

Preparations for JS polls at final stage

Says chief adviser

UNB, Srimangal

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday said preparations for holding the general election is at the final stage and it will be held in the third week of December as announced by the Election Commission.

He urged voters to elect honest, competent and dedicated candidates to parliament for socio-economic development and sustainable democracy.

"We hope those who will be elected will establish good governance and strengthen democracy," he said at the National Dialogue on Democratic Transition, held at PDU auditorium in Srimangal.

The chief adviser said eight crore people have already been registered as voters and the

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Loan defaulters' polls bid over

Electoral laws won't allow them time to reschedule bank loans before upcoming elections

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Loan defaulters will not get any opportunity of becoming eligible to contest in the upcoming upazila and parliamentary polls by rescheduling their loans, although the new electoral laws allow them to become eligible by rescheduling the loans within specific timeframes before submissions of applications for candidacies.

They will be deprived of the opportunity since the timeframes provided by the new electoral laws for taking advantage of it are

already over for the upcoming elections, as the laws are being promulgated too late.

Loan defaulters were allowed to contest in elections in the past through rescheduling of loans anytime prior to the dates of filing applications for candidacies.

But this time around, the timeframes stipulated in the new electoral laws for rescheduling bank loans taken by aspirant candidates have already expired before the promulgation of the laws, shutting the door on defaulters' chances to remedy their ineligibility.

According to the Representation of the People's Ordinance (RPO) 2008, if a person has a record of defaulting on loan payments within a period of six months prior to the submission of application for candidacy then that person will not be eligible for candidacy in the upcoming parliamentary poll, and in the Upazila Parishad Ordinance 2008 the timeframe for the same provision is one year.

The upazila parishad law was promulgated in June this year and elections to the local government

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MIG-29 CASE Hasina challenges legality, petitions HC for quashing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court (HC) challenging the legality of MIG-29 corruption case against her.

Barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh filed the petition with the HC bench of Justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Mashuque Hosain Ahmed.

Sheikh Hasina also a former prime minister petitioned the court for quashing the proceedings of the case.

Her counsel Barrister Shafique Ahmed said the case was filed with mala fide intentions to politically harass his client.

"Sheikh Hasina was not involved in any corruption. When she was the prime minister she gave her consent to the decision of

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Bureaucracy reform move goes into hibernation

CA-led administrative reform committee could hold one meeting in a year

M ABUL KALAM AZAD and SHAMIM ASHRAF

The caretaker government's move to infuse dynamism, accountability and transparency into the public administration has hardly seen any progress since the initiative was taken a year ago.

This has frustrated many including a few civil bureaucrats who have been in favour of reforms in the civil administration. They said like many other initiatives this may also end up in rhetoric.

Formed in July last year with an objective of giving concrete directives for reforms in the administra-

tion and guidelines for posting and transfer, the chief adviser-led cabinet committee on administrative reforms and good governance has so far managed to hold just one meeting.

As the government is presently busy with holding dialogues with political parties and the upcoming local government and parliamentary elections, chances are slim that another meeting would be held in near future.

"I am not yet informed about another meeting of the committee," an adviser and a member of the committee told The Daily Star last week.

In December last year, the establishment ministry drafted a civil service ordinance and policies for promotion, transfer and career planning for public servants and strengthening the field administration, but those are gathering dust at the ministry.

Sources in the ministry said it is the government that would have to be more serious about the matter. A member of the administrative reforms committee, however, said the ministries concerned should come up with specific proposals.

"The establishment ministry has prepared the drafts in case the

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ACC allowed to quiz Khaleda, Tarique on fake orphanage

Koko asked to appear in court July 24

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday allowed the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) to interrogate detained former premier Khaleda Zia and her elder son BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman at the jail gate in connection with a corruption case.

The commission filed the case against seven people including Khaleda and Tarique on charges of embezzling over Tk 2.10 crore by forming a fake establishment named Zia Orphanage Trust.

Meantime, another Dhaka court yesterday asked the jail authorities to produce Khaleda's younger son Arafat Rahman Koko before it on July 24 in connection with a graft case, although he had been released on medical grounds for two months.

ZIA ORPHANAGE TRUST CASE
Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Golam Rabbani passed the order after ACC Deputy

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Policemen poorly park motorbikes at Shapla intersection at Motijheel in the capital yesterday occupying a section of the road.

PHOTO: STAR

Govt ordinances salvaged

SC stays Muslim marriage rule, asks govt to file regular appeal within a month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday stayed for one month the High Court (HC) judgment that declared illegal and void the Muslim Marriage and Divorce (Registration) Amendment Ordinance 2008 promulgated by the president.

Upon a government petition, Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division Justice MA Matin passed the order, also asking the government to file a regular appeal with the SC against the HC verdict within this period.

The ordinance promulgated by the president empowers deputy commissioners to recruit kazis (official marriage registrars).

Six kazis including Pirzada Syed Hazeem Shariatullah, kazi of Moghbazar in Dhaka and president of Bangladesh Muslim Marriage Registration and Kazi Samity, on March 13 jointly filed a writ peti-

tion with the HC challenging the ordinance.

On July 13, the HC bench of Justice ABM Khairul Haque and Justice Md Abu Tariq declared the ordinance illegal and void, observing that the president had promulgated the ordinance beyond his constitutional jurisdiction.

The HC observed that during the rule of caretaker government the president cannot promulgate ordinances on issues not related to polls.

"In Bangladesh, the president's powers are limited even during the tenure of elected governments and it is more limited during the caretaker rule. The president can promulgate ordinances related to holding national elections. There is no such urgent situation in the country that the president should promulgate ordinances on other issues," the HC said.

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Salahuddin made new attorney general

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Additional Attorney General Salahuddin Ahmad was made attorney general yesterday two days after Fida M Kamal stepped down from the post.

President Iajuddin Ahmed appointed him as the constitution gives him the power to appoint a qualified person to the constitutional post of attorney general.

Talking to The Daily Star about his new job, Salahuddin Ahmad said he would try his best to carry out the constitutional responsibilities he has been entrusted with.

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Border talks begin in Kolkata today

BSF kills another Bangladeshi at Sadipur border

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The border security forces of Bangladesh and India begin a four-day negotiation in Kolkata today amid persistent killings of Bangladeshis by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) that sparked military tension along the entire frontier area.

Five Bangladeshis, including two Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) jawans were killed by BSF since early Friday with the latest killing taking place at Benapole border early yesterday.

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Both sides deployed reinforcements at all frontier posts keeping their forces alert, while shooting and killing by BSF continued, worsening the already volatile border tension between the two neighbouring countries.

The deputy director general (DDG) level meet between BDR and BSF is expected to discuss the issue of killings at the borders as the BDR delegation will raise the latest incidents strongly, asking their counterpart for an explanation.

Judges embarrassed to hear Nizami plea

Petition against Gatco case to be sent to CJ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A division bench of the High Court (HC) yesterday felt embarrassed to hear a writ petition filed by Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer and former industries minister Motiur Rahman Nizami challenging legality of the Gatco corruption case.

The HC bench of Justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Mashuque Hosain Ahmed was set for hearing the petition yesterday.

As Barrister Abdur Razzak started submission before the

court, member of the bench Justice Mashuque Hosain Ahmed felt embarrassed.

Nizami's counsels said the writ would now be sent to the chief justice for decision.

Lawyers present in the court told newsmen the HC bench felt embarrassed following some recent news items run by the media questioning authority of the HC to grant bail to the accused in the cases.

A Supreme Court (SC) lawyer quoted Justice Mashuque Hosain

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Shamim rode on Biman

Amassed staggering wealth through commission from purchase, maintenance, leasing jobs during BNP-led alliance rule

RASHIDUL HASAN

Shamim Iskander, a former flight engineer of Biman and brother of ex-prime minister Khaleda Zia, made a fortune taking commissions on lease and maintenance of aircraft and purchase of spare parts, said airline sources.

He is one of those blamed for the huge losses incurred by the national flag carrier that had almost gone bankrupt during the BNP-led four-party alliance rule, said several former and incumbent officials of Biman Bangladesh Airlines.

Arrested by the joint forces on July 18, Shamim is listed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) as a graft suspect.

Talking to The Daily Star, some of his former colleagues in Biman said he would lead a life of luxury. He would use a platinum credit



Shamim Iskander

card of UK-based Barclays Bank and ride a fancy SUV, which was seized by Dinajpur police in a corruption case on June 21. He owns a house each in Australia and Canada, they continued.

The wealth statement he sub-

mitted to the ACC on June 10 last year shows that he and his wife have assets worth around Tk 4 crore and 75 tolas of gold.

However, Biman sources said Shamim made at least Tk 40 crore in commission on lease of three aircrafts for the airline during the tenure of alliance government.

Biman had to pay at least Tk 250 crore for lease on the three aircraft when at least six such planes could have been bought with that amount, they added.

He also had a role in having an Airbus aircraft leased to Biman from the US. Riddled with defects, the plane cost Biman about Tk 100 crore in five years, whereas its current market price is about Tk 62.10 crore.

Besides, he made arrangements for a Boeing 747 to be leased to Biman, which was not necessary at

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Tofail, Sajeda, MK Anwar granted bail

HC bail to Tariqul, Redwan stayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted bail to former Awami League (AL) ministers Tofail Ahmed and Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury and former BNP minister MK Anwar in separate corruption cases filed by Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court (SC) stayed for a month the HC awarded bails to former BNP minister Tariqul Islam, former state minister for liberation war affairs Redwan Ahmed, his wife Momtaj Ahmed, Barisal City Corporation (BCC) Mayor Majibor Rahman Sarwar and Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Ward Commissioner Abdul Quayum in separate corruption cases.

The HC orders came after separate bail petitions were filed by Tofail, Sajeda and Anwar.

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CLARIFICATION on behalf of GETCO

We understand that some misunderstanding has arisen between the names of my client **GETCO** and another company named **GATCO** having apparently similar sound. **GATCO** is entangled in a court case. My client **GETCO** stands for "Greenland Engineers & Tractors Company Limited" 26 Shyamoli, Mirpur Road, Dhaka-1207, whereas **GATCO** stands for "Global Agro Trade Private Ltd." House # 43, Road # 7, Block-G, Banani, Dhaka. Registered offices, business activities, managements and ownerships of both the companies are absolutely different having no connection whatsoever with each other.

Now, in order to dispel the misunderstanding between "GETCO" and GATCO, we issue this clarification.

Md. Faizul Kabir
Advocate Supreme Court
Legal Advisor, **GETCO LTD.**
26 Shyamoli, Mirpur Road, Dhaka-1207

Govt asked to explain why declaration of emergency not illegal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday issued a rule asking the government to explain within four weeks why the proclamation of the state of emergency in the country on January 11 last year should not be declared illegal and unconstitutional.

In the ruling the HC bench comprised of Justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Mashuque Hosain Ahmed asked the government to explain why two Emergency Power Orders (No 1 and 2), Emergency Power Ordinance (EPO) 2007 and Emergency Power Rules (EPR) 2007, issued through

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