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EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATES

Empowered beyond jurisdiction

Draft EC rules propose for trying city corporation poll offences

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Election Commission in its draft rules for administering city corporation polls has empowered executive magistrates beyond their jurisdiction to try some electoral offences in mobile courts.

Executive magistrates presiding over mobile courts usually cannot sentence anybody to more than two years of imprisonment.

But the EC's draft rules allow executive magistrates to even try those electoral offences for which an individual could be sentenced to a maximum of seven years in prison.

By empowering executive magistrates with such judicial authority, the EC, a constitutional and quasi-judicial body, ignored the Supreme Court's opinion that disapproves of allowing executive magistrates to try electoral offences,

according to legal experts.

In the draft rules, the commission specified the electoral offences to be tried summarily by executive and judicial magistrates, officials in the EC Secretariat said.

A number of EC officials however suggested the commission not to engage executive magistrates in trying electoral offences, as they do not have the jurisdiction to do so, the officials added.

The commission secretariat sent the draft rules titled, Local Government (City Corporations) Election Administration Rules 2010, to the law ministry last week for vetting. On getting it back, the commission will enforce it by making it into a law through publication of an official gazette, said the EC officials.

According to the draft rules, executive

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Harun-or-Rashid, along with other probe body members, talks to resident students of Sir AF Rahman Hall at DU yesterday for investigation into the death of Abubakar Siddique. They visited different rooms of the dormitory including Room-404, where Siddique used to reside.

DU probing Abubakar's death

DU CORRESPONDENT

The committee formed to investigate the death of Dhaka University student Abubakar Siddique started its enquiry yesterday morning.

Siddique was injured during a factional clash of Bangladesh Chhatra League at Sir AF Rahman Hall on February 2 and died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital the following day.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal has called a strike at Dhaka University today protesting Siddique's death.

DU Exam Controller Bahalul Haque said all the exams would be held on schedule.

Meanwhile, different student organisations including Pragatishil Chhatra Jote, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, Bangladesh Chhatra Federation and general

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Reeling from road terror

Daughter dead, wife and son fighting for life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Monjur Sarkar, father of minor girl Sumi who was killed in a road accident on Friday, is facing a double blow as after losing his daughter his wounded 14-month-old son and wife are now lying untreated on the floor of Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Police are yet to identify the bus that had crushed Sumi to death under its wheels.

The bus ran over Sumi on the Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in front of Falcon Hall at Shaheenbagh Friday noon. Her younger brother Hasan and mother Hasina Begum received serious head injuries. Monjur told The Daily Star,

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Hasina Begum and her 14-month-old son Hasan lying untreated on the floor of Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday. They received serious injuries in a road accident that took away the life of Hasina's daughter Sumi on Friday.

GIRAFFES' AGE SCAM

Inspectors visited SA for a bad buy

Probe finds gross neglect, skips graft part

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A committee investigating the deaths of three giraffes at Dhaka Zoo has blamed the Animal Inspection Committee for failing to disclose the age of the giraffes and misleading the government into procuring aged ones.

In September 2008, Dhaka Zoo spent almost Tk 5 crore on five giraffes from South Africa.

In less than a year after their arrival, three have died and another is currently ill.

Two giraffes died in September last year and a third died in October.

Primary investigations undertaken by a separate committee found that the giraffes died of complications relating to old age. The investigating committee has not stated whether corruption on the part of the inspection team was involved.

Head of the three-member committee M Shamsul Kibria, joint secretary (fisheries) of Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, told The Daily Star, "All five imported giraffes were between five

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Book sale makes all happy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All publishers excepting some NGO and research-based publishers were happy with the sales of their books on the sixth day of the Amar Ekushe Boi Mela yesterday.

Many visitors were seen leaving the fair premises with a number of new books in their hands on the second consecutive holiday of the week.

It was quite hard to get inside the fair premises in the afternoon as the fair ground was brimming over with booklovers. The stalls, especially Anwasha, Anyaprakash, Bishwa Sahitya Kendra, Sahitya Prokash and the sales

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Research, latest tech the need

IFDC president talks with The Daily Star on food challenges for Bangladesh

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladesh needs to focus on intensive agriculture researches and collaboration with other countries for next generation technologies, which will increase productivity and reduce input cost to face the challenges of climate change and rising energy prices.

Amit Roy, president of the US-based International Fertiliser Development Centre (IFDC), said this in an exclusive interview with The Daily Star at IFDC office in Dhaka on January 31.

Roy came to Bangladesh on a four-day visit on January 29 to see farmers adapting themselves to the urea deep placement or guti urea technology, which increases over 30 percent efficiency of urea. IFDC works to develop new technologies that increase farm efficiency and productivity.

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Amit Roy

RICE DISTRIBUTION JP lawmaker 'assaulted'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Awami League activists allegedly assaulted Jatiya Party lawmaker Abu Talha following an altercation over rice distribution under the Test Relief programme at Bagatipara Guest House in Natore Friday night.

Witnesses said Talha, an MP of Natore-1 constituency, sat with Awami League leaders

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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COAL MINING Consultant considered, 'poor record' ignored

STAR REPORT

In a tender to study the country's coal sector, the Hydrocarbon Unit of power, energy and mineral resources ministry has short-listed a British consultant ignoring the company's past 'poor performance' in the Barapukuria coal mine.

Under a one-million-dollar financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the

Hydrocarbon Unit floated a tender to hire a consultant who would study the coal mining sector and give a set of recommendations on how the country's coal sector should be developed, the ministry sources said.

According to the unit's Project Director engineer Anwar H Khan, the selected consultant would ultimately suggest suitable mining method and procedures, environment model

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Kuwaiti emir sends plane for PM

Her 3-day visit starts today

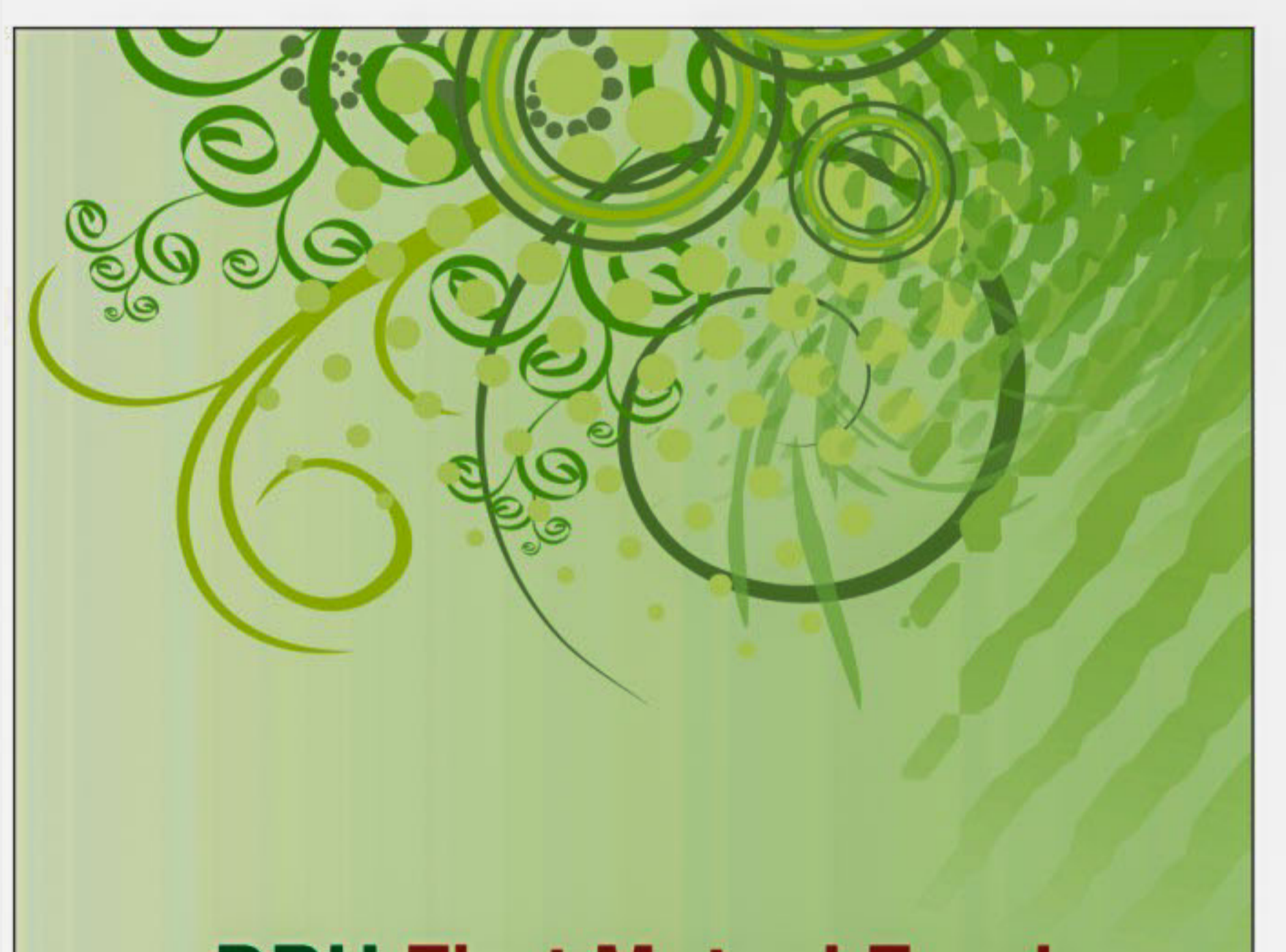
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Emir of Kuwait has sent a special aircraft to carry Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to his country for a three-day bilateral visit beginning today.

Diplomatic sources said that Kuwait is bestowing a top honour on the prime minister and it is expected that the visit will involve a great deal of cooperation and good will.

The oil-rich Gulf state has been a strong supporter of

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DBH First Mutual Fund

DBH is proud to sponsor the DBH First Mutual Fund, the largest ever mutual fund sponsored by a Financial Institution in Bangladesh which is going to be traded in the Dhaka Stock Exchange Ltd. and Chittagong Stock Exchange Ltd. as DBH First Mutual Fund from today, February 7, 2010.

The asset manager is LR Global Bangladesh Asset Management Co. Ltd., an associated firm of LR (Logan Rockefeller) Global, New York.



Delta Brac Housing Finance Corp. Ltd., authorised and regulated by the Bangladesh Bank and listed on the Dhaka & Chittagong Stock Exchange.

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We Mourn

We are deeply shocked and grieved at the sad demise of Mrs. Alhaj Hawa Khatun (90), mother of Mr. Altaf Hossain Sarker, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Dhaka Bank Limited due to old age complication at the Square Hospital, Dhaka on Saturday February 6, 2010 at 9:00 A.M. (Innalillahe wa Innaillaihe Rajeun).

On behalf of the Board of Directors and all employees of Dhaka Bank Limited, we express our heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family and pray to the Almighty Allah to grant eternal peace to the departed soul.

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OnlinePoll

Do you think only drivers are responsible for the road accidents in city?

Yes (26.5%)
No (72.5%)
No Comments (1.0%)

Total votes: 979

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think introduction of smart cards will protect overseas jobseekers from fraudulent recruiting agencies and reduce harassment during and after immigration?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

February 7

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-52	5-56
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation