

## Intimidated Sandwip candidates blame BNP activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chairman and commissioner candidates, who had to leave Sandwip for the port city a few days before the municipal election due to intimidation by the ruling party musclemen, organised a press conference at the Chittagong Press Club yesterday to describe their grievances.

Tension was prevailing in the offshore island yesterday two days after the election with the zero turnout allegedly caused by intimidation of the ruling party armed cadres.

At the afternoon press conference, the candidates alleged that some musclemen of the ruling party,

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## Two killed in road accident in city

BSS, Dhaka

Two persons were killed in road accidents at Badda and Kawran Bazar in the city early yesterday morning.

Police and hospital sources said Golap, 30, was crushed by a taxicab near Khilkhet Railway Crossing at about 5 am.

Police recovered and sent the body to the morgue of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy.

Golap was the son of Mohammad Sirajul Islam of

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# Black day at Gaibandha to protest Trisha's death

ANWAR ALI and KM REZAUL HAQ

from Gaibandha

A spontaneous eight-hour hartal was observed at Gaibandha town yesterday demanding punishment to the persons responsible for the killing of twelve-year old school girl Sadia Sultana Trisha.

At a post-hartal rally at the Shaheed Minar, a seven-day programme of wearing black badges and hoisting black flags atop houses and other structures was announced to mourn the killing of Trisha, an incident that turned Gaibandha into a town of protest rallies and processions for consecutive days.

An indefinite hartal programme will be announced if charge sheet in the murder case is not submitted by July 25, speakers at the rally said.

Sadia Sultana Trisha, a student of

class four at Madhyapara Government Primary School in the town, drowned on July 17 as she jumped into a pond at Khanpara to save herself from three vagabond boys chasing her.



Sadia Sultana Trisha

Yesterday's hartal, called by the Gaibandha Nagoric Committee (GNC) and supported by all local socio-cultural and political organisations except a fraction ruling BNP, was completely successful and peaceful. People of all strata of the society expressed their spontaneous support to the hartal.

Even roadside tea-stalls and betel-leaf shops remained closed during the 6am-2pm hartal and rickshaws and bicycles were off the roads.

All educational institutions remained closed while attendance at offices was poor.

But roads were not empty. Amid drizzles, people came on roads in large numbers to express their support to the hartal.

Earlier on Saturday, the local units of opposition Awami League,

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# Language lab book deal scrapped

STAR REPORT

The education ministry has scrapped the tender for procuring 'unnecessary and unfamiliar' equipment, books and other materials for setting up six language laboratories in the six divisional headquarters. A fresh tender will be floated for this.

"The tender for the language laboratory project has been cancelled following report of ambiguity in the tendering process" and a tender for this will be floated afresh," Education Secretary Mohammad Shahidul Alam told this correspondent.

Earlier, The Daily Star had reported that the tender

for the government funded project was floated for procuring unnecessary and unfamiliar books and other materials without consulting experts, which would cause wastage of several crore taka.

The technical committee responsible for finalising the tender for the project - Establishment of Language Laboratory at six divisional Headquarters - at a meeting last week decided to go on with it without correcting the loopholes in the tender procedure. But the education ministry investigated the reported loopholes and scrapped the tender.

The director of the project had earlier said the techni

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PHOTO: STAR

Two girls waded through stagnated rainwater in a low-lying area of Rayer Bazar in the city yesterday. Heavy downpour for the last two days has flooded the city's lowlands.

## Now code of conduct for BUET students

BSS, Dhaka

The Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) yesterday introduced a four-point code of conduct for its students after banning student politics.

Vice-chancellor (VC) of BUET Professor Nooruddin Ahmed told the news agency yesterday that the proctor of the university would oversee the matter and report to the university authorities whether the students are conforming to the codes properly.

He said a permanent police box would be established on the campus. The vice-chancellor said academic session review committee would sit for once (in case of emergency as many times as needed) a month to review campus situation.

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## HC rule on Hamid's JS membership tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

The hearings on a writ petition challenging the parliament membership of former speaker Abdul Hamid for his failure to take oath as per Constitution concluded yesterday at the High Court.

The court will pronounce its judgement on Wednesday.

A division bench of the High Court comprising Justice Hamidul Huq and Justice Nazmun Ara

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# More rain, more flood

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The overall flood situation deteriorated further as heavy rainfall was recorded at many places. The water levels of the major rivers rose, inundating surrounding lowlands.

According to the flood-forecasting centre, many rivers already crossed the danger mark and the major rivers registered a further rise.

The Dharla at Kurigram, the Surma at Kanaighat and Sunamganj, the Someswari at Durgapur, the Muhuri at Parshuram and the Halda at Naryanhat are flowing above their danger marks.

More lowlands in the Kurigram and the Sirajganj districts are likely to be inundated soon while the prevailing flood situation in the greater Sylhet and Chittagong districts are likely to deteriorate further. This was stated in the latest bulletin by the flood-forecasting centre of the Bangladesh Water Development Board.

The river's, Brahmaputra and

Jamuna registered an increase in all points while the flow of the Padma rose in all points except at Bhagyakul.

The flow of the river Surma also recorded an increase in many points.

According to the flood-forecasting centre, heavy rainfall was recorded at some places and light to moderate rainfall at most places across the country.

Rainfall recorded at Kushtia was 166.2 millimetres (mm). At Panchpukuria, Panchagarh, Dewanganj and Jessore, it was recorded at 155.7mm, 115mm, 105mm and 99.6mm respectively.

Our correspondents from various districts have reported heavy rains, the rise of water levels in the rivers, and the flooding of lowlands. They also reported flooding of roads and residential areas and water stagnation in many big cities and towns.

The flood also forced many people to leave their houses and take shelter on highlands.

Our Kushtia Correspondent reported that normal life had been paralysed after two days of incessant rainfall in the district, which damaged the standing crops, houses, roads and highways.

Many areas in the district also went under water. The water was locked due to the poor drainage system.

Reports say fresh floods and erosion, causing miseries to thousands of families have hit vast areas in five districts of greater Rangpur.

During the past 48 hours, all major rivers recorded sharp rises, inundating huge areas across the Rangpur zone. The river Ghaghot crossed the danger mark at several points in Gaibandha district while the Teesta and the Brahmaputra touched the danger level in Rangpur, Lalmonirhat and Nilphamari areas.

Over the last 72 hours, the

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## Housewife burnt to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housewife was burnt to death, allegedly by her husband, in their Mazar Road residence in the city's Mirpur area yesterday.

Hospital sources quoting the family members said Tajul Islam, 30,

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## AL slams govt for Sandwip farce

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League (AL) has blamed the government for intimidating some 26,000 voters from casting votes in the Sandwip municipality polls.

Acting AL President Abdus Samad Azad in a statement yesterday also demanded immediate scrapping of the polls and a fresh election schedule. He demanded arrest of the criminals belonging to the 'BNP-Jamaat' who 'barred' voters from going to polling stations.

Azad further observed that the Sandwip experience had manifested that no free and fair polls under the present Election Commission were possible.

# BNP to recast grassroots

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has planned to recast its network at the grassroots level.

The move is aimed at revamping the party, shoring up confidence in the frustrated supporters and bracing it for the opposition movement, said sources.

The BNP and its front organisations have become inactive since its assumption of power, as most frontline leaders now in the cabinet and busy with state affairs have left a vacuum in the party.

Besides, mid-ranking BNP leaders and leaders of the front organisations have engaged in business deals to secure their future.

The absence of the leaders in organisational activities has plunged the field-level, dedicated workers into frustration.

Insiders said the party policymakers are also anxious about the future of the party.

The policymakers apprehend that if the party fails to restrain its corrupt leaders from illegal business deals, its image will suffer.

Some senior leaders, on condition of anonymity, said that this time many in the cabinet are involved in corruption, which was unseen during the BNP's 1991-96 rule.

A cabinet minister told The Daily Star that sons and relatives of some ministers, known as honest, also engaged in dubious business deals.

A son of a senior minister raked in profits ahead of the new fiscal from his illicit business deal - the way sons and relatives of some influential ministers in the previous Awami League government did, he added.

Sources said the move to bring major changes to the jumbo cabinet stalled, as the corrupt became the majority. Although the demand for a reshuffle in the cabinet and dropping of the corrupt is peaking, the chance of a major change is still slim.

Mainstream leaders feel the party may face difficulties like broad-based movements against it as in the mid-90s when the party was in power.

The party chief and other policymakers should take immediate steps to

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Tommy Miah

## Queen's nod to king of kitchen

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladeshi chef Tommy Miah, popular in the United Kingdom as the Jamie Oliver of South Asian cooking, was speechless with joy when Queen Elizabeth herself wrote the foreword to his new 9.99 pound curry cookery book 'Favourite Recipes of the Raj'.

The humble Azman Miah (later renamed Tommy Miah) of Moulvibazar set out for England in 1969 when he could hardly speak English. He was only ten years old at the time.

The famous chef told journalists at a local hotel here yesterday that he has dedicated the new book to social welfare activities in the UK and Bangladesh. He hopes to raise over 200,000 pounds from sale proceeds of the book 'Favourite Recipes of the Raj'.

He said this fund will be donated for cancer research in the UK apart from running an orphanage in Gazipur estab

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
July 23		6-47 pm
July 24	5-23 am	

Prayer Timings		
July 23		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-52	6-57
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation