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Pay commission next week

Ex-governor of central bank may head it

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government is going to form a 17-member pay and service commission next week to formulate a new pay structure for public servants.

Finance ministry sources said former governor of Bangladesh Bank Mohammad Farashuddin might be the chairman of the commission.

The commission is supposed to submit a report in six months from its formation and an order in this regard might be issued on Sunday, said sources.

Among the commission members, five will be appointed on permanent basis while the rest as part-timers, said the sources, adding that three former secretaries of the government and a member secretary would be appointed on permanent basis.

The part-timers would be chosen from different section of people, like educationists, businessmen, engineers and doctors, the sources added.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday announced the formation of the new pay commission at a programme of Bangladesh Audit and Accounts Officers' Association in Bangabandhu International Conference Centre of the capital.

He said, "Earlier, we informed about forming a permanent pay commission, but it is not possible right now. It would need amendments to related laws which is not possible within the remaining time of the government."

"We will recommend formation of the commission now so that the next government can take initiative about it accordingly," Muhith said.

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VEG FEST ON



Winter vegetables grown on the banks of the river Shankha pour into the Dohajari Railway Station Bazar in Chittagong on boats every day just after dawn. The vegetables the farmers sell here end up at kitchen markets in the port city.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

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The Economist

BANGLADESHI POLITICS

Trench warfare

In two months, or sooner, Bangladeshis will go to the polls. This general election will be the seventh stab at a political transition involving the two heads of bickering dynasties -- Khaleda Zia, of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), and Sheikh Hasina, of the Awami League (AL). Since 1991 the two parties have taken part fully in only four polls, with the other elections subjected to boycotts or army intervention.

On November 18th Bangladesh's president swore in members of an interim government, who

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Nepal crisis deepens

Regional party joins Maoists in rejecting polls

AFP, Kathmandu

Fears of a prolonged political crisis in Nepal deepened yesterday after a regional party joined the Maoists in alleging poll-rigging in post-war elections held this week.

Maoist rebel-turned-politician Pushpa Kamal Dahal, better known as Prachanda, threw the country into turmoil Thursday when he denounced the vote, which is seen as key to completing a peace process after a 10-year civil war.

International poll observer team, which includes powerful delegations from European Union and United States, have termed the vote as "independent and impartial" and urged Maoists to accept the results.

Ratneshwar Lal Kayastha, spokesman for the Madhesi Janaadhikar Forum (Nepal), a regional party representing the marginalised Madhesi community, described the polls as "suspicious and conspiratorial".

Kayastha, whose party has won just one out of 97 directly elected seats declared so far, said "preliminary results have both surprised and angered us".

"There were cases where more votes were cast than the number of registered voters," he said in a statement.

Millions of Nepalis voted in Tuesday's elections, hoping to install a constituent assembly that would write a constitution and end years of political instability in the impoverished Himalayan nation.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

Crooked doc prevails

He walks out of police custody after DMCH turned him in

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A doctor suspended almost two years ago for corruption was found at his former workplace of Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday, issuing counterfeit certificates to people seeking to file false domestic violence cases.

What is more shocking is the fact that he just walked out of the police station after he was handed over to Shahbagh police.

Jahangir Alam, a former neurosurgeon of DMCH, was caught red-handed after the director of the hospital Brig Gen Mostafizur Rahman spotted him during his rounds around 12:30pm at the hospital.

Surprised to see a suspended employee back in DMCH, an intrigued Mostafizur

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Monster blast in the space

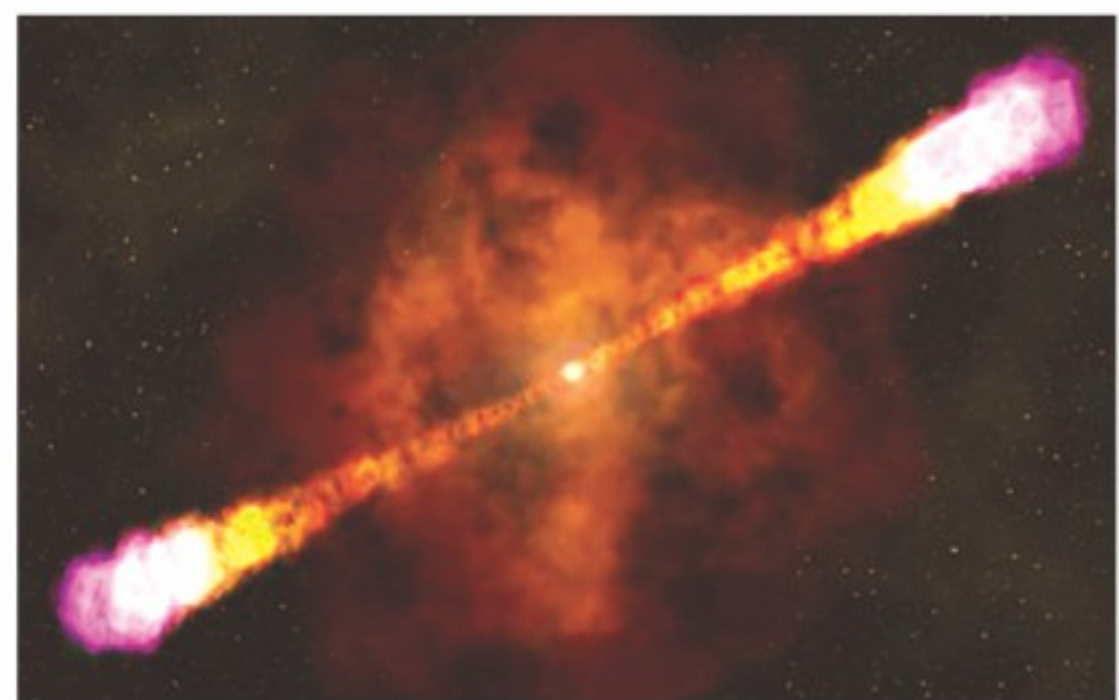
THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

Astronomers call it the monster. It was the biggest and brightest cosmic explosion ever witnessed. Had it been closer, Earth would have been toast.

Because the blast was 3.7bn light years away, mankind was spared. But orbiting telescopes got the fireworks show of a lifetime in April.

The only bigger display astronomers know of was

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



Law enforcers' excess on a Jatiyatabadi Nagorik Dal activist yesterday evening after a procession of the pro-opposition body broke through a police barricade near Ramna Park towards the end of the opposition rally at Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

UN climate talks drag on without clarity on targets

AP, Warsaw

UN climate talks ran into overtime yesterday with more than 190 countries arguing over the building blocks for a new pact to slow global warming.

A draft text presented on the last scheduled day of the two-week conference in Warsaw gave only vague direction on when countries should present their targets for restricting carbon emissions. That's a key element of the deal that's supposed to be

adopted in Paris in 2015.

Despite a push by the European Union and the U.S. for a clear timeline for announcing targets, the draft text said only that commitments should be presented "well in advance" of the Paris summit.

US climate envoy Todd Stern called for "stronger language" to drive the work forward.

The EU wants to present its target in 2014 and the US is aiming for early 2015 to leave time for a review

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Bangladesh urges global leaders to listen to science

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of Bangladeshi civil society members has urged global leaders to listen to the plights of climate victims and condemned industrialised countries for blocking a "loss and damage" mechanism in the UN climate change conference in Warsaw, Poland.

The mechanism is an arrangement

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জন্মের মত কথা বলুন

১০

বিটিসিএল টু বিটিসিএল
(রাত ৮:০০ থেকে সকাল ৮:০০ টা)

পরস্কা // মিনিটি

বিটিসিএল থেকে বিটিসিএল
(সারা দেশে)

১০ পরস্কা / মিনিট
রাত ৮ টা থেকে সকাল ৮টা

৩০ পরস্কা / মিনিট
সকাল ৮ টা থেকে রাত ৮টা

বিটিসিএল থেকে মোবাইল
বা অন্য অপারেটরে

৮০ পরস্কা / মিনিট

মাসিক লাইনরেন্ট : মাস্টি এন্ড্রুজ্জ এলাকায় (ঢাকা, চট্টগ্রাম, খুলনা) : ১৬০ টাকা,
জেলা সদরে : ১২০ টাকা, উপজেলা সদর ও গ্রোথ সেন্টারে : ৮০ টাকা।



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