case against Ghani's family.

Shahjahan Miah and his associates Shibganj Poura BNP president Shafiqul Islam and BNP worker Ainal.

In his case, the plaintiff alleged that Shafiqul and Ainal forcibly took him to the house of Shahjahan on Nov 19, 2004, where he demanded Tk 75,000 in toll from him and threatened of dire consequences for failure to pay the money.

Panullah said he later gave Shahjahan Tk 60,000.

7X3

11X3

## JMB man, outlaws held in Rajshahi, Naogaon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

An alleged JMB militant and six PBPC 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 PBPC (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