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NOMINATION EC receiving appeals against cancellation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliamentary aspirants whose nominations have been cancelled through scrutiny started filing appeals with the Election Commission (EC) yesterday.

The EC started accepting appeals a day before the schedule and it will continue until December 7. Hearing on the appeals begins tomorrow.

In the meantime, Kazi Faruk Ahmed of Khulna-2 constituency, Fakir Ashraf of Netrakona-2, Mohammad Ali Sarker of Rangpur-2 and Abdur Rauf of Nilphamari-1 have filed their appeals with the EC against cancellation of their nominations for defaulting on bank loans.

Sharfuddin Ahmed Jhantu of Rangpur-1 constituency has filed his appeal against cancellation of his nomination for non-payment of utility bill.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

BSF prepares special teams for borders

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA,
from New Delhi

In the wake of terror attacks in Mumbai, Indian Border Security Force (BSF) has started raising special combat teams at every border outpost along the frontier with Bangladesh.

Every border outpost will have a specially-trained commando team equipped with sophisticated weapons and vehicles to counter militants' intrusions, a senior BSF official said.

He said the commando team would take less than an hour to respond to any emergency situation.

The official said the riverine routes in Assam and Meghalaya need to be monitored strictly to check movement of militants across the border.

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Pakistan vows to act on Mumbai elements

Three major Indian airports on alert amid new warnings

AP, AFP, Mumbai

Airports in India went on high alert yesterday following fresh attack warnings as officials said India suspects two senior leaders of a banned Pakistani militant group orchestrated the deadly Mumbai attacks.

The alert comes as Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari promised the visiting US secretary of state his country would take "strong action" against any elements in his country involved in the siege.

Zardari told the top US diplomat, on a light-

ning visit to Islamabad, he was determined that Pakistan would not be used to orchestrate attacks or shelter terrorists such as those who committed last week's outrage.

"The government will not only assist in investigation but also take strong action against any Pakistani elements found involved in the attack," said Zardari in an official statement issued after he met with Rice.

The White House on Thursday called on Pakistan to "act with resolve, urgency" in cooperating with India on the probe into attacks in

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Mohiuddin continues as Ctg mayor

HC stays govt order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday stayed for three months the government's order, which barred ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury from functioning as mayor of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) and

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Prayer Timing		
December 5		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-15	5-50
Juma	12-15	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-19	5-22
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Bangladesh riskiest on global climate index

PINAKI ROY from Poznan, Poland

Bangladesh is on top of the global climate risk index as the country was most affected by extreme weather events cyclone Sidr and floods in 2007.

International NGO Germanwatch has prepared the index of 170 countries styled Global Climate Risk Index 2009 and released it yesterday at the conference centre of UN climate change summit in Poznan, Poland.

Bangladesh is on top with climate risk index (CRI) score 3.00, while North Korea got the second position with 10.33 and Nicaragua third with 12.25.

Bangladesh tops the position with a death toll of 4,729 last year due to natural calamities with an additional absolute loss of property worth more than \$10 billion.

Pakistan is another country from South Asia that is also among the top 10 countries with the fifth score of 13.17.

Speaking at the index release presentation, Sven Harmeling, senior adviser for climate and development of

THE RISKY 10

Ranking 2007	Country
1	Bangladesh
2	Korea DPR
3	Nicaragua
4	Oman
5	Pakistan
6	Bolivia
7	Papua New Guinea
8	Viet Nam
9	Greece
10	Tajikistan

Germanwatch and author of the report, said: "Bangladesh, despite last year's impacts, is also one of the outstanding examples of countries, which have invested significantly and effectively in developing disaster reduction and adaptation strategies."

Harmeling also praised the adaptation strategy of Bangladesh and told The Daily Star the recent 'Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan' of Bangladesh can serve as a model for many other countries and deserves support of international community.

Based on the information of NatCat service of Munich, Germany and from the government of Bangladesh, they prepared the index taking into account the indicators of total number of deaths, deaths per 100,000 inhabitants, absolute losses in million purchasing power parities and losses per unit gross domestic production (GDP).

Among the top ten nations Oman got fourth position, Bolivia sixth, Papua New Guinea, seventh, Vietnam eighth, Greece

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PHOTO: STAR

Firefighters and locals put out the fire that burnt several buildings at Islambagh in the capital yesterday. (Story on page 1)

Discard corrupt politicians

Voters asked at anti-graft rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at an anti-corruption rally here yesterday urged the people to discard corrupt politicians in the next parliamentary polls for building a corruption-free country.

"The rally should be resonate with a pledge of electing honest candidates in the upcoming election," said Shushashoner Janney Nagorik (Shujan) President Prof Muzaffer Ahmad while releasing balloons at the rally in front of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

A procession from the rally, organised in observance of the International Anti-corruption Day yesterday, began from the parliament building and ended in front of Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre with the slogan "Wake up people, wake up to prevent corruption".

"We had hoped that the authorities concerned would take effective measures against corrupt politicians regarding their participation in the election but the expectation was not fulfilled. It is the people who themselves can prevent corrupt politicians in the election," added Mozaffer.

Primary and Mass Education Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury and Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Lt Gen (ret'd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury also addressed the rally.

"Preventing corrupt politicians in the election would be the best way to pay tribute to the martyred freedom fighters who laid down their lives for a better future freed from all kinds of exploitation," said Adviser Rasheda.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Fema denied polls observer status for link to politics

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) has refused to allow Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (Fema) to monitor December 29 parliamentary election as its chief is linked to a political party.

The commission however rejected objections raised against 21 other non-government organisations (NGOs) which applied to the EC seeking permission to monitor the election.

Explaining its decision regarding Fema, the EC said yesterday chief of that organisation Feroz M Hasan played an active role in forming Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) last year, and he was its joint secretary general, according to EC officials.

In June last year, Feroz resigned from the LDP and was elected chief of Fema, which monitored elections since 1996.

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Abbas, Babar, Salim freed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former BNP minister Mirza Abbas, former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar and ex-BNP lawmaker MAH Salim were released yesterday on High Court bail.

"They were released in the afternoon after securing bail from the High Court," Inspector General of Prisons Brig Gen Zakir Hassan told The Daily Star.

Former housing and public works minister Mirza Abbas, arrested on February 25 last year, was released from the Dhaka Central Jail at about 6:30pm after spending over 21 months in jail.

Abbas, accused in at least 10 cases on various charges including extortion, murder, and tax evasion, had been sentenced to nine years' imprisonment in a graft case.

His wife Afroza Abbas was

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

CORRUPTION ACC okays charge sheets against Siraj, Mamun

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday approved submission of three proposed charge sheets against 10 people, including former environment and forest minister Shahjahan Siraj, his son Rajib Siraj and businessman Giasuddin Al Mamun, on different charges.

Meanwhile, Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) ministry has formed a monitoring cell to curb corruption in the ministry and different departments under the ministry following the recommendation of ACC.

Speaking at a routine press briefing at the ACC headquarters, ACC Director General (Admin) Col Hanif Iqbal disclosed it to media.

Shahjahan Siraj, Rajib Siraj and Giasuddin Al Mamun, friend of Tarique Rahman, along with three others will be made accused in the same charge sheet on charge of leasing 10.75 acres of government land in Bhawal national park illegally for individual use.

The ACC will submit another charge sheet against ward commissioner Salim Ullah Salu on charges of amassing wealth worth Tk 88.87 lakh illegally and concealing information of wealth worth Tk 5.33 lakh from the commission.

Meanwhile, the commission also approved filing of six cases against nine people, including former lawmaker Moshir Rahman, on charges of concealing information of wealth from the commission and amassing wealth beyond known sources of income.

Moshir will be accused for accumulating wealth worth

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Body formed to constitute Information Commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has formed a three-member selection committee, headed by Supreme Court Judge Mohammad Abdul Matin, for constituting the Information Commission, a body to oversee enforcement of right to information.

Justice Matin is the chairman of the committee while Cabinet Secretary Md Abdul

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PHOTO: STAR

Rab personnel and a magistrate, right, arrested fake doctors of Mohanagar Medical Services in Mohammadpur yesterday. The person, second from left, is a co-owner of the hospital and the only doctor there.

Hospital of imposters

Rab raid reveals fake doctors, dangerous medical service
SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Everybody knew him as Dr Shakil Ahmed until Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday found out that he did not even pass the SSC examination.

Shakil treated patients at Mohanagar Medical Services in Mohammadpur in the capital as a doctor in medicine for one year.

He was not the only fake doctor there. Another person known as Dr Atiar Rahman never studied medicine but used to treat patients.

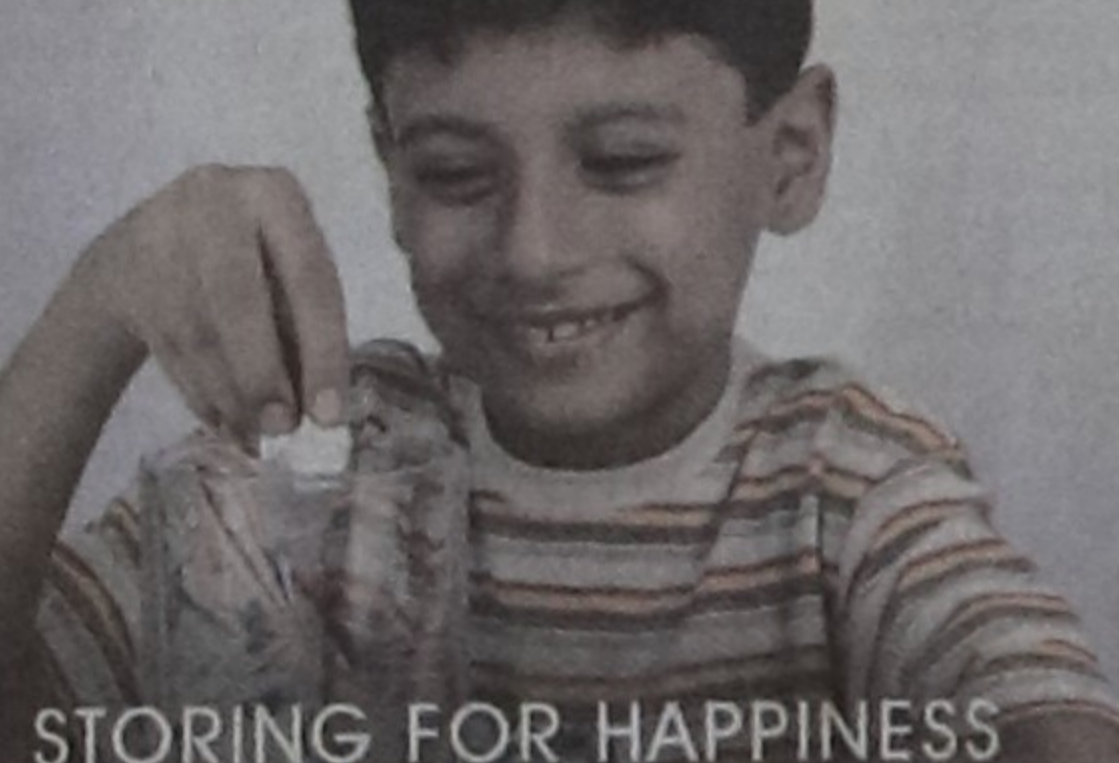
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