

HOT OFF THE PRESS... Books being delivered to a stall at Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday, ahead of month-long Amar Ekushey Grantha Mela. The country's largest book fair begins tomorrow. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

channels and newspapers, the BNP candidate said his

election symbol "sheaf of paddy" is taking a lead of around

quarter is hatching a plan to thwart the victory of the sheaf

the polling centres to create a congenial atmosphere for

 \hat{P} Sensing an absolute defeat in the election, the ruling

Ishraque said BNP leaders and activists would "guard"

After the meeting, Ishraque offered Juma prayers at

Gopibagh Jame Masjid in Old Dhaka. Later, he visited the

grave of his father Sadeque Hossain Khoka, former mayor

Party sources said Ishraque is scheduled to cast his vote

On Thursday night, in a video posted on his Facebook

page, Ishraque said BNP leaders and activists would

support voters to cast their votes smoothly on polls day,

Abdur Rahman at a programme at Dhaka University's TSC

asked Chhatra League leaders and activists to "occupy and

He also criticised the government for its "attempts" to influence the polls, including carrying out election

campaign, the Prime Minister's ICT Advisor Sajeeb Wazed

Joy's prediction on Awami League's landslide victory and

polling centres, which means they will occupy the centres in the name of guarding," alleged Fakhrul.

unveiled on January 27, gave priority to turning Dhaka

curbing air pollution and improving traffic management.

The BNP candidate for north Dhaka in his manifesto,

He said he will also focus on tackling the mosquito menace,

Tabith unveiled his 95-point manifesto, which had

19 sections. In it, he also highlighted the importance

of improving the city's public transport and waste

Today, Tabith will cast his vote at Manarat Dhaka

International School and College in Gulshan around 8am.

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"The AL general secretary said their men will guard the

control" the polling centres on election-day morning.

They've made their

ploy to occupy the election centres.

into an "intelligent city"

management systems.

On January 29, Awami League presidium member

overcoming all obstacles and fears from AL men."

of undivided Dhaka City Corporation, at Jurain graveyard.

today at Shahid Shahjahan Government Primary school,

80 percent in the elections.

people to cast vote smoothly.

near his birthplace Gopibagh.

of paddy," he alleged.

Tomorrow's filmmakers

50 were aged below 12, festival advisor Shajib said. The volunteers took care of everything, from auditorium and jury duties to film projection and even food. Running daily bulletins; publishing an illustrated cine-magazine called "Storyboard" -- a serious publication, as dubbed by its editor and cartoonist Mahtab Rashid; organising press

and media teams -- they pulled out all the stops. This is markedly different from the situation in Europe. "What we have over in Europe is festivals organised by adults for the children. It's inspiring to see how it's done here," said Boris Bakal, a filmmaker from Croatia attending the event.

This was Boris' first sojourn to Bangladesh. "I had only heard of your country, and very little of it. The people are quite daring and expressive,"

"It would be great if you could develop some infrastructure for films, set up film schools and arrange technical training," he added. This is important for Boris, a film educator first and then a filmmaker. He came to know of the festival through European Children's Film Association, of which ICFFB is a member.

This year, for the first time, a female festival director arranged the event and led the team. Director Fariha Jahin Biva first came to the festival when she was in eighth-grade. She met Muhammad Zafar Iqbal back then and instantly fell in love with the place, becoming a volunteer for the 10th festival. "I'm not a filmmaker, but I really love films. I feel like it's the most powerful medium. Its resonance is sharp, capable of overwhelming someone. Though I don't make them, I want everyone to watch them," she said.

It wasn't all smooth-sailing though. "As a first timer, of course I'd make some mistakes, but there were issues that were harder to deal with."

She was referring to the Election Commission's

assignment of festival premises as a voting centre for today's city corporation polls. As polling officials walked in with mock voting materials midway through the festival, organisers had to compromise space, vibe, screening, and even

schedule for them. Of her experience, Biva said, "It's not like a female director is going to be the best director ever. It's more about how everyone has a different flavour to offer. While previous directors were known for their precise management, I think I made the entire team feel more at home, which is

an indispensable part of organisation too." "Everything has been awesome for me, although there were a few speedbumps related to my gender. I hope things get better over time, she bemoaned, though not without optimism.

It was probably because it's quite easy to feel optimistic when one is at the festival grounds. When college student Bivayon Chakma won the best film award in the coveted under-18 category, he could barely keep it to himself.

"I made this at my native home in Rangamati, facing a lot of difficulties. From resources to navigating the difficult terrains of Rangamati, it was draining. But when I go back home with this [the award]...Even I don't know what it's going to be like," an elated Bivayon said.

He made his film "Badha" on a budget of around Tk 6,000. It revolves around a cashstrapped Chakma family struggling to adopt to modern technology and lifestyle. The story was written by Sachinda Chakma, a veteran local writer from Rangamati.

"This is very important for me, especially given where I come from," Bivayon said, and this thought was echoed by Biva. "It's such an amazing culture. It's imperative that we don't confine this to the capital only and take it to all the districts of the country and get everyone on board," she said.

Road crashes | Will thwart any

FROM PAGE 5

SI Alauddin Talukdar said. In another incident, truck driver Jabed was killed after his truck fell into a roadside ditch in Sufia Road area of Mirersarai. He died on the spot, police said.

In Bhola, a biker was killed in Shashi Bhushan area of Char Fasson upazila on Thursday, says

The deceased was identified as Md Kaiyum (20), a construction worker. Officer-in-Charge of Shashi Bhushan Police Station Monirul Islam said the accident occurred when he lost control and hit an electric pole.

Meanwhile in Jashore, a man was killed in a road accident on Jashore-Monirampur road in Kanaitola of Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased is Alauddin Biswas (56). OC of Kotwali Model Police Station Md Moniruzzaman confirmed the incident.

He said the accident occurred when a truck hit Alauddin from behind around 8am, leaving him critically injured.

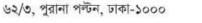
He was rushed to Jashore General Hospital where duty doctors declared him dead. A case was filed with the police station in this regard.

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তারিখঃ ২৯-০১-২০২০খ্রি

জাতীয় ক্রীড়া পরিষদের আওতাধীন বঙ্গবন্ধু জাতীয় স্টেডিয়াম ও মওলানা ভাসানী স্টেডিয়াম এলাকায় ৫টি বাথরুম ইজারা-২০২০খ্রিঃ সালের জন্য পুনরায় দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তিঃ

31	মন্ত্রণালয়ের নাম	0	যুব ও ক্রীড়া মন্ত্রণালয়।
۹1	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী সংস্থার নাম	8	জাতীয় ক্রীড়া পরিষদ, ৬২/৩, পুরানা পল্টন, ঢাকা।
<u>ی</u> ا	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী	0	পরিচালক (প্রশাসন), জাতীয় ক্রীড়া পরিষদ, ঢাকা।
8	কাজের নাম	0	বঙ্গবন্ধু জাতীয় স্টেডিয়াম ও মওলানা ভাসানী স্টেডিয়াম এলাকায় ৫টি বাধরুম ইজারা-২০২০।
@ I	দরপত্র আহ্বানের পদ্ধতি	00	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি।
৬।	দরপত্র/সিভিউল প্রান্তির স্থান	9	ক) বিভাগীয় কমিশনার, ঢাকা এর কার্যালয়, সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা। খ) রাজস্ব শাখা, জাতীয় ক্রীড়া পরিষদ, ঢাকা।
٩١	দরপত্র/সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	0	১৬-০২-২০২০খ্রিঃ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
bi	দরপত্র জমা প্রদানের তারিখ ও সময়	00	১৭-০২-২০২০খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০টা পর্যন্ত।
51	দরপত্র/সিডিউল জমা প্রদানের স্থান	00	রাজস্ব শাখা, জাতীয় ক্রীড়া পরিষদ, ঢাকা।
201	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	8	১৭-০২-২০২০খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ১২.৩০টা পর্যন্ত।
77 1	দরপত্রের মূল্য	00	প্রতিটি ২,০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য) জাতীয় ক্রীড়া পরিষদের অনুকূলে পে-অর্ডারের মাধ্যমে।
١۶٤	দরপত্রের জামানত	0	উদ্ধৃত দরের ৫০% (পঞ্চাশ ভাগ)।
201	দরদাতা/ঠিকাদারের যোগ্যতা	00	অংশগ্রহণকারী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানকে হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেল, আয়কর সার্টিফিকেট, ভ্যাট নিবন্ধন-এর সত্যায়িত কপি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে। দরপত্রের মূলকপি ও ক্রয়ের রশিদ জমা দিতে হবে।

০২। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা জাতীয় ক্রীড়া পরিষদ কর্তৃপক্ষ

এবিএম নাসিরুল আলম

পরিচালক (প্রশাসন) জাতীয় ক্রীড়া পরিষদ, ঢাকা জিডি-২০৮

GOPALGANI CLASH

25 sued over killing of SSC candidate

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Over two dozens of people were sued vesterday in connection with a clash in which an SSC candidate was killed in Gopalganj the day before.

On Thursday, Rony Hawladar, an SSC candidate, was shot dead and 10 people were injured in the clash between two rival groups at Bongram Purbopara village in Sadar upazila.

Barkat Sheikh, a maternal uncle of Rony, filed a murder case against 25 people including one Azizur Sheikh with Sadar Police Station.

Azizur allegedly opened fire during the clash, said Officer-in-Charge Monirul Islam of the police station.

"We are conducting drives to arrest the accused," said the OC.

"There has been a longstanding conflict between Azizur Sheikh, a former member of Karpara Union Parishad, and one Natun

Mollah over establishing supremacy in the area," the police official quoted locals as

A few days ago, supporters of Azizur beat Natun. Later, Rahim Sheikh, a supporter of Azizur, and Natun Mollah had an altercation that triggered the clash, said OC

Both the groups were equipped with sharp weapons, he said.

"At one point, Natun's supporters attacked Azizur's house. Enraged, Azizur fired shots to intimidate the attackers. One of the bullets hit Rony," said the police

The complainant, Barkat Sheikh, said, My nephew was innocent. But, they killed him. We want justice.'

Rony's father Anwar Hawladar said his son, who was supposed to sit for SSC exams from Azharia High School in Sadar upazila, was just a bystander.

GOVT SHARES IN TOBACCO COMPANY

Proposal to be placed before PM to withdraw it

Says deputy Speaker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A proposal will be placed before Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to withdraw Bangladesh government's shares from an international tobacco company, Jatiya Sangsad Deputy Speaker Advocate Fazle Rabbi Miah said at a discussion

"With an aim to build a tobacco-free Bangladesh by 2040, as per Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina' pledge, we will place a proposal to her to withdraw government's 9.49 percent shares from British-American tobacco company," Advocate Fazle Rabbi added.

It is not possible to root out tobacco from the country if the government is involved in tobacco business, he said, terming the government's stake in tobacco contradictory to its anti-tobacco stance.

He made the remarks while addressing a programme titled "National dialogue on withdrawal of government shares from tobacco company 2020". The programme was organised by "Campaign for Good Governance" (SUPRO)

Abdul Awal, chairperson of Campaign for Good Governance, presided over the programme.

The streets of Dhaka were empty throughout most of yesterday. On top of being the day before the city polls, it was also a Friday, which meant people had little incentive to commute. The photo was taken from Mirpur Road.

Govt committed to improving education in CHT: minister

Bss, Bandarban

Affairs Bahadur Bir Ushwe Sing yesterday said the government is committed to enhancing quality and effectiveness of education in Chittagong Hill Tracts. "We are working to

provide education facilities in hard-to-reach areas by setting up educational institutions, to build a prosperous country," he said.

The minister speaking at the inaugural programme of a newlyconstructed building of Kumaripara Madrasa and Orphanage in Lama upazila of the district, said an official release.

He said despite many challenges, the country has made some remarkable and praiseworthy achievements in the education sector.

Victory will be ours

manner," Atiqul said.

"Wherever I went, I saw the love people showed for 'boat'. We are cent percent sure that we will win," Atiqul said. He also said apart from a handful of incidents, the

of people live in Dhaka. Therefore, a few such incidents would take place," he added. "Throughout the campaign, party leaders and supporters were on the field. We all went to voters to seek their

overall electoral environment was satisfactory. "Crores

support. Seeing the participation and support of people, I have come to realise that victory will be ours," he added. "Every vote counts... I request everyone to go to the polling centres today and cast their votes in a peaceful

In the afternoon, Atiqul visited Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

He is scheduled to cast his vote along with family members around 8am today at Nawab Habibullah Model School and College voting centre in Uttara-4.

On January 26, Atiqul rolled out a 38-point election manifesto with a focus on combatting air pollution and the mosquito menace.

He also pledged to implement the Integrated Vector Management system to effectively tackle the mosquito menace round the year with the help of the health ministry, Wasa, DSCC and other nearby city corporations.

He unveiled the manifesto with three segments Modern Dhaka, Healthy Dhaka and Vibrant Dhaka.

A day of reflection for Taposh

to BSMMU around 10:30am yesterday with respiratory problems. He also inquired about the minister's health condition.

From there, Taposh went to the party office in Dhanmondi where he spoke to leaders and activists of the party and its front organisations about the polls.

Taposh will cast his vote at Dr Malika University College centre in Dhanmondi.

On January 29, the AL candidate unveiled his manifesto with a plan to turn Dhaka south into a tourist destination. There are potentials that need to be explored, he said while revealing his

election manifesto at AL headquarters on Bangabandhu avenue.

His other pledges include turning the old central jail into an amusement park featuring theatres; revamping the areas surrounding Buriganga and Shitalakhya rivers; reviving Old Dhaka; introducing a hop-on hop-off bus service; holding crash programmes to control the Aedes mosquito population and prevent dengue outbreaks and freeing footpaths from hawkers and illegal occupants.

He also said, "DSCC will be the first autonomous organisation to rid itself of

An explosion

Here's what a security guard of a house said: "I am on duty every night. I did not hear or see anything. Maybe it happened, maybe it didn't."

This newspaper spoke to two dozens of people from the shops and the homes, but nobody saw or heard anything. The FIR lists out two shops as the exact location

where the explosion happened, but when interviewed, employees of the shops said they neither saw, nor heard an explosion.

Sub-inspector Shahidur Rahman of Kafrul Police Station, investigating officer of the case, said they arrested a suspect named Nurul Islam.

"I got the case, I have just started investigating," he said.