

Involve local govt in making voter list within two months

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a view to preparing correct and updated voter list within two months, local government (LG) should be involved in preparing data-based voter roll with photographs while the Election Commission (EC) will monitor the entire process, said the speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

They said chairmen and members of union parishads or ward commissioners will conduct the preparation of voter list ahead of the next parliament election because they know every people of their own locality.

The roundtable on 'Fair and acceptable election: Some proposals' was organised by Jatiya Parjabeekhak Parishad (National Observers' Council) at the National Press Club in the city.

Former chief election commissioner Justice Abdur Rouf said it is not difficult to prepare proper data-

based voter list within 60 days if local government is involved in preparing it with photographs.

"At this moment, voter identity cards are not essential for fair election, but without data-based voter list, one cannot expect correct voter list," he added.

Justice Rouf said data based centre will have to be set up at thana level so that local people can easily correct their names and addresses.

The caretaker government should take effective measures for making data-based voter list immediately, he added.

Dr Ferdous Ahmed Qureshi, editor of Dainik Deshbangla, said the tasks of preparing voter list and voter identity cards will have to be decentralised and handed over to local government instead of the EC.

"A total of Tk 122.75 crore will be needed for making data-based voter list with photographs and additional Tk 27 crore will be required for making identity cards

for all voters," said Dr Qureshi while presenting his keynote paper at the roundtable.

Monira Khan, president of Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA), said the EC failed to make a proper voter list due to its politicisation.

Dr Badiul Alam Majumder, country director of The Hunger Project, said the EC had wasted crores of taka for making a faulty voter list.

The caretaker government should take measures to reconstitute the EC.

Dr Mustafizur Rahman said a election review board should be formed on the eve of the next general election.

Executive Editor of Dainik Deshbangla Rezaul Karim Talukdar moderated the roundtable which was participated by AP Bureau Chief Farid Hossain, writer Badrul Alam Khan, Dr Fazlul Kabir and Tofazzel Hossain.

ACC chief, 2 others to quit if president requests

UNB, Dhaka

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Justice Sultan Hossain Khan yesterday said he and two other ACC commissioners would resign without any hesitation if request is made by the president and the chief adviser for reconstituting the watchdog body.

"If the president and the chief adviser request me and my two other colleagues to step down, thinking that we are the obstacles on the way to the reconstitution of the commission, we will not take more than a second to do so," he told UNB at his office.

His observations came when there has been an outcry against inaction of the ACC in the wake of an apprehensive spread of corruption and a plea for revamping the commission.

The ACC chairman said the decision to resign would be a collective one.

When reminded that constitutionally they could not be removed without forming Supreme Judicial Council, he said, "That is out of the question, as charges based on which Supreme Judicial Council can be referred to do not exist here."

Furthermore, Justice Sultan said, "We do have self-esteem."

In reply to a question, he said he is yet to be contacted by the government about the reconstitution of the commission.

Asked to comment on the recent remarks of Communications Adviser and former director general of the now-defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption Maj Gen (ret'd) MA Matin, who said the ACC should be made free from the 'clowns', he said, "The remarks are unfortunate."

Welcoming the initiatives of the caretaker government to make the ACC active, he said that should the government seek any cooperation in this regard, he would provide that.

Hasina to visit Tungipara today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina will visit the mazar of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Tungipara in Gopalganj today.

Hasina, accompanied by several leaders of her party, will leave Dhaka for Tungipara at 8:00am.

She will place wreaths at the mazar and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Hasina, also chief of the AL-led grand alliance, will attend a milad mahfil organised by Tungipara upazila unit of AL there.

The AL president will return to Dhaka on January 31, says a press release.

CG mulls new TV licence system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The caretaker government is considering introducing a new licence procedure in purchasing television sets, under which a purchaser has to pay instant licence fee to the seller.

A meeting of Law and Order Committee yesterday took the move, said Communications Adviser MA Matin, who is also a member of the committee.

He said the government is also considering exempting licence fee of the television users who have already purchased television sets but did not pay the fees.

The meeting asked the law enforces not to harass any television users in the name of mandatory licensing.

27 OSDs to monitor fertiliser supply activities

Bss, Dhaka

Twenty-seven officers on special duty (OSDs) of the establishment ministry have been attached to the industries ministries, an official handout said yesterday.

The officers (deputy secretaries) will monitor and strengthen the activities of fertiliser supply and marketing from 21 buffer stocks and six urea fertiliser factories in Rajshahi, Khulna and Barisal divisions.

They are M Ibrahim, M Zahangir Alam, SM Ebadur Rahman, M Mostak Hasan, Khurshid Alam, Priyo Jyoti Khisa, M Wahidul Islam Khan, Mohammad Yusuf, Lokman Hossain Mia, M Ilias Bhuiyan, M Nasir Uddin, Dr M Ferdous Hossain, Hari Prasad Pal, Shahadat Hossain Chowdhury, M Zamal Uddin Ahmed, M Abdus Salam Sarker, Abul Kalam Azad, M Zahidul Islam, Nurul Islam, Abul Bashar, M Arshad Hossain, M Mokhesur Rahman Sarker, Abdul Quddus Khan, M Nurul Amin, M Ilias Laskar, Sajjadul Hasan, M Abdul Haque and Benzamin Hambrom.



PHOTO: PID

Chief Adviser Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed addresses officers of the armed forces at Dhaka cantonment yesterday.

Hundreds pay last respects to Waheedul Haq

Body to be donated for medical research

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of people, including cultural activists, writers and poets, thronged the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday morning to pay their last respects to veteran journalist, columnist and Tagore song specialist Waheedul Haq.

Haq passed away at the intensive care unit at Birdem Hospital due to pneumonia and lung and kidney diseases on Saturday afternoon.

Wrapped in the national flag, the coffin of Waheedul Haq was kept at the Shaheed Minar for two hours from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

Sunk in gloom, different socio-cultural and political organisations, student bodies, professional bodies and individuals paid tribute to the noted intellectual and progressive thinker with wreaths and bouquets.

The entire atmosphere transformed into sadness as grief-stricken followers and students rendered Tagore songs from the microphone.

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain, Justice KM Sobhan, Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haq Ius, Communist Party of Bangladesh President Manzurul Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Muzahidul Islam Selim placed wreaths at the body of Haq.

Awami League leaders Matia Chowdhury, Tofael Ahmed, Abdur Razzaq, Obaidul Quader, Asaduzzaman Noor, Sajeda Chowdhury and AKM Rahmatullah,

cultural personalities Ramendu Majumder, Nasiruddin Yusuf Bachchu, Abdul Quddus, and Fakir Alamgir, and students of Chayanaut and Institute of Fine Arts also placed wreaths.

The body of Waheedul Haq was first brought to Chayanaut Bhaban at 9:30am. Haq had established this vanguard cultural organisation in 1960s. Thousands of students who learnt songs directly from Haq and developed expertise on the subject became emotional seeing his body. Many burst into tears.

Later, the body was taken to the Jatiya Press Club premises. Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) leaders Monzurul Ahsan Bulbul, Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan and Ruhul Amin Gazi and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) leaders Altaf Mahmud and Omar Faruque placed wreaths on the body. General Secretary of the Jatiya Press Club Kamal Uddin Sabuj and other members of the executive body also paid respect to the noted journalists.

The body of Waheedul Haq has now been kept at Birdem mortuary. The body would be handed over to Dhaka Medical College Hospital authorities later as Haq donated his body for medical research, according to family sources.

Different socio-cultural and political organisations and professional bodies expressed deep shock at the death of the cultural personality.

They said the nation has lost a pioneer in cultural movement, term-

ing his death an irreparable loss to the nation.

Education Adviser Ayub Quadri expressed his shock at the death of Haq and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Ekatturer Ghatok Dalai Nirmul Committee said he contributed a great deal to the liberation war by inspiring the freedom fighters through his music.

Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad, Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, Charon Sangskritik Kendra, Ain O Salish Kendra, Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association, Bangladesh Writers' Club, Association for Land Reform and Development, Bangladesh Chhatra Union, Mahanagar Sarbojaneen Pooja Committee, Proshika, Doctors for Health and Environment, Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh and Bangladesh Puja Uddjapon Parishad also condoled his death.

BSS adds: Speaker Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar and Deputy Speaker Akhter Hamid Siddiqi yesterday expressed deep shock at the death of Waheedul Haq.

In separate condolence messages, BNP Joint Secretary General Abdullah Al Noman and President of Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury said the death of Waheedul Haq is an irreparable loss to Bangla language and culture.

Results of JU admission tests published

JU CORRESPONDENT

The results of the admission tests held under 2006-2007 academic sessions for first year honours courses at Jahangirnagar University (JU) have been published.

The departments have already put up the results on the notice boards on Saturday. The results will also be available at the administrative building and university website www.juniv.edu.

Viva voce of the successful candidates will be held from February 3-6 at respective departments. The practical/viva-voce exam of Drama and Dramatics department will be held at theatre lab-1 from 9:30am. The students will be considered failed if they fail to obtain above 4 in the viva-voce. The successful candidates have been requested to bring all necessary papers including certificates and marksheets for facing the viva voce.

The final result will be hanged at respective departments' notice boards on February 8 while the classes of the enrolled students will resume on February 12.

Application forms for admission under different quotas, including freedom fighters, indigenous, physically challenged and ward quota, will be available at Agrani Bank, JU branch from February 4-8.

Illegal fertiliser factory unearthed

JU CORRESPONDENT

The army and police during a raid yesterday unearthed an illegal fertiliser factory and seized more than 500 sacks of adulterated fertilisers at Ashulia.

They also sealed off the factory 'Pisco Fertiliser and Agro Ltd.' located at Beltola in Nayrath.

The joint force conducted the raid on the factory at 2:00pm, police sources said.

They also seized ten mixing machines, a dyeing machine and different materials for producing fertiliser.



PHOTO: STAR

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury speaks at a memorial meeting at Diploma Engineers' Institute auditorium in the city yesterday, marking the second death anniversary of slain former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria. On his right are Dr Atiur Rahman and Reza Kibria.

Kibria wanted to ensure social justice

Speakers tell discussion on his economic policy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The culture of impunity and criminalisation of politics, which led to the assassination of former finance minister SAMS Kibria, are also creating obstacles to ensuring justice to his case, said academics and economists at a programme yesterday.

The programme was organised by Bangladesh Foundation for Development Research (BFDR) to mark the second anniversary of Kibria's killing at the Institute of Diploma Engineers' auditorium in the city.

A fair investigation and justice to the killing has not been possible yet though hundreds of people both at home and abroad protested the hated incident, said economist Dr

Remain alert to fake army men: ISPR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ISPR (Inter-Service Public Relations) Directorate yesterday advised the people to remain alert to the threats by fake army men.

Allegations of fake army members giving threats to people in order to realise loans or evict them from occupied lands have been received from various places during the anti-crime drive of the joint forces, said an ISPR press release signed by its Director Lt Col. Md Anisur Rahman Chowdhury.

Employee of CNG garage stabbed to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An employee of a CNG garage, who was severely stabbed by a group of unknown terrorists on Saturday night, succumbed to his injuries in the early hours of yesterday.

The victim, identified as Md Nasir, 17, a habitant of the Karail slum in Gulshan, was taken to a nearby field by a group of unknown terrorists at around 9:30pm on Saturday, where they stabbed him indiscriminately.

Later, police recovered the body and rushed him to Dhaka Medical College where he succumbed to his injuries at around 1:45am.

WEATHER

T O D A Y

Temperature may rise

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 24 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may also occur over the river basins of the country during early morning, Met Office said, predicting slightly rise of night temperature.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 30.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Sylhet and the lowest of 9.9 degrees at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:42pm today and rises at 6:41am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in in celsius	
percentage	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	28.8	14.2	72	52
Chittagong	28.4	15.2	85	71
Rajshahi	28.3	11.4	85	65
Khulna	28.0	13.0	96	73
Barisal	28.8	12.8	92	79
Sylhet	30.0	14.4	69	55
Cox's Bazar	28.5	15.0	83	77

CG to ensure credible polls

Hopes German envoy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

German Ambassador in Dhaka Frank Meyke has expressed the hope that the caretaker government (CG) will ensure all preconditions for free, fair and credible elections as early as possible to strengthen democracy in Bangladesh.

"I am confident that the caretaker government, with its widespread support, will be able to provide the prerequisites for free, fair and credible elections as early as possible for strengthening democracy in Bangladesh," he said.

Meyke was speaking at the monthly luncheon meeting of the Foreign Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in the city yesterday.

"We welcome the positive political steps taken by the caretaker government, its measures for the improvement of governance, particularly its action against corruption, and its implementation of the separation of the judiciary from the executive," he said.

The German ambassador, on behalf of the European Union, urged all election stakeholders to carry out their responsibilities ensuring confidence in the democratic process of the country.

He said a credible election strengthening the democratic process in Bangladesh is also important for the improvement of investment perspectives.

About German investment in Bangladesh, the ambassador said, "We are aware that foreign companies find a legal framework considered to be among the best in Asia in terms of tax holidays, repatriation of profits and fiscal incentives of various kinds."

"However, we also know that there are many obstacles like massive bureaucratic tangles, frequent power cuts, a congested port with a large amount of strikes and nationwide political blockades that intimidate the newcomer," he said.

Speaking at the meeting, the foreign investors urged the government for weekly holiday on Sunday instead of Friday.

RU teacher gets death threat

RU CORRESPONDENT

A teacher of Rajshahi University (RU) received a death threat from outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) yesterday.

The PBCP has issued the threat to Associate Professor Fayekuzzaman of Islamic history and culture department over telephone.

It threatened to kill him if he does not pay Tk 25 lakh, the teacher told The Daily Star.

Fayekuzzaman filed a general diary (GD) with Motihar police in this connection yesterday.

Free treatment for acid victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

British Plastic Surgeon Ronald William Hills will treat acid victims free of cost at the Acid Survivors Foundation in the city from January 31 to March 11, says a press release.

Patients intending to get the treatment should contact House-12, Road- 22, Block-K, Banani, Dhaka- 213, or phone 9891314, 9862774, 9886383 and 9880142.

Certificate giving ceremony

The Certificate giving ceremony of the 11th batch of Prachyanat School of Acting Design will be held. Venue: Shilpakala Academy. Time: 6:00pm.

Memorial meeting

Bilate Muktijuddho Sangthak Forum will hold a memorial meeting to pay tribute to Azizul Haq Bhuiyan. Venue: Liberation War Museum auditorium. Time: 4:30pm.

View-exchange meeting

Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum will hold a view-exchange meeting on the results of a recently conducted research on the drug-addicted children of Dhaka city. Venue: Dhaka Reporters' Unity. Time: 3:00pm.

Advocacy meeting

Centre for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh will hold an advocacy meeting on 'Introduction of guideline for injury prevention during disasters in the existing disaster preparedness plan at family level'. Venue: Spectra Convention Centre. Time: 10:30am.

Roundtable

Shushashoner Janney Nagorik (Shujan) will organise a roundtable titled 'Thoughts on reforms: Context fair election'. Venue: Conference hall, Institution of Diploma Engineers. Time: 10:00am.