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JS body sees food stock satisfactory

Work starts to build 141 warehouses in northern region

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary committee yesterday expressed satisfaction over the present food stock situation to ensure food security in Bangladesh.

But the parliamentary standing committee on food and disaster management ministry observed that the number of food godowns is not satisfactory.

In this backdrop, the food ministry officials informed the meeting that it has started to establish 141 godowns mostly in northern belt of the country with the capacity of stocking seven lakh tonnes of food grains.

The parliamentary watchdog body in a major development said result of written

examination to appoint 1,090 food inspectors under the food directorate will be published next week to complete the appointment process by December.

There is a stock of about 13 lakh tonnes rice and wheat in the godowns across the country and this is a good position as well, Muhammed Sayedul Hoque, chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting held in the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

He said the country has a capacity of preserving maximum 15 tonnes of food grains in the godowns that is not a sufficient in quantities. So, the ministry has already taken steps to establish more 141 godowns, Hoque, also a ruling Awami League lawmaker, said.

Of the 141 godowns, 139 will be established in the northern region at a cost of Tk 250 crore while one warehouse with jetty facility at Mongla of Khulna and another at Santahar of Naogaon district, the committee chief said.

On the food stock situation, Hoque told reporters that there are about 11.5 lakh tonnes of rice and 1.5 lakh tonnes of wheat available in the godowns and this situation is satisfactory. "We need a minimum stock of more seven lakh tonnes of food grains," he added.

On publishing the result of written examination to recruit food inspectors, Sayedul Hoque said, "Though the process had started during the past BNP-Jamaat-

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina joins the inaugural ceremony of European Development Days at the Victoria Hall in Stockholm yesterday.

German help in river dredging pledged

UNB, Dhaka

Germany will provide all sorts of assistance for capital dredging of the silted rivers in Bangladesh, as the government has undertaken a massive plan for redeeming the dying rivers.

The assurance came when German Ambassador Holger Wilfried Michael called on Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen at his office yesterday.

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Sand traders defy N'ganj admin order

Sand, stones piled up on Shitalakhyia bank

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Though the district administration ordered to remove sand and stones stored under the Kanchpur Bridge on Shitalakhyia River at Siddhirganj within two days, the traders have not removed them yet.

The district administration and BIWTA planted sticks and flew red flags demarcating the river boundary but the river grabbers uprooted and replanted them 10 to 12 feet inside from the riverbank.

The traders continued to load and unload the goods carried by different ships in the area even yesterday. Only a

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Make JS functional EU urges govt, opposition

UNB, Dhaka

Head of the European Commission Delegation to Bangladesh Stefan Frowein observed that the present Bangladesh parliament is not functioning the best way possible as the opposition is not participating in debates on national development issues.

The envoy encouraged both the ruling and the opposition sides to make the parliament functional by ending their current standoff.

"We're observing the political life here as part of our job and trying to understand what is happening... We were involved in the preparation for the elections through making voter lists with photos that led to free, fair and internationally accepted elections," he told UNB on the eve of the European Development Days as well as visit of a European Union (EU) parliament delegation to Dhaka.

Frowein said it is important for young and old democracies to

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Muggers shot salesman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Muggers shot a salesman in broad daylight and snatched over Tk 4 lakh from his possession on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Shimrail intersection of Siddhirganj in Narayanganj yesterday.

Identified as Milon Patwari, 32, the victim is a salesman of Lutfur Enterprise at Tarabo of Rupganj upazila in the district. He was rushed to a local clinic in the area.

Witnesses said a gang of five to six snatchers on three

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BNP moving fast towards council

12 subcommittees formed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition BNP has formed 12 subcommittees as part of its preparation for holding national council slated for December 8.

The party high-ups have decided to form a committee soon to supervise the ongoing process of forming committees through council across the country.

They believe it would help complete the party reorganisation process by November 25, set by the standing committee.

Party insiders said central leaders would attend the councils in thana, upazila and districts. The district convening committees concerned will finalise the date for holding councils of all units.

"All problems regarding district convening committee will be solved within a day or two," a senior BNP leader told The Daily Star wishing anonymity.

Party insiders said BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, in a bid to avoid internal conflicts,

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BASHUNDHARA GROUP Former staff refutes arson charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former senior executive director (HR and admin) of Bashundhara Group Col (ret'd) Ahsanullah in a statement on Monday protested the arson allegation brought against him in the general diary (GD) filed by the group on October 14.

In the GD filed with Tejgaon Police Station Bashundhara Group said accused number six (Col Ahsanullah) was

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PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAO

The wreckage of the Bangladesh Air Force training aircraft after it crashed at an airport in Arulia of Bogra yesterday.

BAF training plane crashes in Bogra

Pilots safe

STAR REPORT

A training aircraft of Bangladesh Air Force crashed while landing at a local airport at Arulia in Bogra sadar upazila yesterday.

The injured pilots, squadron leaders Jamal Uddin Ahmed and AAMM Shamsujjahan, were undergoing treatment at Combined Military Hospital in Bogra.

"The injured are now out of danger," Corporal Feroz told The Daily Star.

After the incident that took place around 12:00noon, an investigation team was formed to find out the reason behind the plane crash.

As the news of the crash spread, Chief of Air Staff Air

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Kalapara rape accused held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Kalapara police on Wednesday night arrested the shopkeeper of Dholirbazar who reportedly raped a 13-year-old girl but was later handed down a mere punishment at village arbitration arranged by a local public representative to ensure the culprit's escape.

A police team led by Sub-Inspector Matuir Rahman visited the village Wednesday evening and later arrested the alleged rapist, Hanif Mollah, 30.

Hanif reportedly raped the teenager, daughter of Khalil Mian of West Chaplee village, when the girl came to his shop to buy goods on Sunday night.

When contacted Ishaq Ali, officer-in-charge (OC) of Kalapara police station said, "The victim has been sent to the Judicial Magistrate's Court to record her statement under section 164 yesterday."

Hanif too has been sent to the court, he added. Marium Begum, mother of the victim, filed a case with Kalapara Police Station Wednesday night accusing six to seven persons including Hanif Mollah and Union Parishad member Anwar Hossain in this connection.

Anwar Hossain arranged the arbitration on Monday in

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OnlinePoll

Do you support BNP's move to form 'Group-2009' consisting of non-political pro-BNP personalities to guide the party and its lawmakers on different issues?

Yes (69.1%)
No (23.6%)
No Comments (7.2%)

Total votes: 1146

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the way Kutubkhali canal in Dhaka has been encroached it is possible to recover it and take action against the identified persons?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

October 23

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-50	6-25
Juma	1-30	2-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-36	6-39
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Congress wins in all 3 states

BJP concedes defeat in state assembly polls

ANI, INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Mumbai / Chandigarh / Itanagar New Delhi

The Congress Party yesterday emerged victorious in all assembly elections held in the three states of Maharashtra, Haryana and Arunachal Pradesh by adding 147 seats to opposition wounds.

Conceding defeat in the assembly elections to three states 'with humility', the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) blamed Raj Thackeray's party for a vote split in favour of the Congress in Maharashtra.

In Maharashtra, the Congress is retaining its power for a third consecutive term. It also swept Arunachal Pradesh, and managed to get a slender victory in Haryana.

There were scenes of joy in the Congress ranks, as it was the first ballot test after retaining power at the Centre in May this year.

The Congress, -Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), alliance is poised to form the next government in Maharashtra, winning 147 of the 288 constituencies.

The combine, which had won 140 seats in the last elections, may not have a problem in forming the government with the support of congress and NCP rebels and Independents.

The Republican Party of India and Raj Thackeray's Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) have indicated a readiness to give outside support to the combine.

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SOMALIA Insurgents fire on president's plane

21 killed in mortar, artillery fire

AFP, Mogadishu

Insurgents fired on the Somali president's plane yesterday and traded mortar and artillery fire with African peacekeepers in the capital Mogadishu, killing at least 21 and wounding dozens.

Mortar shells came crashing down on a busy market area in Mogadishu in one of the worst such incidents in months, shattering a relative lull in the Horn of Africa country's civil war.

"At least 17 civilians were killed and we have counted 58 wounded," Ali Muse, head of the Somali capital's ambulance services, told AFP.

"I can say this was the worst such incident recently in Mogadishu. Heavy shelling was hitting civilian populated areas, including Bakara market, Holwadag and Hodan," he said.

Medics in two different hospitals said a total of four wounded died of their injuries shortly after being brought in, bringing the death toll for the incident to 21.

According to witnesses, the clashes started when insurgent fighters opened mortar fire on the airport as President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed was flying out of the country for a diplomatic visit.

Sharif was heading to Uganda for an African Union summit on refugees and internally-displaced people and boarding the plane when a hail of mortar shells rained down on the area, police officer Colonel Ali Abdullahi said.

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Some usable goods (AC, Fan, Aluminum partition etc.) will be sold by the North South University (NSU) as it is where it is basis at NSU old campus, Star Tower, 12 Banani Commercial Area, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Dhaka- 1213.

Interested bidders may collect the schedule from the Accounts Dept. of the NSU from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunday through Wednesday on all working days up to October 28, 2009 by paying non refundable Tk. 500/ (Taka five hundred) only in cash for each schedule.

Offer must be dropped along with 10% of the quoted amount as earnest money in the form of pay order issued from any scheduled bank drawn in favor of North South University. The sealed offer must be submitted on or before October 29, 2009 at 3: 00 p.m. at the office of the undersigned. Offer will be opened at 3:15 p.m. on the same day. Representatives of the participating bidders may remain present at the time of opening the bids.

NSU authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the offers without showing any reason.

Director (Logistics & Resources)

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