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Polls fever too intense

ARUN DEBNATH for Star Online

Walk down any road in the capital — quiet or busy — and you can feel the tide of emotions over the year-end elections runs deep.

On a Dhaka morning, dulled by winter, one thing emerges urgent for a nation that is in love with politics: election campaigns.

As time is running out fast for the campaigners, hundreds of thousands of people in different groups find themselves on the campaign trail. They ratchet up house-to-house visits, seeking vote for their candidates.

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Foreigner spilled the beans

Afraid of safety, he detailed in Singapore Koko's bribery scam

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and MD HASAN

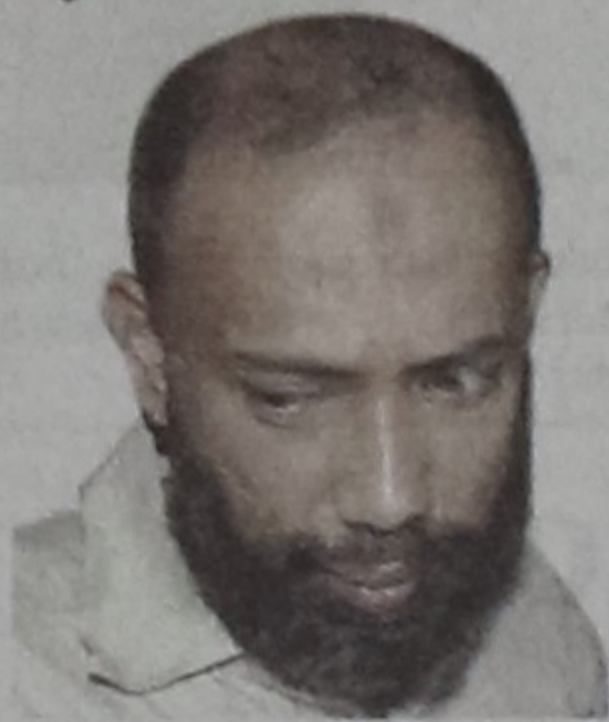
A foreign national volunteered the information the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) needed to get at bribery involving BNP Chief Khaleda Zia's younger son Arafat Rahman Koko, said ACC sources.

In a five-page statement, he said he would aid the anti-graft body in its probe on condition that his identity would be kept secret and safety ensured.

Introducing himself as "a chartered secretary...married with two children", he also said he would not come to Bangladesh to testify against anyone for fear of reprisal.

On this understanding, the ACC sent an official to

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Koko not alone

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four others including former shipping minister and late BNP leader Akbar Hossain's son Ismail Hossain Simon are likely to be charged along with Arafat Rahman Koko in the

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SIEMENS SCAM IN INTERNATIONAL MEDIA

BNP lambasts ACC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday termed freezing of Arafat Rahman Koko's bank account by the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) as 'motivated' and said the government watchdog's move ahead of the national poll went against the electoral laws and the interest of the party.

The party urged the Election Commission to take steps against the ACC move.

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It's legally verified

Affirms ACC chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lt Gen (retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury yesterday reaffirmed that the allegation against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's son Arafat Rahman Koko of laundering about Tk 12 crore is authentic, legally recognised and confirmed by the Singapore Attorney General's Office.

Shooting down the idea that the allegation is motivated and false, the anti-corruption watchdog chief said they have published the information upon confirmation by legal experts about taking the matter to the court.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

No waving at crowds

Hasina warned over security

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcement agencies yesterday suggested that Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina should not wave at crowds as she gets on her vehicle during election campaign tours.

They say that her waving encourages the crowd to wave back and this puts security

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Vote for 4-party to save Islam

Khaleda tells Sylhet rallies

STAR REPORT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday urged voters to 'save Islam and the country' by voting for BNP-led four-party alliance nominees in the December 29 parliamentary election.

During her second round of electioneering in Sylhet, the former premier also

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Siemens scam

INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, Munich

Reinhard Siekaczek was half asleep in bed when his doorbell rang early one morning two years ago.

Still in his pajamas, he peeked out his bedroom window, hurried downstairs and opened the front door. Standing before him in the cool, crisp dark were six German police officers and a prosecutor. They held a warrant for his arrest.

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TRYING POLL OFFENCES

SC directive ignored

Govt engages 319 executive magistrates; EC seeks appointment of judicial ones

SHAKHAWAT LITON

In a surprise move, the establishment ministry yesterday appointed 319 executive magistrates authorising them to try electoral offences ignoring the Supreme Court (SC) directives for engaging judicial magistrates to do the job.

The ministry sent a letter to the Election Commission (EC) that said 319 officials of

administration cadre were appointed executive magistrates, and were vested with the authority to run mobile courts, EC sources said. The ministry, which was notified of the SC order, came up with the appointments just a day after the EC decided to ask the SC to engage judicial magistrates for trial of electoral offences in the December 29 parliamentary polls.

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Fuel made a little cheaper

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The prices of petroleum products were lowered yesterday to help farmers before the boro season, said chief adviser's special assistant Dr M Tamim.

The prices of kerosene and diesel were reduced by Tk 2 per litre while petrol by Tk 4 and octane by Tk 3 a litre, said Tamim, also in-charge of the power, energy and mineral resources ministry, while talking to The Daily Star.

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নকিয়া ১৬৮০ ক্যামেরা ফোনের সাথে ৩০০ টাকার টকটাইম ফ্রি!

ছবি তুলুন প্রাণ খুলে, শেয়ার করুন ইন্টারনেটে, ব্যবহার করুন সহজেই বাংলা ইন্টারফেস-এর সাথে আর রসিক ডিসপ্লে দিয়ে আপনার জীবন করে তুলুন আর একটু রসিক।

সবকিছুই মাত্র ৩৮৫০ টাকায়।

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নকিয়া ১৬৮০

- টকটাইম উপভোগ করার জন্য আপনার মোবাইলের IMEI নম্বরটি লিখে পাঠিয়ে দিন ৫২৫৫-এ
- IMEI নম্বর জানতে টাইপ করুন *#০৬#
- গ্রামী ফোন, বালোলিক, একটেল এবং টেলিটক-এর ক্ষেত্রে প্রযোজ্য

সর্বস্বত্ব সংরক্ষিত।

ফোনের সময় শ্যাকটে সিল অব রেজিস্ট্রেশন দেখে দিন, যা নিশ্চিত করে নকিয়ার আসল ওয়ারেন্টি এক পিসের বাস্তব অনুভবসিদ্ধ, স্বচ্ছ, বিচারসিদ্ধ এবং টেম্পারত ফোন কোর থেকে। শুধুমাত্র অনুমোদিত ডিস্ট্রিবিউটরদের কাছ থেকেই ফোনের ওপর ওয়ারেন্টি প্রযোজ্য হবে।

EC to blacklist observers if found biased

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) will blacklist election observers if any of them are found biased towards any particular political party during polls monitoring, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda yesterday said.

Terming the upcoming polls "different from previous elections", the CEC said fresh

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Media can use info from result sheets hung at polling centres

UNB, Dhaka

Authentic results of the December 29 national elections from the polling centers can be published in the media, Election Commission Secretary Humayun Kabir told journalists yesterday.

He informed that there would be 35,217 polling centers across the country for voting in the crucial general election.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Unwrapping Another Commitment...

With the determination to provide people with modern banking services, National Bank is opening its 106th branch in Banani, Dhaka on 23rd December, 2008

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সাফল্য ও অগ্রগতির ৫০ বর্ষ পদার্থে পূর্বালী ব্যাংকে যোগ হলো আরো একটি মাইল ফলক...

বন্দর নগরী চট্টগ্রামের হালিশহরে পূর্বালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড-এর

হালিশহর শাখা
১৬৩৬, পিসি রোড, নতুন বাজার (২য় তলা)
বিশ্বরোড মোড়, মাধ্যম রাসপুর
হালিশহর, চট্টগ্রাম

শীঘ্রই আরও ৬টি নতুন শাখা খোলা হচ্ছে

- কুড়িল বিশ্বরোড, ঢাকা
- আটি বাজার, কেরানীগঞ্জ
- টেরো বাজার, মৌলভীবাজার
- রায়পুর, লক্ষীপুর
- দাগন ভূইয়া, ফেনী
- চকরিয়া, কক্সবাজার

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আধুনিক ব্যাংকিং সেবার অগ্রযাত্রায় অচিরেই শুরু হচ্ছে অন-শাইন ব্যাংকিং
সকল শাখাই কম্পিউটারাইজড

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