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Honest people to assume power through polls
CA tells concluding ceremony of road show

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed has said efforts are on so that honest, competent, dedicated and patriotic leaderships can hold the helm at local levels and in parliament for building a prosperous and democratic Bangladesh.

The head of the caretaker government made the remarks while addressing the concluding ceremony of 'Esho Bangladesh Gori' road show at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

He firmly hoped that the culture of using black money and muscle power in election will find a final end and the government is carrying out efforts to that end.

"All have to work so that wise, honest, competent and patriotic people win every election in the

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Education privilege plundered for politics

MPO rules violation causes Tk 600cr loss a year;
Over 5,000 educational institutions unnecessarily brought under MPO

SURANJITH DEARNATH

Over 5,000 educational institutions were unnecessarily entitled to monthly pay order (MPO) by the last two political governments, leading to an annual loss of Tk 600 crore.

A school, college or madrasa won't be eligible for MPO if there is another such institution within three kilometres in rural and one kilometre in urban areas. Besides, an institution for a population of minimum 8,000 can apply for MPO.

These rules along with many

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MPO IRREGULARITIES				
	Divisions	Schools	Colleges	Madrasas
EXCESS EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS	Rajshahi	1689	457	692
	Khulna	716	151	117
	Barisal	630	59	610
	Chittagong		4	
	Total = 5,125	3,035	671	1,419
REQUIRED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS	Dhaka	426	33	426
	Chittagong	271		95
	Sylhet	200	24	185
	Total = 1,660	897	57	706

Besides, country requires 831 Vocational Institutions and 572 Business Management Institutions.

AL vows to resist polls under state of emergency

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) yesterday vowed to resist any poll under the state of emergency while reiterating its demand for holding the parliamentary poll before upazila elections.

AL will not allow any poll under the state of emergency, it will not take part in upazila polls if held before the parliamentary election, and will also not let anyone else to participate either, said AL Acting President Zillur Rahman yesterday while taking part in a nationwide token hunger strike for pressing home AL demands.

"Although political parties have been demanding total withdrawal of the emergency for long, the government has not been paying any heed," he complained.

He was addressing a group of

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MONEY LAUNDERING BY TOP GRAFT SUSPECTS

ACC fails to move on from agency probes

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has yet to act on around a dozen investigation reports on high profile graft suspects' involvement in money laundering.

Though the reports, submitted to the anti-graft body over the last 17 months, offer information about alleged money laundering by some ex-ministers, lawmakers and businessmen, the ACC has not proceeded against any of the suspects for the financial crime, said sources in the ACC.

Instead, it has confined itself to incorporating the assets that might have something to do with laundering into the cases filed for making wealth through illegal means.

The sources said for a number of reasons the ACC is not taking any measures regarding the reports. For instance, they said, the whole process of proving money laundering charges is very complex under the Money Laundering Prevention Ordinance, 2008, promulgated recently.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, an ACC official said, "We have received some investigation reports from the task forces under the National Coordination Committee to Combat Corruption and Crime. But for some technical reasons we could not take any legal course of action."

He said since most of the investigations were carried out in the light of the now repealed Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2002, it

is difficult to prove cases within the framework of the new law.

However, the official added, they have started working to find out ways to prepare those reports afresh following the new money laundering prevention ordinance.

The money laundering issue came to the fore when the joint forces on Friday arrested HRC Group Chairman Sayeed Hossain Chowdhury at his Gulshan residence on charges of money laundering and keeping properties in different other names.

Sayeed's arrest followed leads by an intelligence agency regarding his links to money laundering.

ACC sources however said the anti-corruption watchdog has not

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Acid burnt
Rokeya loses battle for life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rokeya Begum, a victim of acid crime, has lost her battle against death after suffering for over two months.

The 45-year-old woman from Ramaganj village under Lalmonirhat upazila of Bhola died early yesterday at the Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) at Banani. Her neighbours had poured acid into her mouth and on the face following disputes over land.

Sources at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital Morgue said inner parts of

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KILLING OF BDR JAWANS

Dhaka lodges strong protest with Delhi

BSF guns down 2 cattle traders in Jessore

STAR REPORT

Dhaka has lodged a "strong protest" with New Delhi against intrusion of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) into Bangladesh territory and killing of two Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel at Chapainawabganj border in the early hours of Friday.

"The recent border incident entailed an incursion into Bangladesh territorial waters and

the killing of two BDR personnel by the BSF" the foreign ministry said in a protest note issued yesterday.

Bangladesh views the BSF actions as "totally unacceptable". It expressed the hope that "Indian authorities will take appropriate action against those responsible and ensure that such incidents do not recur," the note said.

In another development, two cattle traders were gunned down by BSF at Jessore border yesterday

afternoon, triggering exchange of gunfire between border forces of the two countries.

Tension was prevailing at frontiers of the country because of the killings by BSF.

The traders killed were identified as Najir, 35, and Joyal Abedin, 33, who hailed from Shupukuria village under Chowgachha upazila. Locals said BSF shot and killed them without any provocation.

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No more gas based power plant: Tamim

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser's Special Assistant for Power and Energy Ministry Tamim yesterday said no more gas-based power plant will be set up in the country as there is a shortage of the fossil fuel.

"No more gas-based power plant to be set up in the country," he said while addressing a seminar titled 'Bangladesh's main challenges to meet future electricity demand'.

Referring to the country's chronic gas crisis that hampers the electricity generation, Tamim said a team is now visiting the gas-based power plants to identify their efficiency level.

Terming the present gas crisis as a legacy of the past, Tamim, a former professor of petroleum engineering of Buet, said only one gas field was discovered in the country in the last 10 years. "So, the present government has to think about gas import."

He said the use of electricity is increasing day by day because of its cheaper price.

Describing the government's steps to boost gas production, Tamim said state-owned Bapex was recently allocated the highest

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5 killed in Sirajganj road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

At least five people including a physician were killed and 35 injured yesterday in a road accident at Konabari in Sirajganj.

Police said a Dhaka-bound bus from Lalmonirhat collided head-on with a goods-laden truck on the Dhaka-Bogra highway at Konabari in Kamarkhanda upazila at around 5.00 am, leaving two persons dead on the spot and 38 others injured.

Of the wounded, one died on the way to hospital while two others succumbed to their injuries at the Sirajganj Hospital.

The injured blamed the accident on the carelessness of the drivers driving at a high speed

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Shamim Iskander being taken to jail in a prison van after a Dhaka court denied him bail yesterday morning.

Shamim Iskander sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shamim Iskander, younger brother of detained former premier Khaleda Zia, was sent to jail yesterday after he was arrested in connection with a case filed on charge of concealing information about his wealth in the wealth statement.

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court, Dhaka sent him to jail after he was produced before it at around 12 noon.

Police arrested Shamim, a former flight engineer of Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd, as he came out of Khaleda's Shaheed Mainul Road residence in Dhaka Cantonment on Friday night.

He had been visiting his ailing nephew Arafat Rahman Koko, who

was released Thursday on parole. Koko left for Bangkok yesterday for treatment.

Defence lawyers submitted a petition seeking bail for Shamim. But the prosecution lawyers opposed it saying that the court has no jurisdiction to entertain the bail petition as the case had been filed under Emergency Power Rules (EPR).

Metropolitan Magistrate AM Zulfikar Hayat said his court could not hold a hearing on the bail plea and sent Shamim Iskander to Dhaka Central Jail.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the case with Ramna Police Station against Shamim and his wife Kaniz Fatema

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Koko off to Bangkok

Wife, daughters accompany him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Arafat Rahman Koko, youngest son of detained former prime minister and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, left Dhaka for Bangkok with his family yesterday.

He has been admitted to Bumrungrad Hospital in Thailand for medical treatment. According to doctors, he is suffering from chronic respiratory problems.

Thai Airways flight TG-322 at 1:20pm left Zia International Airport (ZIA) for Bangkok with him, his wife Shamila Rahman, daughters Zafira and Zahia and brother-in-law Mostakim Reza on board.

Koko reached ZIA around 12:10pm in an ambulance wearing an oxygen mask.

Members of law enforcement agencies were deployed at different entrances to the airport and they prevented all, except passengers, from entering ZIA. Even the media was denied access.

Koko's lawyers Sanaullah Miah and Shimul Biswas told reporters that he would return home after his treatment is complete.

Koko was arrested on September 3, 2007 in connection with the Gatco corruption case. He

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Arrest aimed at pressurising Khaleda

Claims Delwar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday said the arrest of Khaleda Zia's younger brother Shamim Iskander is a government manoeuvre aimed at pressurising the party chief.

Talking with journalists at his Nam apartment in the capital, Delwar also said confusion caused by the arrest has blanketed the ray of hope that became visible following the release of Koko, Khaleda's younger son.

"We were happy over Koko's release. We thought that good sense has prevailed over the government. But now people think

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Caretaker govt can't violate constitution

Sircar says local polls before JS elections unconstitutional

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speaker Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar yesterday observed that local government polls cannot be held before the national elections saying it would violate the Constitution and existing laws.

"Holding local government elections before the parliamentary one is not permissible in the Constitution and law. According to the Constitution, the caretaker government will discharge its routine functions and assist the Election Commission to hold national polls," he said.

He added the caretaker government was an interim government, which cannot make any policymaking decisions.

"The caretaker government can enact laws relating to polls but can't violate the Constitution. The

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Jamiruddin Sircar

9 VIP prisoners vie for treatment abroad

KAILASH SARKAR

At least nine VIP prisoners have so far appealed to the government for going abroad for treatment while many others do not appear before the court during trial proceedings of cases filed against them on grounds of being ill.

Awami League (AL) chief and former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil and BNP Chairperson and former prime minister Khaleda Zia's youngest son Arafat Rahman Koko are already staying abroad for treatment.

Those who have appealed for treatment abroad are Khaleda's eldest son and BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman, AL Presidium member and former minister Mohammad Nasim, former BNP lawmaker MA

Hashem, Khaleda's adviser Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, former BNP minister Mirza Abbas and former BNP lawmaker Sarwar Jamal Chowdhury.

Besides Hasina, Jalil and Koko, the court has exempted Nasim and General (ret'd) Mustafizur Rahman from appearing before it during trial proceedings.

Inspector General of Prisons Brig Gen Zakir Hassan said, "Through the government we have received applications for treatment abroad from nine VIP prisoners."

The government would decide whether their applications would be granted, he told The Daily Star. He also said many other VIP prisoners do not appear before the court in person due to sickness.

Tarique Rahman appeared before the court seven times

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