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People's Right to Know

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Govt to pull out Office of graft troops soon

Relaxes emergency further to free polls campaign, media

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The caretaker government yesterday decided to start troops pullout from across the country immedi- of the EPR 2007. ately and relaxed emergency power rules (EPR) allowing political parties to hold meetings and rallies ahead of the parliamentary and upazila elections next month.

All political parties, excepting BNP-led four-party alliance, already started electioneering shortly after the Election Commission (EC) had announced detailed schedules of the two elections on Sunday night.

BNP leaders said they will make their official reaction to the EC announcement public tomorrow. The military backed caretaker

restrictions on the electronic and effect. print media for covering poll cam-

tary back to barracks and of relaxing the restrictions on political activities came a day after the EC had announced the poll schedules.

President Iajuddin Ahmed, also the supreme commander of the armed forces, 'approved a government proposal for withdrawal of the members of armed forces deployed across the country in aid of the civil administration', a top official of Bangabhaban said yes-

will begin, Home Adviser MA Matin

government also removed all told reporters, "With immediate

On December 9, 2006, the presipaigns, by revoking clauses 5 and 6 dent who also held the post of chief adviser simultaneously back then, The decision of taking the mili- ordered army deployment in aid of the civil administration to maintain law and order ahead of the stalled 9th general election, originally scheduled for January 22 last year.

 Home ministry sources yesterday said withdrawing the armed forces will start after the ministry issues a gazette notification in this

EPRRELAXED

A gazette notification issued yesterday relaxing restrictions on political activities says the govern-Asked when the troops pullout ment, with some conditions, is SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

ACC catches whole land

office staff with bribes EMRAN HOSSAIN

They ride on the gravy train. Money comes in from all direc-

They are paid by the government, and they are paid by those whose service they are at. All these are revelations

about the staff of Chikandondi land office under Hathazari upazila of Chittagong An Anti-Corruption

Commission (ACC) team vesterday went to the tin-roofed office to carry out a general inquiry against an official. But they found, to their surprise, how all staff down to the rank of peon are busy making quick bucks. How people suffer to get them to do the work they are salaried for.

The anti-graft men found bribes in pockets of all four land

officials and the peon stationed there. Sweetener was on the floors, on the tables and in a broken safe of the store room.

The officials admitted they give a part of the money to the AC land of Hathazari upazila through his assistant every month. Last month, they gave him Tk 24,000.

The ACC team seized over Tk 1.55 lakh that was taken as bribe vesterday alone.

"I think we could have found more of the ill money had we rummaged through the piles of papers there," Zulfikar Ali Majumder, supervisor of the ACC drive, told The Daily Star last night.

"We found bundles of wads in everyone's pocket. Interestingly, they did not yet draw the month's salary."

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Hasina returns November 6

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina, now in USA for treatment, might return home on November 6, four days ahead of her scheduled arrival to the country.

Hasina brought forward the timetable of her arrival following continuous requests by her party's central leaders after the announcement of the schedule for the SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

MONEY-LAUNDERING

Trust Bank bins charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

no scope for the bank chairman to launder its money, in response to allegations made by former energy adviser Mahmudur Rahman against Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman Lt Gen (retd) Hasan Mashhud | had a seven-hour closed-door University. The chemistry depart-Chowdhury.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Chinese milk tested melamine positive

Govt clears 5 other brands; confusion persists as BAEC results not disclosed; DU sticks to its test results

STAR REPORT

home and abroad found toxic Dhaka. melamine in three brands of 1, Yashili-2 and Sweet Baby-2.

did not disclose the findings of tests done by the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC).

Trust Bank yesterday said there is | department of Dhaka University still sticks to its findings, saying melamine was found in all eight scare the Bangladesh Standards brands including Dano, Diploma, Red Cow, Anlene and Nido fortified eight samples of five popular

meeting on Sunday after receiving ment of the university said all eight test reports from the Bureau of

Quality and Safety of Food in Bangkok, the Bangladesh Council The government yesterday dis- for Scientific and Industrial closed that new lab tests done at Research (BCSIR) and the BAEC in

But the committee did not Chinese powdered milk -- Yashili- disclose the test results and said yesterday melamine was not found But confusions still persist as it in Dano, Diploma, Red Cow, Anlene and Nido fortified instant.

A source presented in the meeting said there was no signature of Meanwhile, the chemistry any BCSIR analysts on their report presented at the meeting.

After the worldwide melamine and Testing Institution (BSTI) sent brands and three Chinese brands A12-member expert committee of powdered milk to Dhaka

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Jamaat gets poll pass

EC shifts into full election gear, completes party registration by November 10

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami and about two dozen other parties will be registered as parliamentary political parties to contest in the December 18 general election, confirmed the Election Commission (EC) offi-

Meanwhile, the commission yesterday started election preparation activities in full swing as it sent nomination forms throughout the

SSF takes over

2 ex-PMs'

security

country and appointed returning officers (RO) and assistant returning officers (ARO).

The commission decided to register Jamaat despite a slew of official objections to the Islamist party's registration accusing it of war crimes including genocide and

The EC held a hearing on Saturday on the objections lodged by different citizens' and freedom fighters' groups, where no repre-

sentative of the party was present on an official plea of 'not wanting an unpleasant situation to occur'.

Instead of rescheduling a full hearing the EC yesterday accepted a written statement of Jamaat. "The commission has got the statement of Jamaat regarding the objections and there is no need of a

formal hearing on the matter," Commissioner M Sakhawat Hussain told The Daily Staryesterday.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Change in the air as US goes to vote today

gave the Democrat a solid lead over his Republican rival John McCain on the last day of campaigning for today's most dramatic US presidential vote in a generation.

for error in the tense battle for a handful of toss-up states, vowed to confound the pollsters and wrench victory from the African-American's grasp on Tuesday.

on McCain.

upset over Barack Obama.



Monday, arguing that victory was virtually at hand despite national polls showing otherwise.

"My friends, it's official: There's just one day left until we take America in a new direction," the ceed President Bush told a raucous, heavily Hispanic rally in Miami just

Obama, comfortably ahead in The presidential candidates are national polls, was getting a later start with a rally in Jacksonville at midday and a swing through long-

his Democratic Party this time. "I feel pretty peaceful," Obama said on the "Russ Parr Morning Show.'

wants it more," he added. "And I hope that our supporters want it bad, because I think the country needsit."

It has been the longest and most expensive presidential contest ever featuring for the first time an African-American as a major party standardbearer.

pleased him about the nearly 2year-long contest, Obama cited attacks launched by Republicans "There's a Republican or right

wing media outlet ... that went after my wife for awhile in a way that I thought was just completely out of bounds," Obama said on CBS's "The Early Show."

"I would have never considered thing comparable to the spouse of SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Talking polls and beyond

No more caretaker government system

Observes LDP President Oli Ahmed

SURANJITH DEABNATH and WASIM BIN HABIB

papers in the (ballot) boxes if candidates and presiding officials have understanding decision on holding the next between them," said Oli in an Daily Star.

suggests that the caretaker gov-

sures to ensure mandatory presentation of voters' ID cards at all polling centres, and recording their numbers so that no candidate and political party can reject the election

ernment take mea-

Oli also proposed the government should launch a special drive to recover arms and arrest criminals at least 15 days before

Protesting the government exclusive interview with The state of emergency, the LDP chief

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Find details of the interview on page 11

UNB, Dhaka The government has provided SSF security for two former prime ministers--Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina--asVVIPs. Awami League (AL) sources said

security of Sheikh Hasina's residence, Sudha Sadan, at Dhanmondi in the capital on Sunday night.

members of the Special Security

Force (SSF) took the charge of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4 | which intruded into Bangladesh's

EXPLORATION IN BANGLADESH WATERS

Myanmar defies warnings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday decided to send the foreign secretary to Myanmar tomorrow as Myanmar continues to ignore Bangladesh's Thann Oo at the foreign ministry warnings against trespassing.

Hydrocarbon exploration vessels and two warships of Myanmar,

territorial waters Saturday, are yet

to be withdrawn. Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury summoned Myanmar Ambassador to Dhaka U Phae yesterday afternoon and conveyed

the government's decision. The foreign ministry also called SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

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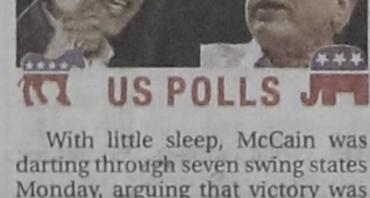
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But McCain, who has no room

The 47-year-old Democrat stressed the historic nature of his quest to be America's first black president, striking an optimistic tone as fresh polls gave him a wide lead and heaped further pressure

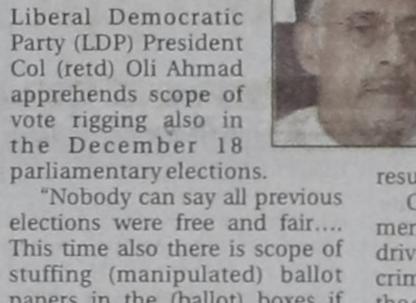
capping a history-making campaign with a dash from Florida through a half-dozen other crucial states as John McCain tries for an



after midnight.



time GOP bastions that might go to or expected my allies to do some-



the election.

parliamentary election under the noted that national elections are The veteran freedom fighter held across the country, and not



গরীব-ই-নেওয়াজ শাখা: প্লট-১, সেক্টর-১১, উত্তরা, ঢাকা।

त्यानः ०५१०० ७५२८५०, ०५१७० ७५२८५१

আমাদের ৬৬তম শাখা

याज ७७ ता रा

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