

BOAT PURCHASE CASE Ershad gets permission to appeal

UNB, Dhaka

Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman and former military ruler HM Ershad, a convict in the Japanese boat purchase scam case, yesterday secured permission from the Supreme Court to swear affidavit for filing an application for leave to appeal to overturn the High Court verdict.

Justice M Joyrul Abedin of the Appellate Division's vacation bench issued the order following a prayer moved by Barrister Azmalul Hosain QC, the counsel for Ershad.

Dismissing the appeal, a single bench of the High Court on December 14 jailed Ershad for two years in the Japanese boat purchase scam case.

The High Court also commuted by a year the sentence term handed down by the trial court a decade ago.

Banks asked to identify loan defaulters to bar them from polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The central bank and the finance ministry have asked all banks to identify the loan defaulters and furnish the election officials with relevant information on them so that they could be barred from the upcoming election.

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) sent a circular yesterday asking its Central Information Bureau (CIB) to remain open from 5:00pm Thursday [December 21] till 5:00pm Friday [December 22].

According to the current election schedule, the deadline for submission of nomination papers ends at 5:00pm December 21. After that, the election officials will start scrutinising the papers.

The circular instructed the banks to keep open during that time the departments that maintain and store information on the loan defaulters. The banks also have been requested to preserve and update the information and readily pass on those to deputy commissioners (DC) who act as the return-

ing officers (RO).

The Finance Division has also sent a circular to all banks through the BB last week, asking them to find out the defaulters who might be nominated and send all relevant information on them to the ROs.

The banks failing to provide information on the delinquent borrowers will be held responsible, the finance division circular states.

Those who have failed to keep up the instalments on rescheduled loans and those who have taken

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Maksuda was shot at party

Says Mirza Abbas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former housing and public works minister Mirza Abbas yesterday said Maksuda Akram, wife of his brother Mirza Khokon, was shot at a party she attended with her husband on Sunday night.

However he claimed to be unaware that his brother Mirza Khokon, a Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) ward commissioner, was also shot in the incident.

Talking to The Daily Star last evening, Abbas said he took the wounded Maksuda to Apollo Hospital. He denied however that the shooting took place at his Shajahanpur residence Sunday night, a home he shares with his brother Khokon.

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PHOTO: STAR

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, flanked by four-party alliance leaders, waves from the stage of the alliance's grand rally at Paltan Maidan in the capital yesterday.

Police SI stabbed to death in city

UNB, Dhaka

Sub-Inspector Mizanur Rahman of Gulshan Police Station was stabbed to death by unknown assailants at Gulshan last night.

Duty Officer of the police station said Mizan, 37, left the police station in civil dress at 7:30 pm.

After 20 minutes, an anonymous phone call informed the

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12 injured as JCD, Shibir clash in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A clash erupted between Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra Shibir on Chittagong Medical College (CMC) campus yesterday over recruiting freshmen to dormitories the student wings dominate. The incident left 12 people including two policemen injured.

Five rooms of the main male dormitory at Chatteshwari Road were also ransacked during the two and a half-hour-long clash.

The injured are JCD activists Matin, Limon, Rassel, Lijon, Sabuj, Rahat, Bulbul and Shibir activists Mahmud, Balayet, Mufti. Two unidentified policemen also

received treatment at the CMC Hospital.

Sources said JCD and Shibir men around noon yesterday had an altercation in front of the CMC Principal's Office over who would have the freshmen recruited to the dormitory they control. The altercation soon turned into a fierce clash.

The JCD men were trying to get the new students to the CMC male dormitory at Nasirabad while the Shibir men were trying to get them to the main dormitory of CMC at Chatteshwari Road, the sources added.

Police dispersed them and the clash spread out over the campus.

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JCD-BCL clash at RU leaves 35 hurt

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University (RU) unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) declared an indefinite strike on the campus as at least 35 of their activists were injured yesterday in attacks by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).

The strike might jeopardise the ongoing admission test for which thousands of admission seekers had gathered on campus from different parts of the country.

Desecration of a picture of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman triggered the clashes between BCL and JCD, said campus sources.

On Sunday, Monwara Begum, a Jamaat loyalist senior house tutor

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5 killed as gunbattles threaten Gaza truce

AFP, Gaza City

Deadly gunbattles raged in Gaza City yesterday, threatening a fragile truce aimed at halting an increasingly violent power struggle between rival Palestinian factions.

Five people were killed and many more injured in the latest bout of armed clashes in the impoverished Gaza Strip between supporters of the ruling Islamist movement and the rival Fatah party.

Violence has spiralled since Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas called Saturday for early elections, raising fears that the turf war between Hamas and Fatah could descend into all-out civil war.

In the latest incident, two

Palestinians were killed and seven teenage school children wounded when they were caught in a gunbattle in a busy central Gaza Street between members of the Hamas police force and security services loyal to Abbas.

A member of the Hamas police force was killed and at least 12 others injured in early morning fighting around a Gaza hospital and clashes also erupted between Hamas and Fatah loyalists near intelligence services headquarters in northern Gaza City.

Two loyalists of president Mahmud Abbas's Fatah party died in Gaza Tuesday in escalating clashes with the ruling Hamas movement, bring the daily death toll

from the violence to five, medics said.

One of the men was killed after being kidnapped by unknown gunmen, while a second one died of wounds received in fighting earlier, they said.

In all, 10 people have died in Gaza after Abbas's decision on Saturday to call early presidential and parliamentary elections. Hamas has slammed the move as tantamount to a coup.

Tensions were palpable across the city, where armed Hamas militants in black hoods and Islamic green bandannas were seen roaming the streets while crowds of

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68 tonnes of rotten wheat, sugar seized in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court during a drive yesterday seized 68 tonnes of rotten wheat and sugar at a warehouse of Victory Jute Mills at Uttar Kattali in Chittagong's Pahartali area.

The court, led by Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Magistrate Mohammad Munir Chowdhury, seized 54 tonnes of wheat, which had insects growing in it, and 14 tonnes of dirty and rotten sugar.

However, the same court in another drive on Monday seized 30 tonnes of rotten wheat and sugar from a warehouse of the same jute factory.

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Table with Prayer Timing for December 20, including columns for Azan and Jamaat times for Fajr, Zohr, Asr, Maghrib, and Esha.