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 neously with it is possible." parliament, allaying skepticism roadmap.

the election and hope to start '2009' with a new parliament," he the people who are living in the said while addressing a view enclave inside the Indian territoexchange meeting with the local ries. representatives at Dahgram UP Hall in the remote enclave on high official of the Election Sunday morning.

Patgram upazila UNO Kazi Abu Dahgram-Angorpota enclave. Taher presided over the meeting,

Sakhawat said 60 percent work present. 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 or simulta- Security Force (BSF).

The election commissioner said about the polls under their 5,034 people of the Dahgram-Angorpota enclave have so far been "Rapidly are we moving towards registered on the voter list, but voter registration is not possible for

> This is the first-ever visit of any Commission to the far-flung

Commander of 31 Rifles arranged as part of preparation for Battalion Lt Col Mogbul Kader and the national elections through Additional Deputy Commissioner voter listing across the country. (Revenue) Mahmudul Islam were treatable.

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 posters.

the national elections was the corridor at the entrance of demand of the mass people. "But it Dahgram enclave, EC Sakhawat can't be said for sure whether was given a guard of honour on holding upazila election prior to behalf of the Indian Border

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

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

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

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.

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 vesterday.

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

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

Shatokhali area at around 1:15pm. The deceased was identified as Abdul Halim of village Chhoyghoria in Shalikha upazila while the injured were Shafiuddin 24, Saifullah, 35, and Akbar Mia,

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 saidthe

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.

protest

AFP, Beijing

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

He mentioned of the robbery at

Police to collect information

MOVE TO CHECK CRIMES IN CITY

Children perform dance at a function organised on the occasion of the birth anniversary of cultural personality and journalist late Waheedul Haque 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 infor-

mation 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 new 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 managements are also directed to verify whether the mobile and land Ahmed said so far 12 people have phone number supplied by a been killed in the city from March 1 to March 16.

A DMP crime statistics provided

Seven injured in blast near

police van in Khulna STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

10:00pm on Saturday at Noapara

rail station under Abhoynagar

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.

Habibur and Sultan remains critical.

unidentified man hurled the bomb

on the police van that was patrol-

Condition of Abul Kashem,

According to eyewitnesses, an

Chhayanaut in the city yesterday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

in the hotels.

bers (if any).

boarder are actual.

upazila in Jessore.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP)

will distribute forms in the residen-

tial 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

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 num-

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

Disclosing the information,

Azimuddin Sheikh, a tea stall Seven people were severely injured owner at Noapara rail station, filed as a powerful bomb went off near a a case with Khulna Railway Police police patrol van at around Station yesterday morning accusing five individuals for the bomb-

> ing 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 vet.

Valuables worth Tk 5 lakh looted in N'ganj about hotel guests from today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

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

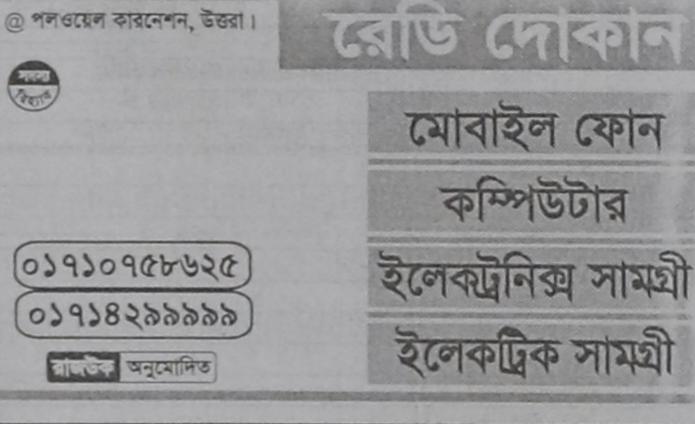
people killed in January was 16 while According to the house owner, around 15-16 robbers wearing masks broke into the house at about 3:00am.

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

like-objects from in front of the house after reaching the spot.



Hannan Shah, Rahat Khan and Amir Hossain Amu. (Story on page 16)



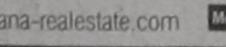
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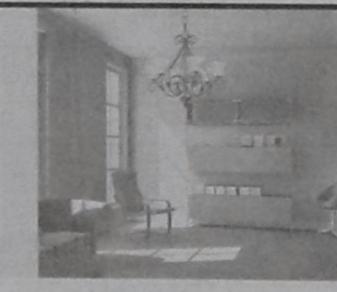
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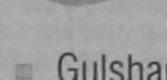
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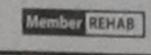




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> ent on the occasion. www.navana-realestate.com Member REHAB



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 Rabwon'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 corpora-

tion 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.

Chakravarty and Deputy Indian High Commissioner in Rajshahi Tarun Kumar Chakravarty accompanied him during the visit. They also called on RU Vice Chancellor Prof Altaf Hossain athis 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 pres-

Borendra Museum.

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. Lama, the rights groups said.

7 killed in China

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

broken up. Police fired into the crowd. There are seven deaths," International Campaign for Tibet, His wife Dr Radha Rani | told AFP, citing reports from an eyewitness.

> "Many people were injured. The citing eyewitnesses. 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. Lobsang Tsultrin a field officer for monks from Kirti monastery.

Several hundred monks and lay people took part in the demonstration, shouting slogans in favour of an independent Tibet and the region's spiritual leader the Dalai

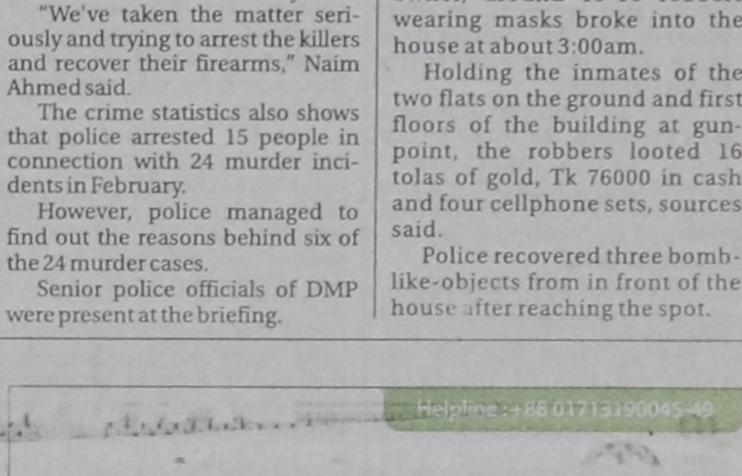
An eyewitness told AFP that the town in Sichuan province -- which demonstration had started early Sunday after a prayer session at the Kirti monastery, which is home to around 2,800 monks.

"They wanted to attack the district's main government build-"The protest was violently ing and they also tried to attack the police headquarters. They set fire to police cars, and then police Kate Saunders, from the started shooting," said the witness, a resident of Ngawa. The incident was reported also

by the Free Tibet Campaign, again A spokesman at Ngawa county police station denied that any attack had taken place, telling AFP:

"It didn't happen." Ngawa, known as Aba in Chinese, is about 1,000 kilometres (620 miles)

from the Tibetan capital Lhasa. The Free Tibet Campaign said five people had died during the "The number of dead we now protest, which it said involved The Indian envoy also visited know of (at Kirti) is 13," said "hundreds of Tibetans," including



at the press briefing also shows a

rising trend of incidents of murder in

the last two months. The number of

the number was 24 in February.





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