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The race in Comilla City Corporation elections is on in full swing as candidates gear up for the January 5 elections. Horn speakers are being used and the streets are decorated with campaign posters in their bids to reach the voters. The photo was taken at Ashoktala in the city. PHOTO: STAR

**Loudspeakers create noise pollution**

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN, from Comilla

As the campaigning for Comilla City Corporation polls is about to reach its peak, voters have been subjected to aggressive sound pollution caused by blaring loudspeakers in the city.

Much to the frustration of the citizens, a total of 367 loudspeakers are being used at around the same time in different parts of the city. But the Election Commission officials said they have nothing to do with it.

"It's true that people are suffering a lot. But

**COMILLA CITY ELECTION 2012**

**Musclemen, black money big concern**

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN, from Comilla

Though the voters have so far seen a violence-free campaign for the maiden Comilla City Corporation polls, they are very much concerned about the criminal records of some candidates and use of black money and illegal arms.

Citizens and civil society leaders have also expressed worry about the alleged involvement of criminals in the campaigns of two key mayoral aspirants -- Afzal Khan and Monirul Hoque Sakku.

According to police, over 70 out of 287 councillor aspirants have criminal records.

The Election Commission has identified 47 out of 65 polling centres as vulnerable considering the criminal records of the candidates and the number of voters of the respective wards.

Returning Officer Abdul Baten yesterday said the law enforcers are conducting special drives to arrest the listed criminals. A few of them have been arrested already and many others have left the area.

"No one will get a chance to use black money and musclemen in the elections," mentioned Baten after attending a meeting of the law and order coordination cell.

**8 hurt as BCL men clash**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least eight students were injured in a clash between two rival groups of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) at a Dhaka Polytechnic Institute hostel in early hours today.

Of them, Jewel, 19, and Nasir, 20, were taken to

**Zardari hits out at 'conspiracies'**

PM denies he wants to sack army chief

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's embattled president yesterday used the fourth anniversary of his wife Benazir Bhutto's assassination to urge the country to foil "conspiracies against democracy."

Asif Ali Zardari, who has spent December fending off rampant speculation that he may be forced out of office, was expected to address tens of thousands of followers at the Bhutto mausoleum later yesterday in a rare public speech.

Tensions between his unpopular civilian government and the military, which has ruled Pakistan for around half its existence, soared this month over a memo asking for US intervention to stave off a feared military coup.

Pakistan, a nuclear-armed state of 174 million, is rife with conspiracy theories. Zardari called his wife's murder a conspiracy "to rob Pakistan of its best hope to establish a fully functional democracy".



**Muggers shoot shopkeeper dead**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers shot a shopkeeper dead and injured another as they looted Tk 10 lakh from them in the capital's Bongshal yesterday.

Protesting the incident, local businessmen shut down their businesses for about an hour and took to the streets demanding the arrest of the criminals.

In another incident, unidentified criminals shot a businessman at Uttara in the city and snatched Tk 5 lakh from him.

The victim in Bongshal was identified as Md Rubel Chowkider, 25, and his injured colleague as Nasir Gazi, 33. They were employees of a steel sheet shop, Iqbal Enterprise, at Nazira Bazar.

**Provide graft info with evidence**

ACC calls upon govt officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday called upon honest and sincere government officials and people of the country to provide information on corruption along with evidence.

The anti-graft body requested all to post the

**University student killed in road crash**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A student of Khulna University was crushed under the wheel of a university bus yesterday afternoon.

Hadiul Islam alias Enamul, 20, a first-year student of Forestry and Wood Technology

**Pak troops shoot after talking to Sayedee**

Witness tells war crimes tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prosecution witness Manik Poshari yesterday narrated before the International Crimes Tribunal how Pakistani soldiers had shot his employee Ibrahim after consulting with Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee in 1971.

"They took Kutti [Ibrahim] to the other end of the Pararhaat Bridge [a bridge in Parerhaat of Pirojpur], consulted with Delawar Sikder [now known as Delawar Hossain Sayedee] and shot him," Poshari told the tribunal. Sayedee stood nearby as Ibrahim's body was thrown into the river.

Poshari, while hiding on the other side of the bridge,

**Death sparks violence in Barisal**

Police camp attacked, 17 hurt in clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

At least 17 people were injured as police fired rubber bullets during a clash between law enforcers and villagers centring a businessman's death at Kurulia village under Uzirpur upazila of Barisal early yesterday.

Five policemen were also injured by brickbats hurled by the villagers.

Arun Samaddar, a fisherman of the village, said he found businessman

**PRAYER TIMING December 28**

Azan	Jamaat
Fajr 5:30 - 6:05	
Zohr 12:45 - 1:15	
Asr 4:00 - 4:15	
Maghrib 5:27 - 5:30	
Esha 7:00 - 7:30	

Source: Islamic Foundation

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**গণ-বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

বিষয়ঃ ঢাকা-চট্টগ্রাম মহাসড়কে চলাচলকারী ট্রেইলার, ট্রাক, কভার্ডভ্যান ইত্যাদি মালবাহী গাড়ির এক্সেল ওজন (Axle weight) নিয়ন্ত্রণ প্রসঙ্গে

গাড়িতে ওভারলোড বা অতিরিক্ত মালামাল বহন সড়ক দুর্ঘটনার অন্যতম প্রধান কারণ। অতিরিক্ত মালামাল বহন একদিকে যেমন সড়ক দুর্ঘটনা বৃদ্ধি করে, অন্যদিকে রাস্তা, সেতু ও কালভার্ট ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত করেছে। জীবন ও সম্পদ রক্ষার্থে এবং পরিবহন সেক্টরে শৃংখলা ফিরিয়ে আনার লক্ষ্যে সরকার সারাদেশে ওভারলোড তথা এক্সেল ওজন (গাড়ি ও মালামালের যে ওজন প্রতিটি এক্সেলে পরিবাহিত হয়) নিয়ন্ত্রণের কর্মসূচি গ্রহণ করেছে। এ কর্মসূচির অংশ হিসেবে প্রাথমিকভাবে ঢাকা-চট্টগ্রাম মহাসড়কে দাউদকান্দির মেঘনা সেতুর পূর্ব পাড়ে গুয়ে মেশিন বা ওজন পরিমাপক যন্ত্র স্থাপনপূর্বক ট্রেইলার, ট্রাক, কভার্ডভ্যান ইত্যাদি মালবাহী গাড়ির এক্সেল ওজন পরিমাপের কাজ ইতোমধ্যে পরীক্ষামূলকভাবে শুরু করা হয়েছে। এই গুয়েয়িং স্টেশনে আগামী ৩১-১২-২০১১ তারিখ পর্যন্ত মালিক, চালক ও সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের মধ্যে সচেতনতা সৃষ্টির লক্ষ্যে ট্রেইলার, ট্রাক, কভার্ডভ্যান ইত্যাদি মালবাহী গাড়ির এক্সেল ওজন (Axle weight) পরিমাপ করা হবে। আগামী ১ জানুয়ারি, ২০১২ দারিখ হতে এক্সেল ওজনসীমা (Axle weight limit) অতিক্রমকারী গাড়ির বিরুদ্ধে আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

জিডি-৫৪২৪

বিআরটিএ

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

**ONLINE POLL**

Do you think the difference of opinion on economic growth between the finance minister and Bangladesh Bank governor shows a lack of proper assessment of economy?

Yes (88.7%)

No (8.8%)

No Comments (2.5%)

TOTAL VOTES: 319

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think the BNP made a wise decision by agreeing to join the talks with the president on forming the next Election Commission?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT [facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews)