Nasaka kills 4

Bangladeshi

woodcutters

Nasaka, border security force of

Myanmar, killed four Bangladeshi

woodcutters at Naikhongchari

have protested the killing of inno-

cent people and demanded imme-

Family sources and BDR said

Nurul Kabir, 32, Ahmed Sharif, 22,

Abdul Hakim, 28, and Shamsul

diate return of the bodies.

Confirming this BDR said they

UNB, Cox's Bazar

Call to formulate policy to remove discrimination against minorities

জাতীয় প্রেস ক্লাব

नी नांग्रे-উৎস

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday called upon the government to formulate policy removing discrimination against the minori-

They also urged the government high-ups to ensure basic and con-

CG to hand over

power to elected

The London-based Economist

Intelligence Unit (EIU) has said the

caretaker government is expected to

hand over power to a new elected

government shortly after the parlia-

The EIU in its monthly report

mentary election on December 18.

govt in Dec

based EIU

UNB, Dhaka

Hopes London-

stitutional rights of different ethnic and minority groups.

The press conference was organised by the National Committee for Cultural Diversity Conference and Second Adivasi Drama Festival at the National Press Club in the city.

The four-day-long programme

২মভেশ্বর ২০০৮

Prof Mezbah Kamal and on his right are Promad Mankin and Rabeya Sultana.

বিচিত্র্যবিভব সম্মিলনী ও দ্বিতীয় আদিবাসী নাট্য-উৎসব উপলক্ষে

kicks off at Shilpakala Academy auditorium on

November 12. Speakers at the press conference said with a view to upholding the culture of different minority communities to policymakers and people, ActionAid with the help of Research and Development

tion of ethnic people. Prof Mezbah Kamal of Dhaka University, who is also the member-secretary of the Committee, said, "We hope this festival would play an important role to create awareness among the policymakers and general people about various difficulties that Dalit and adivasi communities are fac-

Collective (RDC) will organise the

. The aim of the festival includes

raising awareness about basic

rights and constitutional recogni-

tion of indigenous people and

preservation of culture and tradi-

Justice Golam Rabbani, who presided over the conference, urged all to work together to build integrated cultural identity saying it is not simply a festival, it is a movement to know ourselves.

Sanjib Drang, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, said the government should come forward to give due recognition to indigenous culture saying that cultural and language diversity is not a threat, it is our strength and it will introduce Bangladesh to the world as a culturally developed

Chairman of Tribal Welfare Association Promad Mankin, Prof. Dalem Chandra Barman, and Rabeya Sultana of ActionAid also spoke at the press conference.

Show cause on

The High Court (HC) yesterday

issued two separate rules upon the

government and Public Service

Commission (PSC) to explain why

the results of the 27th Bangladesh

Civil Service (BCS) examination,

published without following the

quota rules properly' should not be

After hearing two separate writ

petitions filed by 154 BCS candi-

dates including Abu Fazal

Mohammad Tarique Hossain Khan

and Sohel Rana, an HC bench of

Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and

Justice Quamrul Islam Siddiqui

dates, who are the children of

freedom fighters, stated that the

government in a circular in 1999

said 30 percent of the circulated

posts will be reserved for the chil-

But the PSC did not follow the

quota rules and that is why the

petitioners have been deprived of

Another petition filed by 121

candidates stated that the PSC had

violated the recruitment and quota

reservation rules in publishing the

The PSC on September 23 pub-

lished the results of the 27th BCS

examination recommending 3,239

candidates for appointment at

Barrister Shafique Ahmed and

Advocate Abdur Rab Chowdhury

assisted by Advocate Salah Uddin

Dolon appeared for the petitioners.

dren of freedom fighters.

A writ petition filed by 33 candi-

27TH BCS EXAM

govt, PSC

declared illegal.

issued the rules.

the jobs, it said.

second-phase result.

different cadre posts.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

China landslides

Twenty people were confirmed

The mud and rock flows

According to the local government, up to 300 people live in the area where the slides occurred, the China News Service said.

Xinhua said the landslides 1,000 houses.

what caused the slides, but torrential rain pummelled the region throughout Sunday and was expected to continue for the coming days, China Central Television reported.

Establish int'l climate research institute in Bangladesh

NFTE urges UN chief

METRO DESK

National Front of Teachers and Employees (NFTE) has urged UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to initiate establishment of an international climate research institute in Bangladesh under the auspices of the United Nations.

In a press release, the front, a conglomerate of 11 organisations of teachers and education workers numbering half a million, who serve in 29000 non-government schools, colleges, technical, vocational and specialised educational institutions in Bangladesh, also requested the world leader to draw programmes on popularisation of science, teachers' training, development of curriculum and libraries, prevention of violation of "teachers' status" adopted by Unesco and ILO, and

signed by Bangladesh government. The NFTE lauded the role of the United Nations for its contribution to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and

culture in order to further universal respect for justice, rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed by UN Charter.

It praised recognition of February 21 as 'International Mother Language Day' by Unesco, one of the specialised agencies of the United Nations.

Dozen hurt in Kashmir protests

AFP, Srinagar

Over a dozen people were hurt yesterday when Indian police fired teargas and used batons to disperse hundreds of Kashmiris protesting arrests of separatists, doctors said.

Violent protests continued for the second day running in summer capital Srinagar after three key separatists were sent to jail on Saturday under a tough security law that allows detention for up to two years without trial.

Re-fixation of plane fare for hajj pilgrims demanded

Tahfij-e-Haramine Parishad Bangladesh yesterday demanded re-fixation of the jet plane fare for the hajj pilgrims at \$1200 as the price of jet fuel has dropped signifi-

President of the organisation Maulana Sadek Ahmed Siddique said the price of crude oil dropped to \$67 from \$147, adding that many countries have already reduced the

house rent in Mecca and Medina increased and other expenses for hajj pilgrims have also increased. So, the plane fare should be reduced in this regard.

Obituary

UNB, Khulna

Shamsur Rahman, founder general secretary of Khulna Press Club, died at his city residence yesterday at the age of 92.

He will be buried at his family

Paikgachha upazila today. Shamsur Rahman was the member of National Assembly of the then East Pakistan and Nayeb-e-Ameer

Mirza Tasmimul Islam Bablu

Mirza Tasmimul Islam Bablu, a freedom fighter, and agriculturist and cultural personality in Thakurgaon, passed away due to

He left behind his wife, son,

city on Saturday at the age of 72.

at his family graveyard in Panchagarh.

Death anniversary



anniversary of Mejbah Uddin Sabu, a freedom fighter, sports organiser, says

Mugda) in the city.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the

programme.

Nurul Islam STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nurul Islam, former principal of PTI in Gaibandha, says a press release. On the occasion, a doa mahfil,

Qurankhwani will be held at his residence in Gaibandha town. Begum Habibunnessa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Begum Habibunnessa, mother of noted gano sangeet singer Fakir Alamgir,

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at Khilgaon Chowdhurypara Matir Masque in the city Asr prayers and at her

village home in Faridpur. Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the

20 dead, 42 missing in

METROPOLITAN/NEWS

AFP, Beijing

dead and 42 were missing yesterday after mudslides engulfed several villages in southwest China, state press reported.

occurred near Chuxiong city in Yunnan province with the exact number of people killed still being counted, Xinhua news agency said, citing local authorities.

began early Sunday morning and flattened or damaged more than It was not immediately known

Freed Brac staff to fly in tomorrow

Brac chairperson Fazle Hasan

FROM PAGE 16

victims are ecstatic at the turn of

Shamsunnahar Mukti, wife of Akhter Ali, said, "We know he has been freed but now, this wait for his arrival seems like forever."

Shahanaz Akter Chhobi, wife of Shahjahan Ali, said her three children were over the moon since the Brac officials confirmed the family of Shahjahan's release at 10:00am yesterday.

Foreign Adviser Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury has meanwhile welcomed Akhter and Shahjahan's release and expressed gratitude to all who helped secure their freedom.

"I admire the courage of these two men and many other Bangladeshis who are working against many odds in Afghanistan for the welfare of our Afghan brothers and sisters," he said in a reaction on receiving the news.

Besides writing a letter to place The state of Afghan Foreign Minister Rangin Dadfar Spanta requesting help to rescue the two, the foreign secretary had also raised the issue with UN Secretary General Ban Kimoon seeking UN assistance in this

Abed expressed relief and joy at the release of the two men and thanked both the governments of Bangladesh and Afghanistan, security agencies and other officials who worked for their release. He pledged that Brac would continue to put maximum effort in ensuring the safety of all its staff in Afghanistan as well as in all other countries where it operates. THEABDUCTION

AND RELEASE

Four gunmen abducted Shahjahan and Akhter, both Brac area managers posted in Ghazni for the last three years, when they went to visit the Moi Mobarrak branch of Brac in Ghazni, southwest of capital Kabul on October 23.

Aminul Alam, Brac's executive director for overseas programmes, told The Daily Star, "The two were kept in a dark room in an unknown

Quoting the released men, he said that they were not hurt in any way or pressed for any ransom. They were also given food on a regular basis.

"In the morning, they were provided with tea and handmade

potato and other foodstuff," Aminul said adding that they were also given rice regularly. He said that abductors never told the captives why they had been abducted and also that it did

not seem like they (the abductors)

were Talibans "since Talibans do

bread. At lunch they were given

not release abductees so quickly". The captors left the two men in front of Brac's Ghazni office Saturday evening.

Akhter's wife Shamsunnahar, who is staying with her sister at Mohammadpur since the abduction said, "All our worries will be over when we are able to lay our eyes on Akter again."

"Allah saved my son, I am offering special prayers for him," Afsana Khatun Lily, Akhter's mother, said as she broke down in tears while talking to The Daily Star yesterday.

Shajahan's wife Shahanaz, who is staying with their three children at one of her relative's house in Savar since the abduction, will be travelling to Dhaka to receive her

Akhter hails from Ahmedpur of Boalia upazila in Rajshahi while Shahjahan is from Alamnagar under Gopalpur upazila in Tangail.

Sea border issue fails

fulfilling requirements of the UN and as per the law of the sea. However, the committee became dysfunctional within a year, while its foreign ministry members were busy making foreign trips.

All the while, both India and Myanmar are exploring oil and gas prospects in the Bay close to while India discovered 100 trillion

On the other hand, Bangladesh is now in the process of awarding several deep-sea blocks and a shallow water block to two foreign oil companies amid protests from members of the committee to protect oil and gas resources.

The bidding process held in May also drew protest from India and Myanmar in June saying that Bangladesh's bid area overlaps

Bangladeshi territory in the Bay holds the biggest oil and gas

that they believe the country is now exposed to a regional oil and gas politics it had never faced before. "This situation might prevail till the maritime boundary is fixed in 2011," said an official.

The Indian press reports that two main basins in the Bay--Krishna-Godavari and Mahanadi--have shown a potential of nearly 18 billion barrels of oil equivalent gas in place. While official sources quote a figure of 100 trillion cubic feet of gas reserves in the region, unofficial estimates peg the reserves at 200 trillion cubic feet of gas. In such a context, expert delega-

tions of Bangladesh and with India held a three-day meeting after a gap of 28 years to settle unresolved maritime boundary issues. But this talk ended fruitlessly as it hovered around discussing boundary in South Talpatty, an island still in formation, in the south-western part of the country.

Foreign ministry held two rounds of talks in April and September with Myanmar and the discussions yielded "good results" regarding common usage of the Naf river and its estuary, official sources said.

issue is still long way down the road as Myanmar is asking for ecodistance system in East to West boundary while Bangladesh is asking to demarcate in equity basis North to South. Bangladesh will hold maritime

talks with Myanmar in mid-November and India later this India and Myanmar need to

finish the maritime demarcation with Bangladesh shortly as they are set to file their claim to the UN on June 29 and May 21 next year. Under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Bangladesh also has to file its claim within July 27, 2011. International law allows each

country to have and enjoy 200 nautical miles from its coast to the sea. However, this is a tricky matter as the coasts of India and Bangladesh and Myanmar follow a curve, which implies overlapping of territory. As per the international prac-

tices, in such a case, the neighbours should inform each other and reach a mutual understanding before exploring such areas.

Appeal for help HC dismisses petitions boundaries, going beyond its the detailed timetable for the FROM PAGE 1

Former BNP state minister MA ers, filed the appeal.

informed the EC of the appeal through a fax at 5:06pm. The commission should not

announce the election schedule until its hearing that may be held Monday, he added. Earlier in the day, the commis-

apex court for vacating the HC stay on its notification of the delineation. Filed on October 30, the peti-

yesterday by the full-bench Appellate Division. Asked what could be the impli-

announcement of polls schedule, EC's principal counsel Mahmudul Islam told The Daily Star unless the Appellate Division stays the HC verdict, the commission would have no problem unveiling

ninth parliamentary election. Shahdeen Malik, another intention. counsel for the EC, told newsmen

that the HC decision bears out that the commission has redrawn the boundaries of parliamentary seats properly and in compliance with

> client has violated the constitution and laws in this regard. Petitioner MA Mannan's law-

ver TH Khan expressed frustration with the HC judgment.

to do with politics, whereas no lawyer for the petitioners raised proceedings.

any political issue during the court The HC in its judgment observed that despite some con-

jurisdiction and with mala fide However, the bench continued,

pertaining to delimitation. Neither has it done anything beyond its jurisdiction. On July 10 this year, the commission issued a gazette notifica-

boundaries redrawn. Following the writ petition by Mannan, the HC on August 7 stayed for three months operation of the gazette notification. It also issued a rule on the EC and the

On separate writ petitions, it had issued similar rules to the same respondents.

adjudged illegal.

According to the lawyers conwith regard to delimitation, the cerned, the stay would have been in force till November 6 had the HCnot vacated it yesterday.

anniversary of government to explain why the delimitation should not be

says a press release.

programme.

however said the caretaker government and the Election Commission (EC) need to overcome a number of obstacles in the weeks, ahead to ensure that the polls are free, fair and credible. It said the election would be regarded as free if members of all of the country's political parties are able to participate. The recent decision by the caretaker government to grant bail to a number of important politicians, arrested as a result of its anticorruption drive, has helped to fulfill its promise of a free election. More importantly, the EIU said Khaleda Zia of BNP and Sheikh

Hasina of Awami League, who are both under investigation for corruption, are now in a position to participate. As neither has yet been convicted, they could conceivably con-

become the next prime minister. The report said Khaleda and Hasina remain hugely popular figures, but the success of the AL at the elections for city corporations and municipalities in August suggests that it is in a favourable posi-

test their seats and one of them could

tion to win. The election would be deemed fair if voters are allowed to exercise their democratic rights. There remains uncertainty, however, over

whether this condition can be met.

tions have been placed on civil

The report said severe restric-

liberties since emergency rule was imposed on January 11, 2007. Concerns over a possible deterioration in the security situation in the run-up to the polls are likely to prevent a complete lifting of emergency rule, although the government may relax certain restrictions

ahead of and during the election. But political parties will continue to make the full lifting of the state of emergency a primary condition of their participation in the election. It said maintaining emergency rule may jeopardise the credibility of the polls, especially if the European Commission decides not to send a delegation to observe the vote.

The election's integrity could be undermined further if the main political parties decide not to participate, although, given the conciliatory stance adopted by the EC in recent weeks and its ongoing efforts to engage the parties in dialogue, this seems unlikely. The report said elections to

upazila parishad are planned to be

held in two phases, on December

24 and 28, but may be delayed until

early 2009, in view of ongoing

protests by the main parties. Urs

METRO DESK

The 25th Urs of Hazrat Shah Wazed Ali (R) will be begin at Kazirabad in Barguna tomorrow, says a press release.

On the occasion, special prayers will be offered for peace of the Muslim ummah. Chief caliph of the Darbar Sharif Syed Abdullah Shaheed will administer the munajat.

BARAPUKURIA COALMINE CASE

Hearing continues on

STAFF CORRESPONDENT The High Court (HC) yesterday continued hearing on the petitions filed by five former BNP-Jamaat ministers and one former state minister for quashing the proceedings against them in Barapukuria Coalmine Corruption

Justice Golam Rabbani speaks at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his left is

Justice Md Muzammel Hossain and Justice Afzal Hossain adjourned the hearing till today.

and former finance minister M Saifur, Rahman, Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer and former industries minister Motiur Rahman Nizami, former health minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, former commerce minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, Jamaat Secretary General and former social welfare minister Ali Ahsan Muhammad

Mojahid and former state minister AKM Mosharraf Hossain. Advocate Habibul Islam Bhuiyan

chemical engrs

pioneering chemical engineers in Bangladesh will be held on

Wednesday, says a press release. Chemical Engineering Division of The Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) organises the event

to the chief adviser, will attend the programme as the chief guest and Prof Dr M Tamim, special assistant to the chief adviser, as special guest. Engr Md Mohsin Ali, PEng, president in-charge of the IEB, will

petitions for quashing

Case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC). The HC bench comprising of

The six petitioners are BNP leader

Barrister Rafique-ul Huq,

and Barrister Abdur Razzaq argued for the petitioners. Following a petition filed by Mojahid, an HC bench on October 19 ordered him to surrender within two weeks before the trial court that had

earlier issued an arrest warrant

IEB to honour

pioneering

METRO DESK The award giving ceremony for the

at the IEB seminar hall in the city. Mahbub Jamil, special assistant against him in this case. The HC had also directed the government not to harass or arrest

On October 7, another HC bench

Mojahid within that period.

asked Saifur to appear before the trial court within four weeks. The court also directed the government not to harass or arrest him during this period. The main accused in the case former prime minister Khaleda Zia is

staying proceedings against her in ACC Assistant Director Shamsul Alam filed the case with Shahbagh Police Station on February 26 this

on bail. The Supreme Court on

October 29 upheld the HC order

3 wounded in gun attack on

cellphone shop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Two men sustained bullet injuries as armed extortionists spread bullets indiscriminately on them at a

cellphone shop at Ashkona in the city Police said three extortionists entered the Prince Cable Network and Phone-Fax shop at about 12.00 noon and spread bullets instantly, leaving customer Jasim Uddin, 25,

injured Jasim was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital while Mukta to Combined Military Hospital (CMH).

Police said Mukta was in front of

and pedestrian Mukta Mia, 65,

the shop when the gang came to the scene by a motorbike and opened Relatives of Jasim said he came to the capital from Chandpur yesterday morning and was scheduled to fly to

Abu Taher, a salesman of the shop,

told the correspondent at DMCH that

the same extortionists shot dead one of

Saudi Arabia at 4.00 pm on the day.

the owners of the shop barely three months ago, as their demand of extortion was not met. Dakkhin Khan police said no case

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Dry weather likely

tomorrow

Cox's Bazar

major cities and towns yesterday were:

UNB, Dhaka Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

country, Met Office said in a forecast. Highest temperature 33.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakundu and lowest 19.2 degrees Celsius at Jessore. The sun sets in the capital at 5:18pm today and rises at 6:06am

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some

City/Town Temperature in Humidity in Celsius percentage **Humidity** in Temperature in City/Town Celsius percentage Evening Morning Max Min 62 21.4 31.5 67 Dhaka 74 21.5 76 30.2 Chittagong 82 85 31.2 20.0 Rajshahi 21.8 72 71 32.0 Khulna 20.5 63 82 32.2 Barisal 66 79 21.2 31.3 Sylhet

22.0

32.5

64

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Abul Hasnat Chowdhury Hiru a second year student of Rajshahi Medical College, has been suffering from aplastic anaemia, a type of blood cancer, says a press release.

at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital. Doctors advised his parents to take him to Singapore immediately for bone marrow transplant, which involves around Tk 80 lakh. But it is

not possible for them to manage

So, they have appealed to gener-

such a huge amount of money.

He is now undergoing treatment

ous people to extend a helping hand to save their beloved son. Contributions can be sent to .Chowdhury Mohammad Afzal Hossain, A/C No. 002092837 Sonali Bank, Uttara Model Town Branch, Dhaka-1230, or Mohammad Abul Hasnat Chowdhury, A/C No. 11943, Sonali Bank, Rajshahi Medical College

Interested persons can also call at 01199100039 to contact his family.

Hospital Branch, Rajshahi.

But resolving the sea boundary Foreign ministry sources say

FROM PAGE 1

Bangladesh and sometimes even entering areas which could belong to Bangladesh. Myanmar discovered seven trillion cubic feet of gas in 2006 close to Bangladesh waters

cubic feet of gas and two billion barrels of oil.

their maritime regions. Geologists believe that the

Mannan, one of the writ petition-His counsel Nasiruddin Ahmed Asim told reporters that they

sion withdrew its petition with the

tion was scheduled to be heard cations of the appeal for the

Besides, he added, the petitioners have failed to prove that his

He said the bench noted that the writ petitions have something

stitutional restrictions on questioning the commission's actions court could still examine if the EC has delineated the constituency

it does not find the EC to have violated the constitution and laws

> tion finalising a list of parliamentary seats with district-wise

Alam, 30, of Dailypara village under Ukhya upazila went to collect woods from Amtali on the border on Friday. As they did not return home, relatives yesterday went to Walidong hill border in Naikhongchari in search of them. The residents informed about their killing by Nasaka. The bodies were taken away by the killers, said the locals.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

cantly in the international market.

plane fare. He further said this year the

gravevard at Mathbaria in

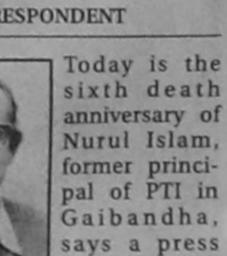
of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur cancer at Apollo Hospitals in the

daughter, grandchildren and a host of admirers to mourn his death. He was buried with state honour



a press release. On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at his residence (54/4, South



Today is the ninth death