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One battalion troops ready for each city

Govt issues notification on keeping army as reserve force for tomorrow's polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Army will stay at cantonment as reserved force and work as striking force in tomorrow's city corporation polls as the Election Commission has not changed its stance on deployment of armed forces despite huge criticism.

According to a home ministry notification issued on Saturday, one battalion troops will work for four days from yesterday until Wednesday under each city corporation area.

The troops will function as per laws, if called upon by the returning officers, to operate in aid to the civil administration.

In association with the executive magistrates, the army will assist the civil administration to maintain law and order under the code of criminal procedure.

The troops will remain stationed at Mirpur, Dhaka and Postagola cantonments in the capital and Dampara, Halishahar and Chittagong cantonments in the port city.

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Forty-eight Bangladeshis return from earthquake-hit Nepal yesterday getting a ride on a Bangladesh Air Force cargo plane that went to Kathmandu to deliver aid.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Biman flight returns failing to land at Kathmandu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An "unwise move" by Biman cost it several lakh taka as one of its flights had to be returned to Dhaka failing to get landing clearance in earthquake-ravaged Kathmandu yesterday.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines officials said the flight, Boeing 737, was sent to the Nepalese capital at 1:30pm without communicating with the Tribhuvan International Airport authorities.

The airport is allowing only the flights with relief and other emergency items to land there following Saturday's devastating earthquake that killed at least 2,300 people.

Failing to get the landing clearance, the Biman flight, which had 83 passengers on

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Goons active ahead of polls

Mahi, wife injured in Dhaka; rivals attack Manjur supporters in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of stick-wielding people attacked the car of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh-backed mayor candidate Mahi B Chowdhury at a filling station in the capital's Tejgaon industrial area early yesterday.

The attack left Mahi, his wife Ashfah Haque Lopa and driver Shaheed

injured.

Mahi, a candidate in the Dhaka North City Corporation polls, was returning to his Baridhara home around 2:00am after attending a programme at ATN News office in Karwan Bazar, according to a press statement of the party.

Meanwhile, an election campaign procession of BNP-blessed mayor

hopeful M Manjur Alam Manju came under attack in Chittagong city that left six BNP activists wounded.

Around eight to 10 criminals attacked Mahi when his car stopped at City Filling Station for refuelling, said the statement.

They vandalised the front and rear windcreens of the car and beat up

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HARASSMENT OF JNU TEACHER

'BCL activist' released from cop custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police appeared to have released an alleged activist of Chhatra League hours after taking him into custody from Jagannath University authorities on charges of sexually assaulting a female teacher yesterday.

The university's acting proctor Dr Noor

Muhammad said Aroj Miah, a student of Islamic history, was handed over to the Kotwali police around 2:00pm.

"We have already suspended the student and a three-member body has been formed to probe the incident," said Noor, who is heading the probe body.

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CJ assigns HC bench to hear Abbas' bail petitions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha yesterday assigned a High Court bench to dispose of two bail petitions by Mirza Abbas, BNP-blessed mayoral candidate in Dhaka South City Corporation polls, in two vandalism and arson cases.

The bench of Justice Md Ruhul Quddus would now fix a date for hearing the petitions, Kabir Ahmed, a secretary to the chief justice, told The Daily Star.

On April 15, a two-judge HC bench passed split orders on the bail pleas.

Of the judges, Justice Quamrul Islam Siddique

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Police take away motorcycles they seized for the violation of the temporary ban on motorbikes on streets of the capital. The ban was imposed as Dhaka city goes to polls tomorrow. The photo was taken at Farmgate yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Only rickshaw to ply on polls day

2 cities see 24-hour ban on movement of vehicles

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 24-hour ban on all types of vehicle movement except for rickshaws and rickshaw-vans has been imposed in the three city corporations that go to the polls tomorrow. The ban will be effective from 12:01am tomorrow.

In a gazette notification on Saturday, the home ministry also restricted the movement of launch and speedboat in the city corporation areas during the time.

However, vehicular movement on highways is outside the purview of the ban, and there is no directive on railway communications.

Meanwhile, the public administration ministry in a

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PRAYER TIMING
APRIL 27

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN	4-25	12-45	4-45	6-27	8-00
JAMAAT	5-00	1-15	5-00	6-31	8-30

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Indo-Bangla joint initiative to protect spectacled langur

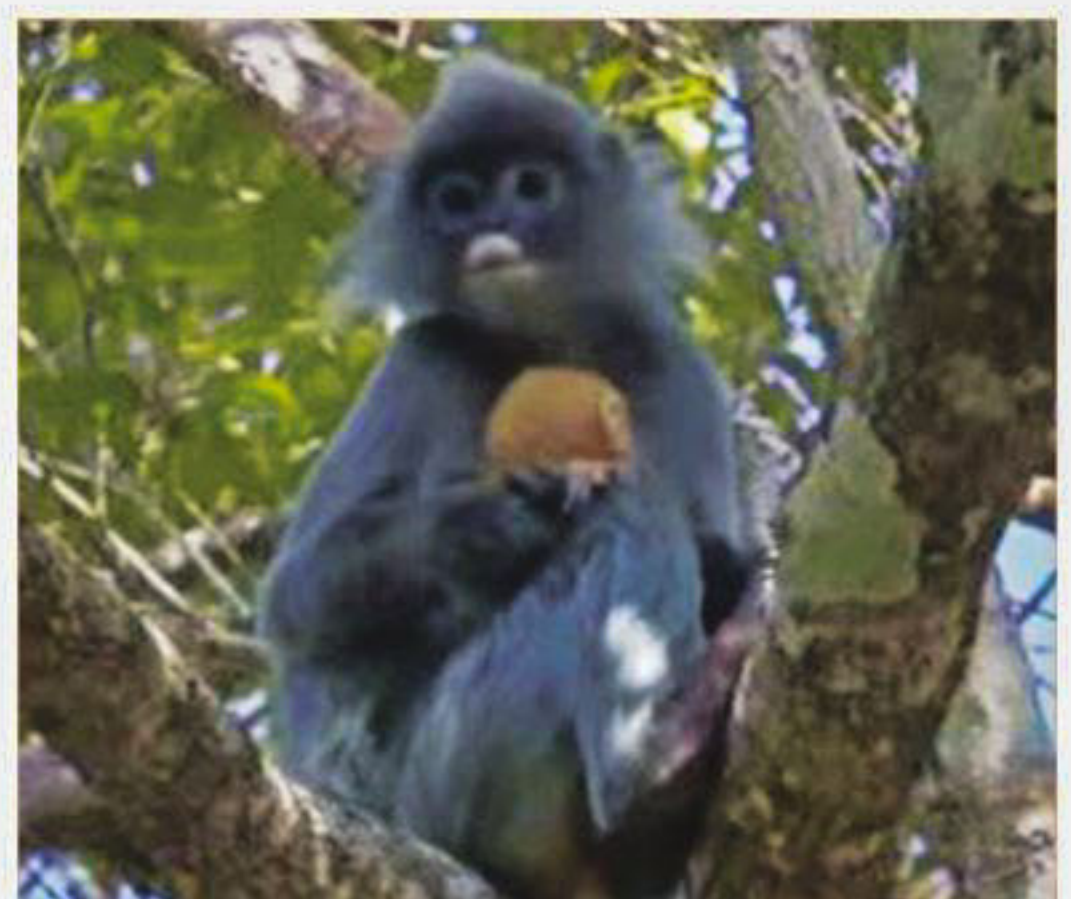
PTI, Bilbari

India and Bangladesh have decided to take concerted conservation efforts to protect the rare spectacled langur along with other primates found in Patharia Hills Reserve Forest on either side of the fenced border along Assam's Karimganj district.

A decision to this effect was taken at the last meeting of deputy commissioners of Karimganj and Cachar districts along with their counterparts from Sylhet and Moulvibazar districts of Bangladesh, Karimganj deputy commissioner Sanjiv Gohain Boruah said.

The reserve forest, home to the endangered

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