

### PHOTO OF THE DAY



## BNP to announce nominee on Feb 24

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

BNP will declare its mayoral candidate for Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) polls on February 24. Party insiders, however, said unlike Awami League, which chose a surprise candidate, their leadership will not make such a move. Meanwhile, not too many leaders have sought

nomination from BNP, unlike the situation with AL. While AL chose Rezaul Karim Chowdhury as its mayoral candidate among 19 nomination seekers, only six have

bought nomination forms from BNP office. They are -- city unit president Shahadat Hossain, general secretary Abul Hashem Bakkar, vice presidents Niaz Mohammad Khan and Syed Azam Uddin, women affairs secretary Lucy Khan and former joint general secretary Ershad Ullah -- said Idris Ali, city unit assistant office

BNP Chattogram Divisional Organising Secretary Mahbubur Rahman Shamim said leaders and activists do not believe fair polls can be held under the present EC.

"You've all seen what happened in Dhaka city corporation polls and in the by-polls to Chattogram-8 constituency," he said. "For this reason, not too many leaders are interested to contest the election."

"We'll take part in the polls to expose the government and EC," he said. "Besides, we've taken it as part of the movement to free our leader Khaleda Zia from jail." Through campaigning in the election, we can reach the

people, which we can't normally do due to the repressive

attitude of the government and law enforcers," he added. Contacted, Abul Hashem Bakkar said he was hopeful to get party nomination. "I have reached this position after doing politics at grassroots level for a long time and have been in multiple movements for years," he said.

Shahadat Hossain could not be reached over phone. Contacted, Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, BNP central standing committee member, told this newspaper, "We are participating for the sake of keeping the democratic system in place."

#### Miscreants assault man, loot house

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Members of a local gang beat up a man and looted his house in Savar, according to a complaint.

Kamal Hossain (36) a clothes trader, filed the complaint with Savar Model Police Station on Wednesday night.

In his statement, Kamal said a group of people including Omor Faruk, who claimed to be a journalist, stormed into his Hemayetpur house on Tuesday. Kamal was with one of his female cousins who came to him for a loan.

They confined Kamal to a room and beat him indiscriminately, he said.

The group forced them be photographed inappropriately, demanded Tk 3 lakh from him, looted Tk 46,000 and a TV worth Tk 40,000, Kamal said in the statement.

When the gang left, locals took the injured to Savar Upazila Health Complex.

Hamidur Rahman, subinspector of the police station, said following the complaint they were trying to arrest Faruk, who had been cheating people introducing himself as a

# RMG workers block Savar road over arrears

was taken from South Kaunia Khan Bari area of the city yesterday.

3,000 demonstrate for four hours in two phases

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Around 3,000 RMG workers and staff members of two factories in Savar blocked a road for four hours in two phases yesterday, demanding arrears.

They blocked the Hemayetpur-Singair road around 10am. Following assurance from law enforcers and worker leaders, they left the area around 12:30pm and took position inside the factory premises.

Around 5:30pm, they once again blocked the road and stayed there for over an hour. Workers left the place at 7pm after worker leaders went to the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments office in Dhaka to discuss the issue.

BGMEA officials and owner of the both factories are also present at the meeting there, Kabir Hossain, vice president of National Garment Workers' Federation, told this correspondent around 7:30pm. He said the meeting was still going on.

He said the owner has decided to not be contacted for comments. shut down the factories and they were negotiating on how soon he can clear the

Workers of "Raquef Apparels Washing and Packaging Industry and "Passion Jeans Ltd" in Savar's Tatuljhora area said they were supposed to get paid for the month of January within the first week of

With patience and care, a group of children sculpt a Shaheed Minar on a roadside in Barishal city. It may not be accurate, but that did not

deter them as two of them spiritedly spread clay over the pedestal while others gently hold onto the columns. They said every year before

Ekushey February, youngsters in the area build Shaheed Minar on their own to pay tributes to the Language Movement martyrs. This photo

Instead, the authorities said they would pay the salary yesterday. When workers went to the factory in the morning, they did not find any one, prompting them to take

Meanwhile, staff members of both the factories alleged that they did not get salaries for last four month. They also expressed solidarity with the workers'

Fazlul Haque, a staffer of Passion Jeans Ltd, said, "I only got some Tk 15,000 out of Tk 80,000 salary in the last four month. How can I maintain my family if this persists?"

Contacted, Abul Kalam, deputy general manager (production) of both the factories, said he is not handling the matter and it would be best to contact DGM (admin) Shakil Mahmud in this regard.

Despite repeated attempts, Shakil could

Model Police Station, said vehicular movement on the road was normal by

Law enforcers were deployed in the area to avoid any untoward situation, he added.

#### Haji Danesh University

### Tension over driver's remark about VC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A fourth-grade employee of Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University in Dinajpur allegedly made a derogatory remark against the vice chancellor (VC).

In protest, a group of students led by Riad Khan, a student of agriculture allegedly assaulted Jahangir Alam.

Jahangir is the president of HSTU third and fourth grade

Protest and counter-protests have taken place on campus surrounding the incicent, turning the situation tense.

Talking to The Daily Star, Prof Fahima Khanam, dean of post-graduation faculty of HSTU, said she heard "bad remarks" made by Jahangir against the VC when she was walking past him on the campus Sunday. She informed it to university high officials, and filed a written complaint to Prof Md Fazlul Haq, registrar of the university, on Monday.

Jahangir denied the allegations. He said he was attacked by 8-10 students on campus on Sunday and Monday. Some teachers brought the matter under control, he said.

Jahangir also filed a complaint to the registrar yesterday. Protesting the driver's remarks, Democratic Teachers Council of HSTU formed a human chain on Tuesday, accusing Jahangir of previous misconduct.

Another section of teachers under Progressive Teachers' Forum formed a human chain on campus on Wednesday, saying an opportunist group was trying to destabilise the situation at HSTU, and allowing such situation to continue would hinder the educational atmosphere of the university

Contacted, HSTU registrar said Progressive Teachers' Forum is destabilising the campus by holding different agitation programmes. Steps will be taken against the accused driver after holding a meeting, he said on Wednesday afternoon.

# '3.9m children stunted due to malnourishment'

Speakers urge govt to ensure nutrition for all



Participants at the roundtable vesterday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While progress has been made in country, said Piyali Mustaphi, chief of various areas including food security, the government needs to focus on ensuring nutrition for the disadvantaged and malnourished, speakers said at a roundtable yesterday.

They said malnutrition poses a big challenge to build an economically productive population, and stressed enhanced government-private partnership to address the issue.

Bangla daily Prothom Alo and Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) jointly arranged the roundtable on "Sustainable Development Goals: Advancing Food and Nutrition Commitments" at the newspaper's office in the capital.

Latest government data shows further reduction in stunting. However, there are still 3.9 million children stunted in the nutrition at Unicef Bangladesh.

"The number is still huge and we cannot be complacent about it," she said.

Malnutrition among children in urban slums, tea estate communities and parts of CHT region is high, she added.

Malnutrition costs Bangladesh more than Tk 7,000 crore in lost economic productivity each year, said GAIN Executive Director Lawrence Haddad, referring to a 2012 study.

Children who have inadequate nutrition and early stimulation during the first 1,000 days have a lifelong disadvantage in terms of productivity and economic potential, he said in a paper presented during the roundtable.

Lawrence, who also moderated the event, SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

http://books.thedailystar.net

### 3,950 bottles of Phensedyl seized from warehouse

Our Correspondent, Dinajpur

At least 3.950 bottles of Phensedyl were seized from a warehouse for spice and salt in Badarganj upazila of Rangpur yesterday.

A team of Criminal **Investigation Department** (CID) conducted the raid.

A man, Md Moshiur Rahman (24), who used to live in the warehouse, was detained in connection with the incident, said Ferdous Waheed, an inspector of CID in Rangpur.

The Criminal **Investigation Department** inspector said they conducted the raid in the area on information that the warehouse used to keep contraband drugs.



Dense fog envelopes mango trees in Khulna city. Even though a tree adorned with buds is always a welcoming sight as flowers start to bloom at the onset of Bangla month of Falgun, farmers fear prolonged winter and cloudy sky will affect the buds. This photo was taken from Mostor Mor area early yesterday.

INT'L MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

## Foodpanda to launch app in Bangla today

Foodpanda, an online food delivery service, is going to launch its Bangla app today, says a press release.

The latest edition of the fully optimised Bangla language app, anticipates that more and more Bangladeshis will be able to use and enjoy its simple and fast delivery services.

The announcement also marks International Mother Language Day. Foodpanda resonates with the core message of this day by having a vision to create an online delivery service for all people living in Bangladesh.

Striving for excellence for all its customers, Foodpanda's new Bangla app brings more accessibility and more resonance with Bangladeshis, to bring the food they love right to their doors.

### SEXUAL HARASSMENT

# Suspend RU school teacher: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed authorities concerned to suspend Md Durul Huda, a teacher of Rajshahi University School and College, who allegedly sexually

harassed a student in October last year. It also asked authorities to take legal action against Huda, and issued a rule seeking explanation why their failure to

take action should not be declared illegal. Authorities of Rajshahi University School and College and Rajshahi University must ensure security of the victim, the HC said.

The bench of Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif and Justice Md Mahmud Hassan Talukder came up with the order and rule following

writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Jobaida Gulshan Ara.

She filed the petition as a public interest litigation, following a report published on a national newspaper headlined, "Sexual harassment victim unable to go to school: Accused teacher on bail".

Advocate Mijanur Rahman, appeared for the writ petitioner, told The Daily Star that Durul Huda will remain suspended until he is exonerated from charges brought against him.

The victim's mother has filed a case with Motihar Police Station in Rajshai against Durul Huda following the incident, he said, adding that Huda is now on bail in

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The Transition





HAVE A NICE DAY From Two Economies to









