

**EU team arrives tomorrow**  
It will work for sending polls observation mission  
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The European Union's 5-member election exploratory mission will arrive in Dhaka tomorrow on a 17-day visit to assess the feasibility of sending a possible election observation mission to Bangladesh to oversee the next general election.

This will be the first mission from the EU to Bangladesh which will hold meetings with relevant authorities and stakeholders like major political parties, including Awami League, BNP and Jatiya Party.

Balthasar Benz of the European External Action Service will lead the mission. "The purpose of the mission is to assess the feasibility, usefulness and advisability of and to help prepare for a potential Election Observation Mission to Bangladesh, for an appointed period before, during and after the foreseen general election," said an EU press release.

Diplomatic sources said this is a very important mission as the EU will decide its next course of action on the basis of the mission's report.

**Fakhrul slams PM for attacking civil society**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT



BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday lambasted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her recent remarks that a section of the civil society members wanted to bring in an unconstitutional government for their own interests.

"She [Hasina] appreciated whatever the civil society said when she was in the opposition. Now, as the ruling party chief, she doesn't like them as they speak the truth," he told a programme of Jubo Jappa, youth front of BNP's ally Jatiya Gonoratrik Party, at the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

Hasina attacked the civil society while addressing grassroots leaders at Gono Bhaban Wednesday.

Fakhrul criticised another comment of Hasina that somebody must commence the practice of transfer of power in line with the constitution and democracy, and they wanted to do that. The BNP spokesman branded this as the beginning of a "controlled-democracy".

Fakhrul also accused the government of using the law enforcers unnecessarily. "They have deployed police at different parts of the capital. It seems that there is a battle going on between the law enforcers and the masses."

At a separate rally of BNP's youth front Jubo Dal at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan, Fakhrul said they had shown enough tolerance, but the government took it for a weakness. "We're repeatedly pushing for dialogue and mutual understanding, but the government hasn't cared about it."

After Edi-ul-Azha, he said, the opposition would strengthen its movement nationwide to force the government to bring a bill on the caretaker government system in parliament.

**ZIA ORPHANAGE GRAFT CASE Indictment hearing against Khaleda deferred**  
COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday deferred till October 10 the hearing on charge framing against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, her elder son and the party's Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman and four others in the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case.

The court passed the order after Khaleda's lawyer Taherul Islam Towhid submitted a petition for an adjournment of the hearing.

In the petition, Towhid said Khaleda could not appear before it as she was busy with important national activities as an opposition chief. So he prayed for an adjournment of the hearing, Towhid added.

The four other accused are former BNP lawmaker Kazi Salimul Haque, businessman Sharfuddin Ahmed, former principal secretary Dr Kamal Uddin Siddiqui and Momenur Rahman, nephew of BNP founder Ziaur Rahman.

Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case on July 3, 2009 on charge of embezzling over Tk 2.10 crore by forming the "fake" trust.

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**Two 'thieves' die from mob beating in Kushtia**  
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Two alleged cattle thieves died after being beaten by a mob at Zoraghat village under sadar upazila of Chuadanga yesterday.

The dead are Hasu Khan alias Hanu, 35, of Khapara village in Chuadanga, and Miraz Ali Mandol alias Mira Mandol, 40, of Garadoba village in Meherpur.

Police said a group of four to five were stealing cattle of one Mirazuddin in Zoraghat village around 2:30am. Sensing this, Mirazuddin screamed for help.

Villagers came out of their homes, caught two of them and beat them up. The rest of the gang managed to flee.

On information, Chuadanga police rushed to the spot and rescued the thieves in a critical condition.

They took them to Chuadanga Sadar Hospital, where the duo succumbed to their injuries around 7:30am, said Gazi Ibrahim, officer-in-charge of Chuadanga Police Station.

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