

# Help enrol genuine voters

## ECs urge Rajshahi people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Two visiting election commissioners (EC) yesterday attended two meetings at the conference room of the deputy commissioner over the enumeration of voter list with photograph in Rajshahi City Corporation next month.

At a meeting with the local elites in the afternoon, Election Commissioners Brig Gen (Retd) Shakhawat Hossain and Sahul Hossain called upon all to cooperate in the enrollment of genuine voters.

They said there would be no chances of false voting on completion of the digitized voter list.

Workers' Party politburo member Fazle Hossain Badsha, business leader Manjur Faruk Chowdhury, journalists Liakat Ali, Sardar Abdur Rahman and Bulbul Chowdhury, lawyer Mohsin Ali,

physically retarded Joy Chand Karmakar and several ward commissioners were present at the meeting.

Earlier in the morning, the election commissioners met with district level officials and newly appointed assistant registration officers at same venue.

Presided over by Deputy Commissioner Khalilur Rahman, the meeting was attended by Col Taher of 11 Artillery Division, District Election Officer Sayed Mohammad Musa, and senior army and police officials.

The commissioners said there would be tight biometric security measures under the new voter enrollment system.

Before the polls, political parties will be given voter lists without photograph, they added.

The election commissioners

warned the officials and others related to the enumeration of voter list that stern action would be taken if any negligence is detected.

"If any government officials are found indulging in flaws and partially their career will be damaged," said Shakhawat Hossain.

"No lack of accountability will be allowed this time," he added.

The election commissioners were informed that there will be 101 registration centres and one data entry operator for 300 voters in Rajshahi City Corporation.

Data entry operators will be appointed after tests on July 25 and 26. Tests will be held for applicants from ward no 1 to 15 on July 25, while applicants from ward no 16 to 30 will sit for the test on the following day at the Government Laboratory School.

## Holding tax of martyred, injured FF families to be waived

BSS, Dhaka

The government has decided to waive holding tax of the injured and martyred freedom fighters' families living at their own houses under different municipalities of the country.

According to an official handout, the waiver, given under Section 57(1) (c) of the Municipal Ordinance-1977, will be effective for maximum 1,000 square-feet houses.

The Local Government Division under the LGRD and cooperatives ministry issued a circular to this effect for the convenience of all concerned, the handout said.

## Accused dies in police custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

An accused in a murder case died in police custody at Kalai Police Station in Joypurhat on Monday night.

He was identified as Abdus Samad, 50, who was arrested on July 22 on suspicion of having a link with the killing of one Firoza Begum.

Investigation Officer Aminul Haque and sentry Emdad were suspended temporarily for their negligence in carrying out their duties.

The victim's uncle and his other relatives have complained to the journalists that Samad died from police torture.

Police Super of Joypurhat Shafiqul Islam and Officer-in-Charge of Kalai Abdur Rashid denied the allegations of torture and said Samad committed suicide in the bathroom of the police station.

An unnatural death case was filed with the police station.

## Couple seeks security of life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A couple at a press conference yesterday urged the police to ensure their security as they claimed a local with his accomplices had been threatening them with death for the last few months over the ownership of a flat.

Farzana Chowdhury Koli, a resident of Pisciculture Housing at Shekherteek in the city, claimed they had paid all the money to buy a flat in Pisciculture Housing.

But Jasim Uddin Shikdar and his brother Azim Uddin Shikdar had been plotting to register the house in Jasim's name.

Koli claimed that she had been abducted from her workplace on April 8 when they failed to get the flat registered in Jasim's name.

She filed a case with Mohammadpur Police Station under Women and Children Repression Act after she was left on a road unconscious on the same day, said Koli.

Later, Jasim came out on bail and had been threatening Koli and her husband over cellphone to withdraw the case since then, Koli added.

Koli's husband Siddiqui Rahman Chowdhury and their daughter Sadia Chowdhury Kotha were also present at the press conference.

## BCL protests arrest of Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday staged demonstrations across the country demanding immediate release of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina.

Since no congregation is allowed since the state of emergency came into being, those rallies were very short lived, reported local journalists.

BCL leaders and activists brought out rallies in Tangail, Mymensingh and Khulna towns.

In Gopalganj, teachers of seventeen non-government high schools took classes wearing black badges demanding immediate release of Hasina.

## Int'l confce on gender, sexuality begins Saturday

BSS, Dhaka

An international conference on gender, sexuality and rights will begin here on Saturday, bringing together over 100 participants and 40 academicians from different parts of the world in Dhaka.

James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH), Brac University, will organise the three-day conference, the first of its kind in the country, at Brac Centre to promote neglected public health issues such as sexuality, organisers said yesterday.



PHOTO: NEWS WORLD

US chapter of Awami League led by Sajeeb Wazed Joy stages a demonstration in front of the State Department in Washington DC yesterday to drum up international support for the release of AL President Sheikh Hasina. (Story on Page 16)

# Road accidents kill five

STAR REPORT

At least five people were killed and nine injured in separate road accidents in Mymensingh, Kishoreganj, B,baria and Satkhira yesterday.

Our correspondent from Mymensingh adds: Two people, including a woman, were killed and seven others injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at Pach Para under Trishal upazila in the district yesterday.

One of the dead was identified as Jarina Begum, 40, wife of Ratan Miah of Netrakona district and identity of the other could not be known immediately.

Police and locals said the accident occurred at 12:15pm when a Nalitabari-bound passenger bus from Dhaka hit a pick-up van from behind. One person died on the spot and the other died on the way to hospital. The injured were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH).

Trishal police sent the body to MMCH morgue for autopsy.

Our Kishoreganj correspondent adds: A minor boy was killed and two others were injured in a road accident on Kishoreganj-Pakundia road at Kodolia area in Pakundia upazila yesterday.

The dead was identified as Imon, son of Idris Mia of Kaisto Poli at Kotiadia upazila. The injured were Imon's mother Champa Begum, 30, and rickshaw-puller Ibrahim, 32, of the same village. The injured were admitted to Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital.

Locals said the accident occurred when a Kishoreganj-bound pick-up van hit a rickshaw, leaving Imon dead on the spot.

Locals detained pick-up van driver Harun, 30, and handed him over to Pakundia police.

Our correspondent from Brahmanbaria reports: One minor girl was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Katatia village under Sadar upazila in the

district yesterday.

The dead was identified as Khadija Begum, 8, daughter of Rashed Mia of Khatiatia village.

Witness and hospital sources said the accident took place when Kadija was crossing the highway along with her mother. A speeding bus crushed her under its wheels, leaving her dead on the spot.

The body was sent to Sadar hospital for autopsy.

Our correspondent from Satkhira reports: A man was killed in a road accident on Satkhira-Jessore road near Tujalpur in Sadar upazila.

The deceased was identified as Wazed Ali Sardar, 54, of village Ramerdanga in Sadar upazila.

Police said the accident occurred when a Jessore-bound microbus hit Wazed while he was returning home riding a bi-cycle, leaving him injured seriously. He succumbed to his injuries on the way to Satkhira hospital.



PHOTO: STAR

Health Adviser Dr ASM Matiur Rahman speaks at a seminar on 'Mass Psychogenic Illness' at Dhaka Medical College Hospital in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 16)

## Concern over issuing of fatwa against couple

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad has expressed deep concern over the issuing of fatwa (religious edict) against a couple at Galachipa in Pataukhali recently.

It also demanded trial and punishment of the persons who issued the fatwa, flogged the couple and ordered them to remain alienated from society.

The couple were identified as Harun-or-Rashid, 25, and Noor Begum, 20, of Charlatxmi village. Over one and a half years ago, family members of Harun forced him to divorce his wife by pronouncing 'talac' on her, but he could not approve of it. Later, Harun along with his wife left the village for Dhaka.

The couple fell victim to fatwa soon after they returned to their village home from Dhaka last week. Now they are living in confined conditions, Mahila Parishad leaders said in a statement.

They demanded legal action against the persons responsible and necessary steps to ensure security of the victims.

They also urged the caretaker government to put an end to the issuing of fatwa and violence against women across the country.

## ARMS CASE

## Journo, his accomplice get 17 years

A CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A Noakhali court yesterday sentenced two persons, including a journalist, to 17 years' rigorous imprisonment in an arms case.

The two convicts are Mohammad Hanif, district representative of the daily Manabjamin and his accomplice Ferdous, a notorious robber.

Judge Mohammad Abdul Hye Miah of the Second Additional District and Session Judge's Court handed down the sentence in presence of the convicts.



A two-day workshop on "HTML and Multimedia System Development" was held on July 21-22 jointly organized by Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) and Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) of JICA.

| WEATHER TODAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                        |      |                        |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------|------------------------|---------|
| Rain likely                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                        |      |                        |         |
| UNB, Dhaka                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                        |      |                        |         |
| Intermittent light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Sylhet, Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today. |                        |      |                        |         |
| Moderately heavy to heavy rainfalls are also likely at places, Met office said in a forecast.                                                                                                                                                 |                        |      |                        |         |
| Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. Highest temperature 33.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 23.2 degree Celsius at Cox's Bazar.                                                      |                        |      |                        |         |
| The sun sets in the capital at 6:45pm today and rises at 5:25am tomorrow.                                                                                                                                                                     |                        |      |                        |         |
| Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:                                                                                                                                           |                        |      |                        |         |
| City/Town                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Temperature in Celsius |      | Humidity in percentage |         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Max                    | Min  | Morning                | Evening |
| Dhaka                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 29.7                   | 24.6 | 97                     | 96      |
| Chittagong                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 28.5                   | 23.9 | 79                     | 85      |
| Rajshahi                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 32.2                   | 25.0 | 87                     | 77      |
| Khulna                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 32.0                   | 27.0 | 85                     | 88      |
| Barisal                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 30.2                   | 25.0 | 89                     | -       |
| Sylhet                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 29.0                   | 24.4 | 96                     | 94      |
| Cox's Bazar                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 29.8                   | 23.2 | 76                     | 86      |

## ADV SAYMA MURDER CASE

# Faizul on five-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Faizul Islam, the alleged murderer of Supreme Court Advocate Sayma Khanam, was placed on a five-day remand yesterday for interrogation by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab).

Rab officials produced Faizul before the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate in Dhaka with a prayer for seven-day remand, but the court granted five days.

Rab officials said they sought Faizul's remand to cross-check the information that he has divulged so far are authentic and to find out whether others than the three accomplices he had already named were also involved in the murder.

Advocate Sayma was slaughtered inside her residence at the Prince Tower of Elephant Road on July 17.

Faizul, who was arrested by Rab from New Market area on Monday, had confessed to killing her.

He claimed that he gave a total of Tk12 lakh to Sayma who promised him to arrange a cadre service job under the 27th BCS examination, but in vain.

Sayma's husband Zahirul Islam, a retired PWD engineer, told The Daily Star yesterday that they rejected the story, and Faizul went to his apartment on that fateful day to commit robbery.

Meanwhile, two domestic helps Mina and Aleya who were present at the time of killing were handed over to Rab-2 yesterday.

Newmarket police earlier showed them accused in the murder case and took them to seven-day remand on July 18 for interrogations.



PHOTO: STAR

A doctor examines a schoolgirl at a clinic at Mirpur in the city after she fell victim to psychogenic illness yesterday.

## DHAKA TODAY

### Workshop

An orientation workshop for garment factory owners on reproductive health and gender issues will be held. Venue: Hotel Razmoni Ishakha. Time: 5:30pm.

### Roundtable

National Observers' Committee organises a roundtable titled 'The necessity of administrative reforms and present context'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

### Cultural programme

Brac University Cultural Club (BUCU) organises the Annual Cultural Programme 2007. Venue: National Museum. Time: 6:00pm.

### Award giving ceremony

Bangladesh Shishu Sahitya Sangstha will give away Euro Shishu Sahitya

Purashkar 2006 and 2007 to the winners. Venue: Liberation War Museum. Time: 4:30pm.

### Dialogue

Steps Towards Development organises a dialogue on divorce registration law. Venue: Steps auditorium, 3/4 Block D, Lalmitia. Time: 3:00pm.

### Seminar

Ranks Petroleum Limited organises a technical seminar on industrial lubricants. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 10:45am.

### UNICEF workshop

A dissemination workshop on the key findings of the Bangladesh Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), 2006 jointly conducted by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and UNICEF will be held. Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Time: 10:00am.

## Govt forms 15-member ad hoc Bar Council

UNB, Dhaka

The caretaker government constituted a 15-member ad hoc Bar Council, a statutory body regulating country's lawyers, pending its election.

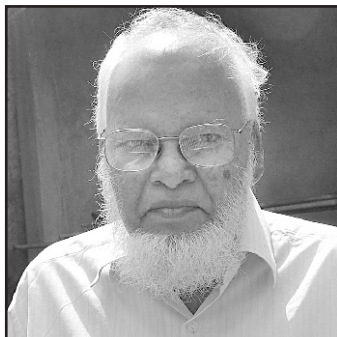
An official announcement on the formation of the Bar Council yesterday said, "The Attorney General of Bangladesh will act as its ex-officio Chairman."

The other members of the Council are Justice Syed Amirul Islam, advocates Abdul Baset Majumder, Khandakar Mahbub Hossain, Mahmudul Islam, Shafique Ahmed, M Monsurul Haque Chowdhury, Shah Mohammad Khasruzzaman, A Y Moshihuzzaman, Mojibur Rahman Talukder of Rajshahi Bar, Fakir Delwar Hossain of Dhaka Bar, Abdul Hye Khan of Sylhet Bar, Chistee Sohrab Hossain Sikder of Khulna Bar, Mohammad Abdul Quddus of Chittagong Bar and Dilip Kumar Ghosh of Banshal Bar.

The stand-in body of Bar Council will be effective till January 31, 2008.

Talking to UNB, Barrister Rakanuddin Mahmud, outgoing vice-chairman of the Bar Council, said since the tenure of the Bar Council expired on June 30, the government did the right thing by constituting an ad hoc committee to keep it running.

"We tried to hold election to the Bar Council before the expiry of the elected body, but the government didn't allow us. In fact, the Bar Council ceased to exist since July 1," Rakan said.



## Prof Karim passes away

CU CORRESPONDENT

Dr Abdul Karim, Professor Emeritus of Chittagong University (CU) and an eminent historian of the sub-continent, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at his residence in the port city yesterday at the age of 80.

Following his demise, the CU authorities suspended all academic activities and adjourned the academic council meeting scheduled for today.

He will be buried at his family graveyard at his village home at Banskhnali in the afternoon.

Dr Karim began his career as a lecturer at History department of Dhaka University in 1951.

He was the founder chairman of CU History department and served as dean of Arts faculty, provost of Alao Hall, and member of CU senate and syndicate.

He became professor emeritus in November 2001.

He had won a number of national and international awards, including Ekushe Padak, Akbar Silver Medal from Indian Numismatic Society and Peace Award from International Association for Religious Freedom.

He wrote around 31 books in Bengali and English.

Meanwhile, President Iajuddin Ahmed has condoled the death of Prof Karim.

In a condolence message, he recalled his contribution to the country's educational arena and said the country has lost an experienced educationist with his death.

CU Vice Chancellor M Badiul Alam also expressed deep shock at his death.

## Death anniversary



Today is the 12th death anniversary of Anisul Islam, an eminent litterateur and social worker, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his residence at 288/B, Sher-e-Bangla Road at Rayerbazar in the city after Maghrib prayers and Qurankhwani will be held at Martyred Intellectual Graveyard at Mirpur.

Similar programmes will be also held at Radhanagar Mosque in Patna after Asr prayers on the same day.

His relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the milad mahfil to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

## Dr Mozammel Hossain

Today is the first death anniversary of Dr Mozammel Hossain, a social worker of Barisal, says a press release.

On this occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at his residence of Puran Kolaghat in Barisal.

Dr Mozammel was a secretary to the Barisal Town School and president of Pragati Pathagar for a long time. He was also a close associate of AK Fazul Haque, Hossain Shahid Sohrwardi and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.