

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day
Of Forgers and Frauds

by Ayesha Fariha

Forgery is rampant in Dhaka city, and because there is little check on it, forgers are now more audacious than ever before. Small advertising agencies with offices on the main roads of Dhaka city pose as front organisations for forgers. In fact, police recently recovered a large number of forged clearing certificates, and seals and pads of airport immigration officials. Passport Department officials, and officer-in-charge of different thanas from one such ad agency. The act of forgery may sound simple, but it serves as a conduit to many other crimes, and it can break down the system of governance in the country.

The most common forgery is that of driving licences. A fake licence costs only up to Taka 500, and over 60 per cent of all the licences in this country are false. Therefore, there are hundreds of thousands of inexperienced and nervous drivers all over this city. A recent survey shows

that some 20 per cent of the drivers that people in Dhaka city hire, actually learn to drive properly on the job. These people are likely to cause accidents, and endanger the lives of their passengers and other as well.

Forgery also encourages smuggling. If one can obtain false certificates of airport authorities, that person can bring in any number of items through the customs officials and sell them in the market. Further, forged documents that show that duty has been paid, when it is not, cheat the government of its income.

People nowadays have little difficulty to forge passports. A lot of people enter Bangladesh illegally, and leave on forged Bangladesh passports. Some people make two

or three passports, because there is a limit on the amount of foreign currency that one can purchase on a passport. Banks do not check the authenticity of passports when they sell dollars and pounds, simply because one does not look at a passport and assume it is fake. It is after all the most important identity card that a government issues. Many travel abroad on fake passports and disappear. It is difficult, if not practically impossible, to track down who these people actually are as their identities are a complete mystery. The UK, USA, and other countries are having difficulty tracking down illegal immigrants, precisely because of this problem.

If these people are caught and deported, they return, acquire more forged passports, and leave again.

If a criminal has difficulty acquiring a forged passport, he or she can always obtain a fake police clearing certificate. This certifies that an individual has been cleared of any police charges, and is free to leave the country whenever he or she wants to. The fake certificates enable criminals to gain access to foreign visas, and they leave the country without ever being tried — a slap in the face of the justice system.

On a much smaller scale, people forge police reports and file false cases out of spite. The weakness which allows for forgery is the corruption in the police force. Persons who work in the police or with them are involved. To protect ourselves, we should double or perhaps triple check all police documents and driver's licences. The government does not necessarily issue every document that bears the seal of one of its departments.



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Shajahan demands fresh polls in Bhola-1

The BNP candidate in Bhola-1 constituency, Mosharref Hossain Shajahan, in a statement here Sunday night alleged that he had been declared defeated in the June 12 parliamentary polls by tricks, reports BSS.

Shajahan in the statement said the election in his constituency was massively rigged by his opponent and appealed to the Election Commission to arrange fresh polls by suspending the result announced earlier.

The BNP candidate said he had informed all the authorities concerned verbally and in writing that vote rigging would take place in some centres and unions of his constituency and some of the presiding officers would not be impartial and some of the high-ranking officials work against him but all his appeals remained unheard.

He alleged that his chief election agent was arrested three days before the polls without any ground as a result, most of his agents became apprehensive.

Shajahan said that he had submitted a written complaint to the authorities in due time saying that there cannot be any voting centre in front of a candidate's house but the voting centre in south Dighaldi remained in front of Tofae Ahmed's house.

June 12 polls was free, fair: FEMA

Local observers, echoing with the foreign monitors, hailed the June 12 general election as free and fair and urged political parties to respect the will of the people, reports BSS.

In its interim report released in the city Sunday, Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) said the allegations of rigging made by some parties and candidates were not "significant enough to change the overall outcome."

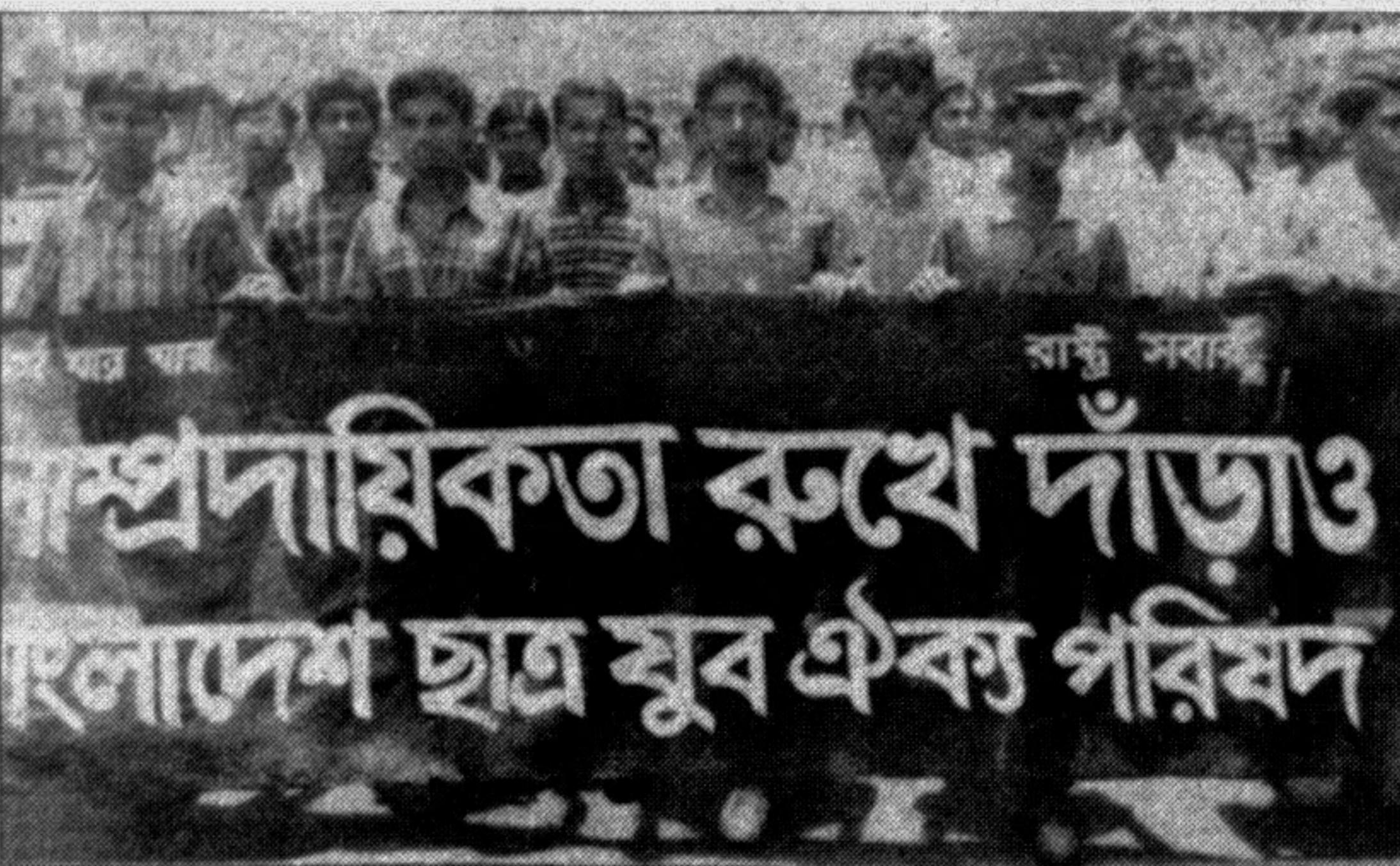
It said the vote represents a genuine expression of the will of the majority of the electorate and concluded that barring few instances, the voting have been free and fair.

The FEMA is a non-partisan coalition of 170 national and local non-governmental organisations that fielded over 25,000 observers in almost all polling centres across the country on the polling day.



The 23rd annual general meeting of Bangladesh Export Import Company Ltd was held at Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday.

Beximco photo



Bangladesh Chhatra Jubo Oikya Parishad brought out a procession in the city yesterday with a call to resist communalism.

Star photo

C'wealth team impressed by transparency in polls process

A two-member delegation of the Commonwealth observer group led by Tansri Dr Mohd Gazali Shafie called on Chief Election Commission (CEC) Mohammad Abu Hena at his office at the Election Commission secretariat Sunday, reports BSS.

They discussed different aspects of the June 12 election and the repolling in some polling centres scheduled to be held on June 19, an Election Commission press release said.

The members of the delegation congratulated the CEC on his successful completion of the June 12 election. They said that the election was peaceful and held in a free, fair and impartial manner.

The leader of the Commonwealth observer group, Dr Shafie said the members of his delegation visited a large number of polling centres in all the divisions of the country, while he himself visited 14 polling centres personally on the election day. He said that which ever place he visited, he noticed that the election was held in a festive environment. He was impressed by the remarkable turnout of women voters in each of the centres he visited. He also talked to the polling agents nominated by different political parties in the polling centres.

Foundation of new computer science bldg at DU laid

The vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof. Emajuddin Ahmed formally laid the foundation stone of a new building for departments of microbiology and computer science yesterday at the northside of Science Library of the university, reports BSS.

It will cost Tk 4.49 crores and its construction work is expected to be completed within next 18 months.

Presided over by treasurer of the university Professor Md. Shamsul Huq, the foundation laying function was also addressed by Pro-Vice-Chancellor Prof. Shahid Uddin Ahmed Dean of the faculty of Pharmacy Professor AK Azad Chowdhury, Dean of the Faculty of Science Professor Shafi Chowdhury and Dean of the Faculty of Biological Science Professor Sultan Hossain.

Prof. Emajuddin Ahmed said Dhaka University has been facing many problems and some of those problems will be resolved by construction this new building. He said the university authorities have to face many obstacles at the time of construction work and if such impediment is apprehended.

SSMCSU ex-VP roughed up

A former VP of Sir Salimullah Medical College Students' Union (SSMCSU) was roughed up by some students on the college campus Sunday, reports BSS.

The incident took place when Dr CSB Jalal Rosel, the former VP, was talking to a physician at the surgery building of the SSMC Hospital yesterday morning.

Another physician Dr Selim and present VP of the college students' union Rifat also came under the attack.

In a statement Sunday, Rosel blamed the activists of pro-Awami League Chhatri League for the incident.

BOU exams begin July 12

Diploma/Certificate in Management Examination under Bangladesh Open University will begin on July 12, reports UNB.

According to a BOU announcement, the schedule of the examination is as follows:

Business English on July 12 9am-12 noon, Micro Economics and Health Service Management on July 19 9am-12 noon, Introductory Statistics 9am-12noon and Management Policy 2pm-5pm on July 26, Financial Management 9am-12noon and Financing Policy 2pm-5pm on August 2, Accounting Policy on August 9 9am-12noon and Marketing Policy on August 16 from 9 am to 12 noon.

Weather**Thundershower likely**

Light to moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna divisions and at many places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours till 6 pm Tuesday, reports BSS.

Besides, a moderately heavy to heavy falls may occur at places over Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions during the period, Met Office said.

Day temperature is likely to fall by 1-2 degree Celsius across the country.

In its outlook for the subsequent two days, Met office said rainfall activity is likely to increase. Giving extended outlook for another five days weathermen forecast little change.

Country's highest temperature 36 degree Celsius was recorded at Dinajpur and the lowest 22.4 degrees at Kutubdia.

The sun sets today at 6:49 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:12 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday:

City/town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage		
	Max	Min	Mo	Eve
Dhaka	35.3	28.2	72	72
Chittagong	35.3	27.0	66	65
Rajshahi	35.0	26.6	73	66
Khulna	33.6	26.5	81	81
Barisal	33.0	25.5	78	78
Sylhet	34.4	26.6	95	70

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