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Top city AL leader slain

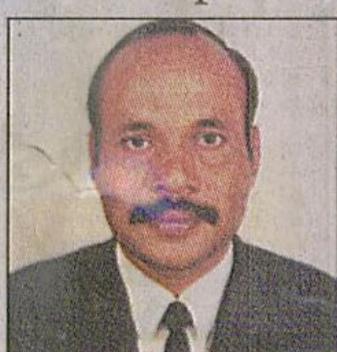
Dawn-to-dusk hartal in capital today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unknown assailants gunned down Law Affairs Secretary of Dhaka City Awami League (AL) Advocate Khorshed Alam Bachchu at Tejgaon yesterday, triggering violent street demonstrations in the capital.

The main opposition has called a dawn-to-dusk hartal in the city for today in protest against the murder of Khorshed, a Supreme Court lawyer and also joint general secretary of Awami Aijibhi Parishad, a pro-opposition lawyers' forum.

Three gunmen sprayed point-blank around 10 bullets on



PHOTO, STAR
Slain Khorshed Alam Bachchu; his family, right, mourns the murder.



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SC Bar to cancel Sircar, Moudud membership
Legal experts question speaker's ruling on lawyers' movement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) yesterday decided to cancel membership of the speaker and the law minister for their remarks against SCBA lawyers' ongoing agitation demanding removal of an

additional High Court judge.

Noted jurists Dr Kamal Hossain and Dr M Zahir also questioned the speaker's ruling against the lawyers' movement, saying the speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad has no jurisdiction to issue such a ruling on matters out

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Stay orders stall Tk 30,000cr loan recovery: Saifur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday told the Jatiya Sangsad that the government is facing problems in recovering default loans amounting to about Tk 30,000 crore mainly due to stay

orders of court.

Speaking on separate point of order, number ruling BNP lawmakers also alleged the judiciary, especially the Supreme Court, is interfering in parliamentary affairs which they said is beyond the

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We congratulate Dr. Mostafizur Rahman, Managing Director of Popular Diagnostic Centre Ltd. and Popular Pharmaceuticals Ltd. for being awarded the Nawab Sir Salimullah Gold Medal 2004 for outstanding contribution in healthcare sector of Bangladesh.

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CONGRATULATION

Nawab Sir Salimullah Gold Medal-2002 has been awarded to Haji Md. Mozammel Haque M.P. (From right side standing position-1st) Honorable Chairman & Managing Director of Bangas-Tallu Group of Industries for his outstanding performance in the industrialisation of the country. Honorable President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh presented him the award at an eventful ceremony held on 16-05-2005 in Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka.

We express our heartiest congratulation to our honorable Chairman Haji Md. Mozammel Haque M.P. and pray to Almighty Allah for his good health and long life.

All Executive, Officers & Staff

of

Bangas-Tallu Group of Industries

Peacekeeper laid to rest

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladeshi UN peacekeeper Nur Mohammad, who died in an ambush by militaries in Congo on May 12, was laid to rest yesterday with full military honour at his family graveyard at Tatakanji village under Raipura upazila of Narasingdi district

Earlier in the morning, eight army gunners brought down the coffin of Nur Mohammad covered with UN and Bangladesh flags from the aircraft at Zia International Airport. Family members of the deceased soldier were also present at the airport.

After the funeral service, an army helicopter brought the body of Nur Mohammad from Dhaka to

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200 missing as another launch sinks in Jamuna

Patuakhali toll soars to 78

STAR REPORT

Two children drowned and at least 200 people went missing in a launch sinking in river Jamuna near Arichaghat yesterday afternoon while 32 more bodies were recovered from the scene of Sunday's launch disaster in Patuakhali.

Our correspondent from Manikganj reports: MV Raipura with more than 200 passengers capsized in Jamuna in Shibali upazila of Manikganj after it was buffeted by a

severe storm at about 4:30pm yesterday. Witnesses said 20 people managed to swim ashore while many are feared trapped inside the vessel.

Bodies of two children were recovered, and of them, one was identified as Russell, 4, of Sujanagar, Pabna. Rescue operation was going on until filing this report at 7:30pm.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) yesterday dispatched from Narayanganj a team of divers to the scene. Besides,

salvage ship MV Rustam will reach Aricha by this afternoon, BIWTA sources said.

The vessel, coming from Notakholaghon of Bera upazila of Pabna, was carrying more than its capacity of 150 passengers, added the sources.

In the last one decade, over 4,000 people died in major launch accidents in the country. The government however put the number at

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Nor'wester kills 27

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

At least 27 people were killed and some 500 others injured as a nor'wester battered 10 upazilas of Rajshahi and Natore districts yesterday, leaving a trail of devastation.

The storm lasting 25 minutes from 2:30pm damaged houses and crops and uprooted trees and electric poles disrupting road communication and power supply in vast areas.

Around 1 lakh people have become shelterless in the two districts, about 50,000 of them in Sadar upazila of Natore and in the district town. They are living under the open sky, official sources said.

Of the dead, 15 were from Natore, eight from Rajshahi, and one each from Naogaon, Chapainawabganj, Habiganj and Nilphamari.

They include Tanjeema, 8, of Bagmara and Chandu, 30, and Sajib of Puthia upazilas of Rajshahi, Sabur, 8, Zamila, 55, Amit Hossain, 35, Ibrahim, Zahangir, 22, Alam, 38, Kamal, 32 and Anwarul, 35, of Sadar upazila, Alpona, 14, Zarina, 13,

Alam, 30, Banes Mollah of Naldanga, Bithi, 8, of Lalpur, Raihan, 3, Mistujan, 22, Ronela, 36, and Milon, 16, of Bagatipara upazilas of Natore.

The victims were killed in lightning during the storm, house collapse or hit by flying corrugated tins or felled trees.

The injured were being rushed to different hospitals.

The nor'wester hit Rajshahi city with a wind speed of 52 kms per hour, met officials here said.

But they have no device to record wind speed in Natore and upazilas of Rajshahi, they added.

Power supply went off as a number of electricity poles broke down. Power Development Board sources said power could not be restored until midnight.

Road communication in Naldanga, Lalpur and Baraiagram in Natore, and Taherpur, Durgapur and Mohinpur in Rajshahi remained suspended as fallen trees and electric poles blocked roads. This

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POLLS IRREGULARITIES

EC for authority to cancel candidature

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Election Commission (EC) wants authority to cancel candidatures of contesting candidates for gross irregularities in the election process.

The EC yesterday at a meeting chaired by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Syed discussed the issue of having such legal authority for conducting the polls free and fair, sources said.

It also echoed a high court rule about collecting information on the candidates' academic qualification, criminal backgrounds -- if any, profession and source of income.

The EC should acquire all this information and disclose it to the public to help them properly choose

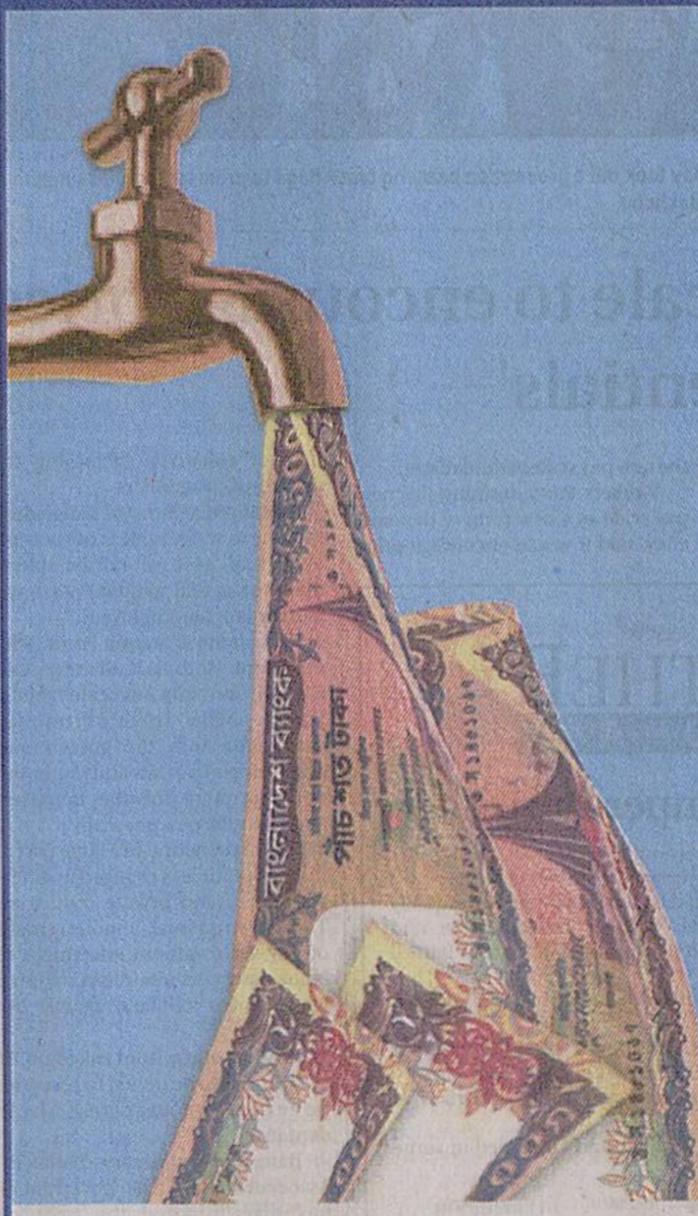
their representative and not get cheated by the rhetoric of candidates, the high court rule on April 23 said also asking the EC to explain why it should not be directed to take measures to collect such information.

The EC yesterday decided that it will not contest the rule as it is in favour of such rules.

"The candidature of a contesting candidate should be declared null and void if he is accused of repeatedly violating electoral rules," Election Commissioner AK Mohammad Ali told The Daily Star after the meeting. "Candidates who frequently violate electoral code of conduct during the election period do not have the right to be people's

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একই স্নেতে বিভিন্ন সুযোগ ও নিশ্চয়তা



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