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US election observers due early Nov

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United States will start sending poll observers to Bangladesh in the first week of November to monitor the December 18 general election, US Ambassador to Dhaka James F Moriarty announced yesterday.

"A 120-member US poll monitoring team will start arriving here from early November to monitor the elections," the US envoy told reporters after a meeting with Foreign Adviser Iftakhar Ahmed Chowdhury at the foreign ministry.

Replying to a question, Moriarty said the state of emergency will not hinder sending of the US poll observation mission.

He reiterated his hope that conditions are going to be in place for holding a free, fair and credible

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REVISED PARTY CONSTITUTIONS FOR REGISTRATION EC accepts AL charter as it omits 2 fronts

Asks Jamaat to correct some anti-constitutional provisions, hopes to sort out BNP problems easily

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday accepted Awami League's (AL) revised constitution and decided to register the party as it omitted the names of Bangladesh Chhatra League and Jatiya Sramik League from the list of associated organisations in its charter.

An AL delegation informed the EC at an emergency meeting yesterday afternoon that it finalised a

new provision in its charter only saying the two auxiliary bodies consisting of students and workers will be run by their own constitutions.

The AL has also decided to correct its constitution to meet one significant registration criterion that prohibits formation of associated or affiliated bodies consisting of students and workers.

Satisfied by the AL's decision, the EC agreed to accept the party's

revised constitution.

"We are now satisfied with their constitution and a notice will be issued soon to register the party," Election Commissioner Muhammed Sohul Hussain told reporters after the meeting at the EC Secretariat.

In another development, an experts committee assigned by the EC for examining registration applications yesterday asked

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Mong Raja Prue dies in road crash

STAR REPORT

Mong Raja Paihala Prue Chowdhury was killed yesterday as a bus carrying him plunged into a roadside ditch at Patachhara near Rangbari in Khagrachhari district.

The Raja's son Saching Prue Chowdhury along with 23 other

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256 workers shifted files from a BTTB cabinet

State coffer gobbled up through fake deployment of labourers, 4 staff confess to Tac

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In another example of gross corruption, Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Ltd (BTCL), former BTTB, showed deployment of 256 labourers on papers only to transfer files in an almshouse.

BTCL officials told The Daily Star all the labourers were 'deployed' to the head office in the capital to do the task, which a class-four employee could do in a couple of hours.

A section of the corrupt BTCL officials showed the fake deployment to misappropriate huge amount of money, according to confessions by four such officials before the Truth and Accountability Commission (Tac).

The Tac denies giving details of the matter, which is one of many graft incidents revealed by the four.

The commission has however issued notices to 17 top-level government officials including some BTCL staffs, who are likely to face Tac next week in this connection.

Earlier on October 20, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) published a similar graft incident by BTCL officials in Khulna where they had 'deployed' 122 labourers to install a pan in a toilet.

The ACC investigations reveal misappropriation of over TK 33 crore by showing fake deployments at BTCL Khulna offices.

The four BTCL officials facing Tac also confessed to budget forgery and drawing huge amount through fake vouchers regularly.

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Advisers meet Khaleda on eve of electoral talks

BNP sits after AL finishes meeting with govt today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The caretaker government starts the second round of talks with political parties today, aiming to ensure an atmosphere conducive to holding a free, fair and credible national election.

On the first day, the government will sit with the Awami League (AL) and BNP. The talks with the AL will be held at the Chief Adviser's Office at 2:30pm while the BNP will sit

with the government at 6:30pm at the same venue.

Five advisers to the caretaker government led by Commerce and Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman last night met BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her cantonment residence and formally invited her party to today's dialogue.

Acting AL General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam earlier said the

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Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman talks to newsmen at the Banani DOHS Community Centre in the capital after holding a meeting with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her cantonment residence yesterday.

CONFUSION OVER GOVT MOVE Only 8 out of 50 brands face test

UN agencies offer to help govt with testing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government finally decided to test abroad the level of melamine contamination in only eight of the powdered milk brands out of over 50 of them, leaving parents of babies in grave confusion about the safety of the rest.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI), the state agency responsible for testing the quality of food items, has been mum about which brands are safe, with its director general (DG) saying, the agency has no plan to publicise the safe

brands within a few days.

Offering support for authentic tests of the samples sent abroad, UN agencies Fao, WHO and Unicef advised the authorities yesterday to remove all melamine contaminated milk products from the shelves of markets as soon as the tests confirm the unsafe levels of contamination.

Panic stricken parents and different social organisations yesterday continued to demand an active role of the health ministry in dealing with the issue, opposing the key role currently being played

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Talking polls and beyond Ghani for clean-up move in BNP

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN and RASHIDUL HASAN



BNP Standing Committee member Dr RA Ghani has said the party should conduct an internal "cleaning" operation and if anybody is found guilty, they should not be in the forefront.

Asked if the convicted leaders can continue with the party, Ghani said this but pointed out that these convicted leaders did not get the chance to defend themselves.

In an exclusive interview with The Daily Star, the BNP leader

admitted that his party made many mistakes while in the government.

"There were chances for working for more development of the country. Many good laws could be formulated as we had two-thirds majority. But we did not take those chances. So, what benefit the two-thirds majority brought for us?" he said.

He said the activities of Hawa Bhaban should also have been controlled.

"I went there only when the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Find details of the interview on page 11

NESTLÉ DAIRY PRODUCTS IN BANGLADESH ARE SAFE

- Nestlé welcomes the decision by Bangladesh Authorities to re-test
- The quality and safety of its products is non-negotiable for Nestlé
- Nestlé dairy products in Bangladesh are completely safe

Nestlé welcomes the decision of Bangladesh Government to re-test the milk powders in 2 local laboratories and 1 accredited laboratory abroad.

Nestlé would like to reassure its consumers that the safety of its products is non-negotiable. NIDO Fortified has been tested in 2 laboratories in Bangladesh and 3 reputed ISO certified laboratories outside Bangladesh without melamine being detected.

To further reassure our consumers, we are also publishing hereunder one of the analysis reports for NIDO Fortified from SGS Laboratory, Thailand:

SGS

Test Report 1543323 Date : 18-Oct-2008 Page 1 of 1

Client : Nestle Bangladesh Ltd.
Gulshan Tower, Road No.53, Gulshan North C/A,
Dhaka-1212 Bangladesh

The following sample(s) was/were submitted and identified by client:

Sample Description : NIDO FORTIFIED Full Cream Milk Powder
Sample No. : 1574241
Factory : Sreepur, Nestle Bangladesh Ltd.
Symbol : MQV014-1
Lot/Code : 82060188A1
MFG.Date : 02/2008
Date Received : 17-Oct-2008 Date Commenced : 17-Oct-2008

Test Items	Method	LOD	Results	Units
Melamine	Based on USFDA Laboratory Information Bulletin LIB No.4396 Volume23, May 2007 HPLC/MS/MS	0.05	Not detected	mg/kg

Remark : 1. LOD = "Limit of Detection"
2. Lqss than = Lower than LOQ "Limit of Quantitation"

Signed for and on behalf of
SGS (Thailand) Limited

Chin Chaotaworn
Agri&Food Lab Manager

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BAUL SCULPTURES Cops weigh in as protesters try to burn Amini effigy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday tried to prevent Amra Muktiyoddhar Santan (AMS), a platform of sons and daughters of freedom fighters, from protesting the removal of Baul singers' (folk singers) sculptures from Zia International Airport intersection.

The AMS activists gathered at Muktangan in the city around 11:00am to protest Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) Chairman Mufti Fazlul Haque Amini's threat to break all sculptures carrying the memories

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Sector commanders to publish war criminals' list

UNB, Dhaka

Sector Commanders' Forum (SCF) will publish a list of war criminals of 1971 Liberation War.

The SCF Convener Maj Gen. (ret) KM Safiullah told the news agency last night that a sub-committee is now working hard to prepare the list of war criminals on the basis of strong evidence.

"The list is expected to be finalised by November 15 and then we will make the list public through a press conference," he said.

Safiullah said the SCF took the responsibility of making a list of the war criminals, as the caretaker government is very much indifferent to this issue.

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Local Govt Commission formed

UNB, Dhaka

A three-member Local Government Commission (LGC) headed by former secretary Fayzur Razzak has been constituted, officials said yesterday.

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday signed the papers relating to the appointment of chairman and members of the commission, Secretary of the President's office Md Sirajul Islam told the news agency.

He said Fayzur Razzak has been appointed chairman, while former secretary Hedayetul Islam Chowdhury and former professor of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

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Mymensingh Branch Mamatashi Emporium 8 & 12, GKMC Saha Road Chotto Bazar, Mymensingh	Beanibazar Branch Zaman Plaza Beanibazar Sylhet	Shahzadpur Branch Nur Super Market Menurampur Bazar Shahzadpur, Sirajganj	Saidpur Branch Saidpur Plaza Super Market Sher-E-Bangla Road Saidpur, Nilphaman	Chhatak Branch Mehetaj Shopping City 82, Girls School Road Chhatak, Sunamganj
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