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Voter listing in Dhaka city starts Nov 20

UNB, Dhaka

Voter listing in the capital, the most arduous job for the Election Commission in the nationwide task, will start on November 20.

The enumerators will collect data through door-to-door visit until November 28, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda told Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) ward commissioners at a meeting at Nagar Bhaban yesterday.

The technical part-data entry and taking photograph as well as

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Citizens can send opinions to CA's office

Email address, web page opened

UNB, Dhaka

An email address (feedback@pmo.gov.bd) and a web page (www.cao.gov.bd/feedback/comments.php) have been opened at the Chief Adviser's Office so all can directly communicate with the head of the caretaker government.

"Any citizen of the country or anyone else can send his/her

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Prayer Timing		
October 28		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-50	5-25
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-32	5-35
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

NON-GOVT SCHOOLS, COLLEGES

Governing bodies bogged down by huge workload

SURANJITH DEARNATH

The functions of the managing or governing committees of the non-government educational institutions across the country are about to collapse as government officials heading the bodies find it hard to cope with the mammoth task alongside their regular duties.

On an average, a government official who is entitled to head such a committee is now chairman of 30-40 managing or governing bodies during the caretaker government since November last year.

These officials now bear the burden of overseeing the financial, development and administrative activities of the non-government

schools, colleges and madrasas.

The problem is likely to worsen, as the tenure of the caretaker government is set to continue for about one more year. Against this backdrop, instances of irregularities allegedly committed by the heads of these bodies are also increasing fast.

"I'm now chairman in-charge of about 80 educational institutions' managing or governing committees. Every day I have to hold one to three meetings of these committees which hinders my regular official duties," Khaja Abdul Hannan, additional deputy commissioner (ADC) (Education) of Dhaka, told The Daily Star.

Following a government circular issued on November 13 last year, the deputy commissioners (DC), ADCs, additional district magistrates (ADM), upazila nirbahi officers (UNO) and other thana and district level field officials have been given the responsibility to head these bodies.

The circular asked the authorities concerned to remove all "politically nominated" people from the governing or managing or ad hoc committees.

Previously, political leaders, especially legislators of the constituencies concerned, used to head these committees.

The government officers were given the charge for three months

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Pak militants behead 6 security officers

Seven civilians also slain

AFP, Islamabad

Militants seized and beheaded 13 civilians and security officers in northwest Pakistan after government troops launched an assault on a radical cleric's hideout, officials said yesterday.

The beheadings took place late Friday in the scenic Swat valley in North West Frontier Province where soldiers clashed with fighters loyal to the cleric, who has been driving a fierce campaign to introduce pro-Taliban laws.

The military earlier this week deployed more than 2,000 troops to the region to bolster efforts to crack down on attacks launched against government leaders and security forces.

The militants seized three police and three paramilitary officers shopping at a bazaar in Matta on the outskirts of Swat and later beheaded all of them, provincial home secretary Badshah Gul Wazir told AFP.

The bodies and severed heads

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Body of boy kidnapped 10 days ago found

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday recovered the body of a schoolboy, who was killed by kidnappers 10 days ago, from an under-construction building at Tongi.

The victim, Inzamam-ul-Huq, 14, was a student of class six at Srishti Central School and College at Uttara in the capital.

Family sources said Inzamam was abducted on October 17 from near his residence at Auspara in Tongi. Kidnappers demanded Tk 10 lakh ransom next day over mobilephone.

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Get correct news braving official secrecy rules

ACC chief asks reporters

UNB, Dhaka

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Lt Gen (retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury yesterday urged reporters to seek their own ways to get the correct news without being shackled by the Official Secrets Act and certain other laws and government rules.

"Don't care about 'famous or infamous' Official Secrets Act or certain other laws and government rules. Find your own ways to get the correct news... if there is a will, there is a way," he said.

The ACC chairman was speaking at a certificate distribution ceremony and discussion as chief guest at Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) Bhaban in the city's Agargaon area.

Reporters Against Corruption (Rac) and Commonwealth Cultural Society of Bangladesh (CCSB) jointly organised the certificate distribution ceremony of a six-day training workshop for journalists and the discussion on "Creating Awareness in Fighting Corruption".

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Maoist rebels kill 18 in Indian attack

AFP, New Delhi

At least 18 people, including a former minister's son, were killed overnight when Maoist rebels opened fire on a group of football spectators in eastern India, a police official said yesterday.

Between 30 and 40 heavily armed rebels stormed a village around midnight and opened fire on about 150 people gathered there after a match to watch a local cultural performance, police said.

"Seventeen persons have been killed in the attack," district police superintendent Arun Kumar Singh

told AFP in Jharkhand state.

One man died later of a bullet wound, taking the toll to 18, police said, adding that a three-year-old was among the three remaining wounded.

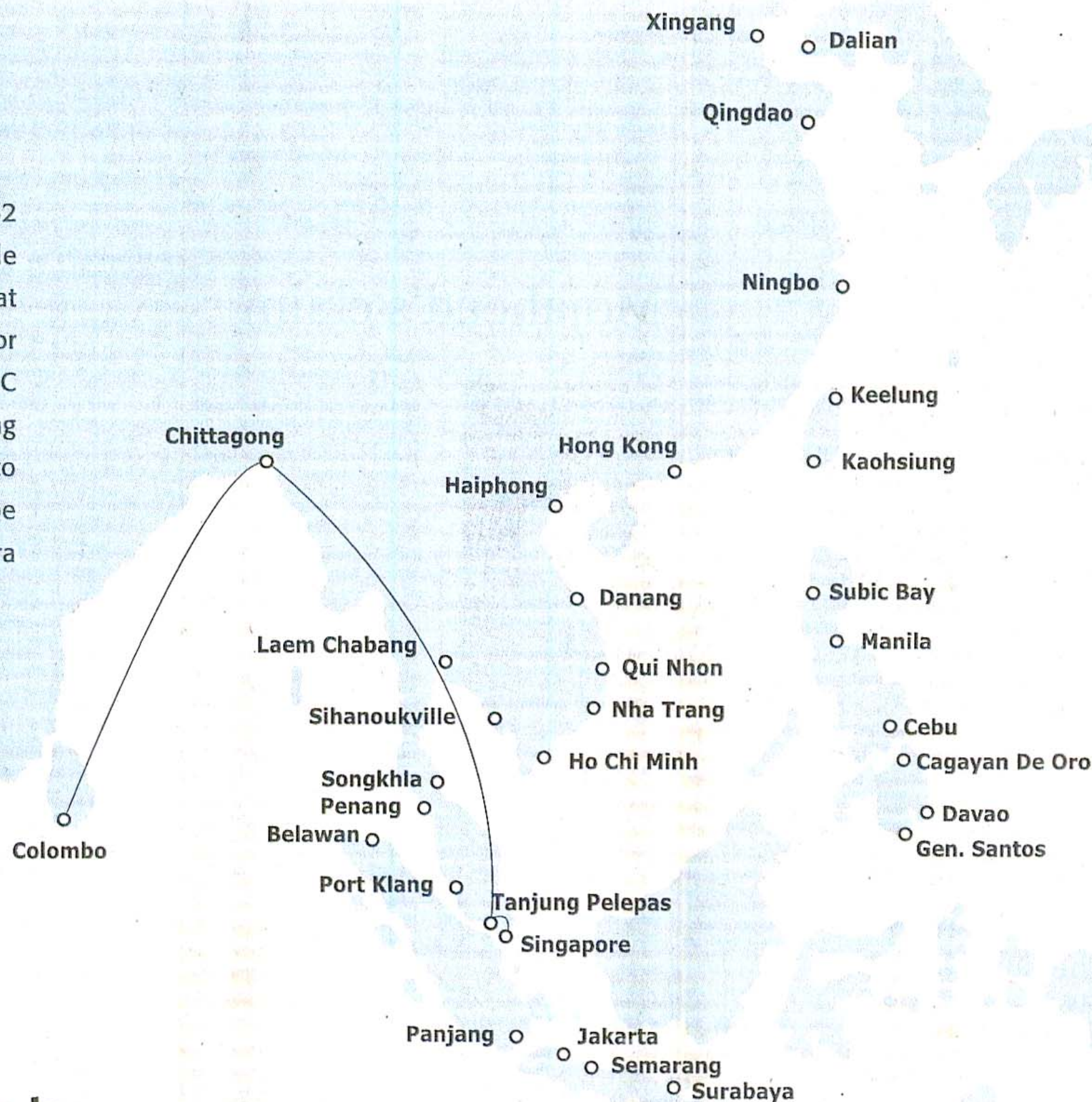
"Intensive combing operations are going on," Singh said, adding that the border with Bihar, the state to the north, had been sealed to prevent rebels from fleeing there.

The night's entertainment was organised by the brother of the former chief minister Babu Lal Marandi, whose son Anup Marandi was in Chikharivillage for the match.

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