

# 2009 to begin with new parliament

Hopes Election Commissioner Sakhawat

UNB, Lalmonirhat

Election Commissioner Brig Gen (Retd) M Sakhawat Hussain stoked up the hope that next year, 2009, would begin with a new parliament, allaying skepticism about the polls under their roadmap.

"Rapidly are we moving towards the election and hope to start '2009' with a new parliament," he said while addressing a view exchange meeting with the local representatives at Dahgram UP Hall in the remote enclave on Sunday morning.

Patgram upazila UNO Kazi Abu Taher presided over the meeting, arranged as part of preparation for the national elections through voter listing across the country.

Sakhawat said 60 percent work on voter registration has already been completed and also hoped that the final voter list would be published in October.

He said upazila election prior to

the national elections was the demand of the mass people. "But it can't be said for sure whether holding upazila election prior to the national elections or simultaneously with it is possible."

The election commissioner said 5,034 people of the Dahgram-Angorpota enclave have so far been registered on the voter list, but voter registration is not possible for the people who are living in the enclave inside the Indian territories.

This is the first-ever visit of any high official of the Election Commission to the far-flung Dahgram-Angorpota enclave.

Commander of 31 Rifles Battalion Lt Col Moqbul Kader and Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Mahmudul Islam were present.

Later, Sakhawat also exchanged views with the officials working for preparing voter list and national ID card at Hatibandha.

Earlier on his arrival at Tinbigha

corridor at the entrance of Dahgram enclave, EC Sakhawat was given a guard of honour on behalf of the Indian Border Security Force (BSF).

## Apollo Hospitals observes World Kidney Day

Apollo Hospitals Dhaka observed the World Kidney Day on Thursday, says a press release.

The purpose of World Kidney Day is to raise awareness about the importance of our kidneys and to spread the message that kidney disease is common, harmful and treatable.

The hospital observed the day to create awareness among the patients of various hospitals and their attendants by counseling and also by distributing banners and posters.

## Indian E Naval Command chief due tomorrow

CU CORRESPONDENT

Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Eastern Naval Command of India Vice Admiral Raman Prem Suthan in a three-day goodwill visit will arrive in Bangladesh tomorrow.

Three Indian Naval ships INS Ranjit, INS Khanjar and INS Vinash will arrive at Chittagong Port today ahead of the scheduled arrival of Vice Admiral Raman, said a press release.

During the visit, Raman Prem will call on the senior defence officers in Chittagong and Dhaka, and host a reception and dinner onboard for senior civil and military dignitaries.

Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet Rear Admiral Satish Soni will arrive as senior officer present on board INS Ranjit today.

Rear Admiral Satish and the captains of the three ships will also call on the senior Navy, Army and Air Force officers in Chittagong for exchanging views on professional matters.

They will offer some community services at BAWA Children home at city's Nandan Kanan area tomorrow and will set up a medical and blood donation camp on Wednesday in cooperation with Bangladesh Navy.

The ships are part of "The Eastern Fleet" of Indian Navy, which participated in Bangladesh's liberation war, read the press release.



Children perform dance at a function organised on the occasion of the birth anniversary of cultural personality and journalist late Waheedul Haque at Chhayanaut in the city yesterday.

## MOVE TO CHECK CRIMES IN CITY

# Police to collect information about hotel guests from today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) will distribute forms in the residential hotels from today to collect the personal information about the guests in the metropolitan area so that police can get necessary details after any incident of crimes in the hotels.

As per the new form, if anyone wants to reside in a residential hotel he or she has to provide answer to 24 questions including name, parents' names, permanent address, mobile and land phone numbers, passport number, national identity and voter identity numbers (if any), driving license and professional ID numbers (if any).

Moreover, authorities of all hotels have been asked to keep still photograph of all boarders on digital camera and preserve those for at least a month. The hotel managements are also directed to verify whether the mobile and land phone number supplied by a boarder are actual.

Disclosing the information,

DMP Commissioner Naim Ahmed said they have taken the step so that identity of anyone residing in a hotel is found if necessary.

He mentioned of the robbery at the BRAC Bank and said the robbers stayed at a hotel, made a blueprint and then left the hotel with looted goods after the robbery.

"Police found it difficult to identify the criminals as the information they provided to the hotel was wrong," the DMP commissioner told a press briefing at Rajarbagh Police auditorium after the monthly crime conference.

He said they have already held meetings with the hoteliers who responded positively to the newest step.

Asked whether people will face trouble to get a seat in a hotel as many will visit Dhaka without enough information due to lack of sufficient publicity, the DMP commissioner said they will look into it.

On the crime situation, Naim Ahmed said so far 12 people have been killed in the city from March 1 to March 16.

A DMP crime statistics provided

at the press briefing also shows a rising trend of incidents of murder in the last two months. The number of people killed in January was 16 while the number was 24 in February.

"We've taken the matter seriously and trying to arrest the killers and recover their firearms," Naim Ahmed said.

The crime statistics also shows that police arrested 15 people in connection with 24 murder incidents in February.

However, police managed to find out the reasons behind six of the 24 murder cases.

Senior police officials of DMP were present at the briefing.

## Valuables worth Tk 5 lakh looted in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Robbers looted valuables worth Tk 5 lakh at Pagla in Fatullah in the early hours of yesterday.

According to the house owner, around 15-16 robbers wearing masks broke into the house at about 3:00am.

Holding the inmates of the two flats on the ground and first floors of the building at gunpoint, the robbers looted 16 tolas of gold, Tk 76000 in cash and four cellphone sets, sources said.

Police recovered three bomb-like-objects from in front of the house after reaching the spot.



Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain speaks at a roundtable organised by the daily Ittefaq at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right are Nure Alam Siddiqui, Sheikh Shahidul Islam, Tofail Ahmed, Brig Gen (Retd) Hannan Shah, Rahat Khan and Amir Hossain Amu. (Story on page 16)

## Road crashes kill five

STAR REPORT

At least five people were killed and three others injured in separate road accidents in Magura, Joypurhat, Sirajganj and Khulna yesterday.

OUR CORRESPONDENT from Magura adds: Two people were killed and three others injured in separate road accidents in Magura yesterday.

A rickshaw-van puller was killed and two others were injured when a speeding truck hit his rickshaw-van from behind on Magura-Jessore highway in the Shatkhali area at around 1:15pm.

The deceased was identified as Abdul Halim of village Chhoyghoria in Shalikhha upazila while the injured were Shafuluddin 24, Saifullah, 35, and Akbar Mia, 27.

Meanwhile, one person identified as Hasan Ali Molla, 59, of village Dhuljhuri in Mohammadpur upazila was crushed under the wheels of a Jessore-bound speeding microbus when he was crossing the Magura-Jhenidah highway near Alamkhali at around 3:35pm.

Our Correspondent from Dinajpur reports: At least one person was killed in a road accident in Joypurhat, police said.

The dead was identified as Md Saidur Rahman, 30, a staff of American Life Insurance Company Ltd.

Our Correspondent from Sirajganj adds: A pedestrian was crushed under the wheels of a speeding bus on the Sirajganj-Belkuchi road in the Chala bus terminal area in Belkuchi upazila under Sirajganj district yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Abdul Kuddus, 60, of Kudramatia village of the upazila.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred at around 5:00pm when an Enayetpur-bound bus from Sirajganj ran over him while he was crossing the road.

Our staff correspondent from Khulna adds: An unidentified woman aged about 40 was killed in a road accident on Khulna-Satkhira highway at Dumuria upazila in Khulna yesterday.

## 'Rab to use helicopter to fight crimes if necessary'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khandakar Hasan Mahmud, director general of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) said Rab will use helicopter and most modern watercrafts if necessary to combat crimes and arrest criminals.

He said this while he was addressing officials and members of Rab-6 on Saturday at its headquarters at Khalishpur in Khulna city. He said any offence that may tarnish hard earned image and reputation of Rab won't be tolerated.

He said members of Rab who deviated from the right path had already been taken to task and given due punishment.

Hasan told local journalists that law and order situation in the country improved a lot.

He asked the Rab men to work with sincerity and dedication so that no innocent person is harassed.

Meanwhile, combing operations in Khulna have been further intensified following an information that the criminals are trying to regroup to carry out destructive work over the coming city corporation election.

It is learnt that movements of some local political leaders and suspected influential persons are being watched by the intelligence agencies.

## Indian envoy visits RU

RU Correspondent

Indian High Commissioner Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty visited Rajshahi University campus yesterday.

He visited the Martyrs' Memorial Archive, mass grave, Sabas Bangladesh, a sculpture, and the administrative building.

His wife Dr Radha Rani Chakravarty and Deputy Indian High Commissioner in Rajshahi Tarun Kumar Chakravarty accompanied him during the visit.

They also called on RU Vice Chancellor Prof Atif Hossain at his office. They discussed various issues, including the academic and research activities of the university. RU Pro-VC Prof Mamnunul Keramat and acting registrar Prof Muhammad Shafi were also present on the occasion.

The Indian envoy also visited Borendra Museum.

## 7 killed in China protest

AFP, Beijing

At least seven Tibetans were killed as police opened fire yesterday on an anti-China protest in the southwest of the country, two activist groups said, citing witness reports.

The attack took place in Ngawa town in Sichuan province -- which borders Tibet and has a large ethnic Tibetan population -- after a protest by monks and lay people, witnesses and the campaign groups said.

"The protest was violently broken up. Police fired into the crowd. There are seven deaths," Kate Saunders, from the International Campaign for Tibet, told AFP citing reports from an eyewitness.

"Many people were injured. The police were later withdrawn, which is often a way of indicating this should not have happened," Saunders said from London.

The India-based Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy said more people were known to have died, including monks from the Kirti monastery.

"The number of dead we now know of (at Kirti) is 13," said Lobsang Tsultrin a field officer for

## Seven injured in blast near police van in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Seven people were severely injured as a powerful bomb went off near a police patrol van at around 10:00pm on Saturday at Noapara rail station under Abhoynagar upazila in Jessore.

The injured -- mason Fazar Ali, 36, tea stall owner Sayemuddin, 32, betel leaf vendor Afzal Sheikh, 38, rickshaw puller Abul Kashem, 37, van driver Abdur Rahim, 39, porter Habibur Rahman, 40, and day labourer Sultan Ahmed, 45 -- were admitted to Abhoynagar Hospital.

Condition of Abul Kashem, Habibur and Sultan remains critical.

According to eyewitnesses, an unidentified man hurled the bomb on the police van that was patrol-

ling the area.

Azimuddin Sheikh, a tea stall owner at Noapara rail station, filed a case with Khulna Railway Police Station yesterday morning accusing five individuals for the bombing incident.

However, Sub Inspector Nurul Islam of Abhoynagar Police Station who was inside the police van during the bomb attack said the act was an isolated incident. The bomb was thrown to create panic and it was not targeted at the police van, he added.

The bomb exploded during power outage in the Noapara rail station area, said SI Nurul Islam.

OC Yunus Ali of Khulna Railway Police Station said investigation is going on and no one could be arrested yet.

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Cell: 01819 253767, 01819 261011, 01817 143085, 01817 143081, 01817 146233, 01817 143082  
01819 230946, 01817 143084, 01817 143085, 01817 143085, 01817 143225 Fax: +88-02-8833982, 9873163  
E-mail: dominnob@bananinet.com Website: www.dominnob.com