

Ctg experience reinforces call for caretaker reforms

Says Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the delay in announcing results of the Chittagong mayoral elections underlined the need for reform in caretaker government system.

She also called for building a mass movement in the wake of the opposition triumph in Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) polls to put an end to misrule of the BNP-led alliance and free people from "monsters, terrorists, the corrupt and smugglers".

Addressing a meeting of representatives of the Nagorik

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Current political context demands election reforms

Sujon roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday emphasised the need for election reforms in view of the current political context.

Reforms in the election system are inevitable to maintain democratic norms and make the government more people-oriented, they told the roundtable held at Khulna Press Club VIP auditorium.

Organised by Shushasoner Janya Nagorik (Sujon), an NGO, and chaired by Principal Ohidur Rahman, the roundtable also stressed political reforms in Bangladesh and their reasons.

Dr Badiul Alam, member secretary of Sujon, raised a point on the

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Govt sits on community clinic launch

NAIMUL HAQ

The government is yet to decide about the launch of over 11,000 community clinics (CCs) at union level across the country despite its success in operating and managing a number of CCs for providing basic healthcare services as test cases.

Policy makers, stakeholders and beneficiaries agree that the CCs should be put into operation immediately in view of their effective functioning in collaboration with private sector or non government organisations, sources said.

Over 11,000 CCs built since 1999 at a cost of around Tk 2.25 lakh each under the previous five-

year Health and Population Sector Programme (HPSP) still remain non-functional. They were intended to provide a range of essential healthcare and family planning (FP) services including reproductive healthcare and child healthcare.

The government's Programme Implementation Plan (PIP) prepared by the Planning Wing of the Health Ministry in January 2004 under the on-going Health, Nutrition, Population Sector Programme (HNPSPP) said, "In the efforts of building and running so-called CCs, scarce resources have been spread thinly and in many places misused in the name of building prototype uniform struc-

tures."

But the PIP recognised public-private/NGO partnership in delivering basic primary healthcare services and said, "effective partnerships between the public and the private/NGOs sectors have shown considerable positive results that need to be harnessed and promoted in HNPSPP".

Acknowledging the contributions of public-private/NGOs partnership (PPP), the health ministry contracted and commissioned a number of NGOs under a Joint Implementation Committee (JIC) that monitored and supervised NGO activities in running some

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Contempt rule on judge, PP, accused

Granting of bail over sedition charges pending with HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday served a suo moto contempt rule on a Dhaka court judge, the public prosecutor (PP) and the sacked managing director (MD) of Inqilab TV for granting the MD bail in a sedition case in the lower court while the matter was pending with the High Court.

Judge Mohammad Shamsul Alam Khan of the Court of First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge, Dhaka, PP Abdullah Mahmud Hassan and Shoaib

Chowdhury are to respond to the rule that ordered them to explain why contempt proceedings should not be drawn against them.

The High Court Division Bench of Justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Emdadul Haq Azad also directed them to appear before the court on May 24 to explain their position on the matter.

The metropolitan sessions judge's court granted bail to the terminated Inqilab TV MD, Salauddin Shoaib Chowdhury, on April 30 in a sedition case upon a

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Criminal killed in Rab 'crossfire'

BDNEWS, Madaripur and Dhaka

A criminal died in 'crossfire' between police and his associates early yesterday in Shibchar of Madaripur while in the capital, two alleged muggers were injured in an encounter with Rapid Action Battalion.

Police said they arrested Abdus Salam alias Chika Salam, charged with kidnapping and murdering two police officers in Madaripur, at Paikpara of Rajoir upazila. Following his statements under interrogation, a Detective Branch of police team took him to Utrail market to recover firearms. But as they reached there, Salam's men started firing at them. At one stage, Salam got shot and died on the spot while two constables of

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PHOTO: STAR

When night comes, China-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge becomes a risky trip for vehicles as the streetlights have not been in order for the last four years.

Robbery spree in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Robbers in six incidents of robbery looted gold and cash worth about Tk 8 lakh in Mirpur, Motijheel, Dhanmondi and Khilgaon in the capital in seven hours since Sunday night.

Eight robbers entered a first-floor house through the open door at Ahmednagar in Mirpur at 9:00pm when owner Nabiullah went out for Esha prayers.

They beat and tied up Nabiullah's wife, sister-in-law and grandson and took away Tk 25,000, 25 tola gold ornaments and valuables worth about Tk 3.4 lakh.

The robbers entered the third-floor house of Hafizur Rahman in

the same building and looted 10 tola gold ornaments, a television, electronic goods and other valuables worth around Tk 1.6 lakh.

Mirpur police yesterday arrested three alleged robbers -- Palash, Jakir and Babu.

Another group of robbers broke into the house of Akhtaruzzaman in the same area at around 4:00am yesterday. The robbers took away at gunpoint cash and valuables worth around Tk 1.7 lakh.

In Motijheel, armed robbers broke into the Arambagh house of Shahidur Rahman and looted cash and gold worth Tk 1.45 lakh at 11:45pm.

Another robbery took place on

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EXPLOSIVES CASE Galib denied bail again

UNB, Bogra

A Bogra court yesterday rejected the latest bail prayer of Asadullah Al Galib, leader of the outlawed

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Muslims to hit US interests if it doesn't apologise

Says Amini on Quran desecration

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Islamic Morcha, a fundamentalist organisation indirectly led by the ruling four-party coalition partner Islamic Oikya Jote (IOJ) Chief Mufti Fazlul Haque Amini, yesterday said the US interests around the world will be attacked as it has desecrated the holy Quran.

The morcha leaders also demanded the US government to offer an apology for desecrating the holy Quran.

Mufti Fazlul Haque Amini, Mufti

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Prayer Timing		
May 17		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-36	6-40
Esha	8-00	8-30
Source: Islamic Foundation		