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Many landmark laws among ordinances

117 left to be ratified in JS

JULEFIKAR ALI MANIK

The caretaker administration led by Fakhruddin Ahmed has handed over power to the Awami League-led government along with the fate of at least 114 ordinances to be decided about in the first 30 days in parliament.

The political government also has to decide about three more ordinances promulgated by President Iajuddin Ahmed-led caretaker government in 2006.

The law ministry has already initiated steps so that the government can complete the huge task within the stipulated time, ministry sources say.

The sources add proposals of two more ordinances -- Local Government (Union Council Amendment) Ordinance and Educational Institution Governing Body Ordinance -- await the president's approval for promulgation.

After declaration of the state of emergency on January 11, 2007 Emergency Power Rules (EPR) was promulgated the next day. Later, more ordinances were promulgated to amend and repeal the EPR.

As the main challenge of the caretaker administration was to hold a free and fair national election, six ordinances were promulgated only regarding the Election Commission (EC).

Of the six, the Electoral Rolls Ordinance (ERO), 2007 enabled EC to formulate a unique voter list with photographs for the polls.

While formulating the electoral roll, national ID cards were also formulated for the voters. The whole arrangements drew widespread appreciation from the people irrespective of political identity, belief and opinion.

The ninth parliamentary election scheduled for January 22, 2007 was postponed in the wake of protest by AL and its allies over several issues including a flawed voter list prepared by Justice MA Aziz-led EC.

To let EC work independently and create a congenial atmosphere for the polls, the caretaker government also promulgated ordinances like Election Commission Secretariat Ordinance and Representation of People (Amendment) Ordinance (RPO).

The caretaker government amended RPO three times for electoral reforms. Overall, it promulgated 42 ordinances in 2007 and 72 in 2008.

Ordinances regarding the RPO have brought the political parties in Bangladesh under registration process for the first time. The ordinances also include a provision barring war criminals from contesting polls. But this provision can't be applied unless the war criminals

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Sri Lanka takes Test series

Tigers succumb to record loss

BISHWAJIT ROY in Chittagong

Bangladesh's sordid record book was rewritten when they suffered their biggest margin of defeat by runs on the fourth day of the second and final Test at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

Tillakaratne Dilshan fashioned the massive 465-run victory, the fifth highest margin of victory ever in Test cricket, as Sri Lanka clinched the series 2-0 after their 107-run win in the first Test in Dhaka.

As the fourth Sri Lankan, the right-handed Dilshan smashed hundreds in each innings (162 and 143) and claimed four wickets in the final session of the fourth day with his effective spin to make sure that Bangladesh swallow their heaviest defeat ever.

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Voters set 5 priority agenda for govt

Inflation, graft, crime, food security, education must get topmost importance, reveal IRI exit polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

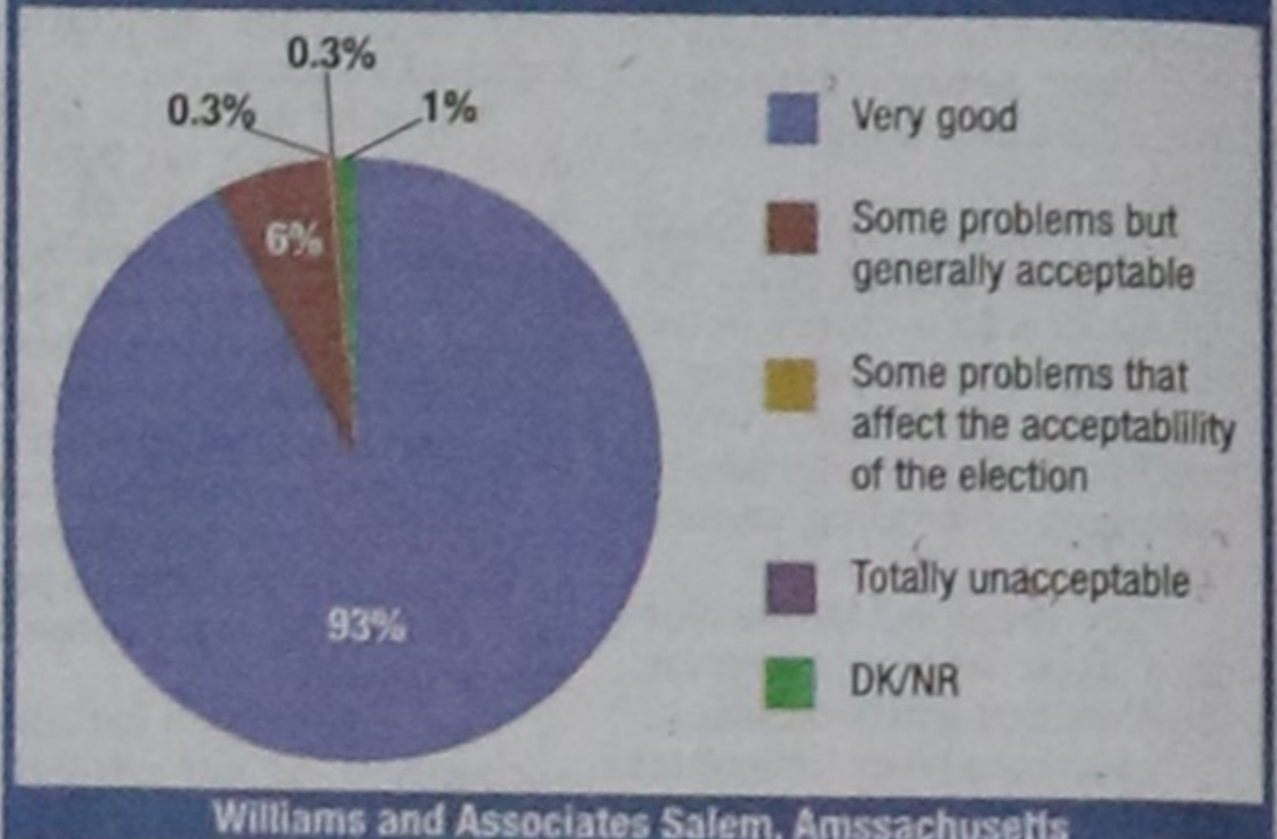
When voters had cast their votes in the just-ended general elections, the five top things that they wanted the next government to address are inflation, corruption, crime and law and order, food security and education, an International Republican Institute (IRI) exit poll shows.

An exit poll is a poll of voters taken immediately after they have exited polling stations.

A highest number of 27 percent said they want the

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OVERALL, HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE ELECTION ENVIRONMENT?



5 milk brands tested safe in German lab

Reveal melamine test reports placed to HC

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Test reports from a Germany laboratory say popular powdered milk brands Dano, Red Cow, Diploma, Nido and Anlene do not contain melamine exceeding 0.1 parts per million (ppm).

The World Health Organisation (WHO), which collected the test reports from Germany, says powdered milk containing melamine below 0.1 ppm is not harmful for child health.

The WHO recommendation attached to the test reports submitted to the High Court (HC) also says melamine residual level in baby formula should not exceed 1 ppm.

Reports of latest tests on these brands conducted by Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) and Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institute (BSTI), which were also submitted to the HC, revealed almost the same opinion, sources said.

Earlier, Dhaka University's chemistry department detected melamine in eight brands of powdered milk--these five and Yashili-1, Yashili-2 and Sweet Baby-2. The BAEC detected the toxic element in seven except Red Cow while BSTI detected it only in Chinese brand Yashili-1.

The US Food and Drug Administration said on October 3 last year that up to 2.5 ppm melamine is safe for adults. It, however, did not set a standard for children.

Today the HC will pass its order on the writ petition for court's directive regarding display and sale of the powdered milk brands allegedly containing harmful melamine.

Hearing both sides, a division bench comprised of justices Mahmud Hossain and Quamrul Islam Siddiqui fixed the date for passing order.

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BANDARBAN

2,000 sued, 23 held for rubber garden unrest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

After the death of a police constable during a clash between workers and police on Monday at Baishari in Naikkhongchari in Bandarban, police arrested 23 persons and lodged cases against another two thousand on charge of murder and creating unrest.

Names of 63 persons were mentioned in the cases while the other 2000 were unidentified.

In the face of mass arrest people especially men left Baishari and adjoining areas giving it almost a desert look.

Of those arrested at

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



Government cars wait on Abdul Gani Road yesterday to take members of the new cabinet to the oath-taking ceremony at Bangabhaban.

SWECHCHHASEBAK LEADER

Business feud led to murder
Say intelligence officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Swechchhasebak Dal leader Nazrul Islam, who was murdered in the city's Bijoy Nagar Monday afternoon, was killed following a feud over a market association in Bijoy Nagar, police and intelligence sources said.

Mazeda Begum, wife of the deceased, filed a case with Shahbagh Police Station Monday night accusing 10 people including eight members of Swechchhasebak Dal and Jubo Dal and two of Jubo League.

The case was shifted to

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Troops seize key LTTE defence line

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lankan government troops yesterday captured a key Tamil Tiger defence line on the Jaffna peninsula, killing scores of rebels, the defence ministry said.

A statement said the rebels were "in total disarray following concentrated armour and infantry assaults backed by heavy artillery attacks."

It said government troops pushing south from the top of the peninsula were able to advance 500 metres (yards) into Tamil Tiger territory after breaching the line -- which featured some of the toughest rebel fortifications.

There was no immediate

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ACC sues Gayeshwar for Tk 2cr extortion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed a case against former state minister and BNP joint secretary general Gayeshwar Chandra Roy on charges of extorting Tk 2.61 crore and concealing information of his wealth worth Tk 25.95 lakh from the commission.

In the case filed with Ramna Police Station, ACC deputy director SM Mofidul Islam alleged that Gayeshwar extorted Tk 1.94 crore from the managing director (MD) of M/s Abdul Monem Ltd in 2004 during the rule of BNP-Jamaat

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4



PHOTO: STAR

Parents throng the gate of Ideal High School and College at Motijheel to collect their children yesterday at the end of the admission tests for Class 1 at the school.

OVERSEAS LABOUR MARKET

Global meltdown puts govt on a tightrope

PORIMOL PALMA

The new government faces strong challenges to maintain the existing labour markets already showing a downturn due to the global financial crisis despite increase in overseas employment and remittance over the last two years.

The remittance sent by expatriate workers was around US\$ 9 billion last year, up from US\$ 6.55 billion in 2007, while around 8.75 lakh new workers have joined overseas jobs in 2008 and 8.32 lakh in 2007.

"The increase in employment abroad was mainly because Malaysia hired over four lakh workers and the UAE over five lakh workers over the last two years," a high official at the ministry of expatriates' welfare and overseas

employment said.

Right now though, Malaysia's recruitment quota is nearing its end while many job cuts are being apprehended due to the slowdown or halt of projects in the Middle East, Singapore and Malaysia, he pointed out.

He said, "We will be faced with a huge problem if a large number of jobs are terminated and these workers are forced to return home in bulk."

Experts concerned say the new government should immediately take up the issue and, if needed, try to arrange alternative jobs.

"Bangladesh missions abroad might be able to persuade employers to not terminate all the workers at present," said Ghulam Mustafa,

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Mumbai attacks backed by official Pak agencies

Alleged Indian PM; Islamabad says proof not credible

AFP, PTI, New Delhi/ Islamabad

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh yesterday said the Mumbai attacks had the support of "some official agencies" in Pakistan, in his strongest accusation yet against the neighbouring country.

The premier also accused Islamabad of using terrorism as an "instrument of state policy" and said Pakistan had in the past also "encouraged and given sanctuary" to militants hostile to India.

"There is enough evidence to show that given the sophistication and military precision of the Mumbai attacks, it must have had the support of some official agencies in Pakistan," Singh told a conference in New Delhi.

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Mohiuddin gets SC nod to his mayoral charge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) chamber judge yesterday upheld a High Court (HC) directive staying a government order, which barred ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury

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Prayer Timing		
January 7		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-30	5-35
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স সংক্রান্ত বিআরটিএ'র জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, পবিত্র আশুরা (মহররম) উপলক্ষে আগামী ০৮ জানুয়ারি, ২০০৯ খ্রিঃ তারিখ সরকারি ছুটি ঘোষিত হওয়ায় বিআরটিএ, ঢাকা সার্কেল (উত্তর), মিরপুর-১৩, ঢাকার উক্ত তারিখের নির্ধারিত ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্সের পরীক্ষাসমূহ আগামী ১৫ জানুয়ারি, ২০০৯ খ্রিঃ তারিখে পূর্ব নির্ধারিত স্থান বিআরটিএ, ঢাকা সার্কেল (দক্ষিণ), ইকুরিয়া, কেরানীগঞ্জ, ঢাকায় অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। উল্লেখ্য যে, পরীক্ষার সময়সূচির কোন পরিবর্তন হবে না। সম্মানিত পরীক্ষার্থীদেরকে উক্ত পরীক্ষায় যথা সময়ে উপস্থিত থাকার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

শফিকুজ্জামান ভূঞা

সহকারী পরিচালক (ইঞ্জিঃ)

বিআরটিএ, ঢাকা সার্কেল (উত্তর)

জিডি-৭৮