

## EC moves to strip SQ Chy of MP status

**Sends letter to speaker today over violation of electoral laws; membership of 3 others at risk**

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Election Commission (EC) will ask Parliament Secretariat today to scrap the membership of BNP lawmaker Salauddin Quader Chowdhury for suppressing educational information while seeking candidacy for the December 29 national election.

"Salauddin Quader Chowdhury cannot continue as a member of parliament since it is proved that he provided false [educational] information in his affidavit [thus violating electoral laws]," Election

Commissioner Brig Gen (ret'd) M Sakawat Hossain said yesterday.

The EC will send a letter to the Parliament Secretariat today, asking it to inform the speaker about the matter, and "the speaker will make decision on it", he told reporters on the EC Secretariat premises.

This stance of the EC will also affect the membership of Jatiya Party lawmaker Ruhul Amin Hawlader.

Membership of two other lawmakers



are also at risk as a Supreme Court verdict declared mayors of city corporations and municipalities disqualified from being elected lawmakers, officials of EC Secretariat said.

Talking to reporters via phone from Singapore yesterday, Salauddin claimed he had not given any false information about his educational qualifications in the affidavit to the EC.

He said he had stated in his affidavit

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**Muhith thanks CG for return to democracy**  
*Supplementary budget passed*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said the immediate past caretaker government should be thanked for returning democracy to the country instead of letting the country fall into the grip of a martial law following the expiry of its tenure.

He made the comment in parliament during his supplementary budget speech.

The parliament yesterday passed a supplementary budget of Tk 4,263 crore for the current fiscal year. The highest

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## Razzak to lead JS team to Tipai

**MPs from AL, JP, Jamaat, experts included; BNP left out**

RASHIDUL HASAN and SHAKHAWAT LITON

The parliamentary standing committee on water resources ministry yesterday formed a nine-member team comprised of lawmakers and experts to visit the Tipaimukh dam area to assess its impact on Bangladesh.

Chairman of the parliamentary body Abdur Razzak, also presidium member of ruling Awami League (AL) and former water resources minister, will head the committee.

The committee includes AL lawmakers Abdur Rahman, AKM Fazlul Haque and ABM Anwarul Haque, Jatiya Party lawmaker Ruhul Amin Hawlader and Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker

Hamidur Rahman Azad, meeting sources said.

All of them are members of the parliamentary body while it does not have any lawmakers from BNP. Three water resources experts will be incorporated in the nine-member committee.

Contacted by The Daily Star Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abidin Farroque said he does not know anything about it and he would comment after enquiry.

The committee chief, however, said BNP lawmakers can talk to them on the formation of the committee inside the parliament, if they want.

"We will visit the Tipaimukh Dam project

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## BNPPP hits out at Moeen

*AL brushes aside trial demand*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliamentary party of main opposition BNP yesterday demanded trial of just retired army chief Gen Moeen U Ahmed, for 'committing serious crimes' during the recent state of emergency.

"The BNP parliamentary party thinks, it is a moral responsibility of the government to bring those, who committed misdeeds, to book for their crimes," said Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abidin Farroque at a media briefing in the media centre of the parliament.

At a different venue, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam, who is also the spokesperson for ruling Awami League (AL), said the government is not

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The hot and humid weather in the capital yesterday exhausts a woman in a bus crammed with passengers. The photo was taken at Shahbagh.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HUQ

## 3 killed in blade factory blaze

**Gas cylinder explosion caused the fire**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three workers were killed and 15 others injured as a blade factory caught fire after a gas cylinder explosion at Masimpur in Tongi Industrial area of Gazipur early yesterday.

Witnesses said a gas cylinder exploded on the ground floor of the two-storey Bidyut Bangladesh Pvt Ltd with a big bang around 12:30am.

They said the fire spread to the storeroom on the first floor and all other units of the factory following the explosion, damaging machineries, blades and raw materials and killing the workers.

The deceased were identified as Shahidul Islam, 27, son of Chan Miah of Ghor Chotrapur village in Sonatola of Bogra, Delwar Hossain, 26, son of Hatem Sheikh of Hayetpur village in Gobindaganj of Gaibandha, and Sanjay Dutta, 25, son of Sunil Kar of Haldev Miah village in Mongla of Bagherhat.

The injured were taken to Tongi Upazila Health Complex and Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for treatment. The condition of one worker is very critical at DMCH, sources said.

Shahidul was burnt alive while two others succumbed to their injuries at DMCH. Almost all the workers except Shahidul

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## Budget proposal misunderstood

**Says Muhith on money-whitening**

UNB, Dhaka

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said the black money holders will in no way be asked any question about the source of money they would invest under the amnesty proposed in the new budget.

"If we ask question about the source of money, the purpose of the amnesty will not be successful," he told reporters in response to a question whether criminal investigations would be launched against the black money holders later on if they show the hidden money.

There is a misunderstanding that the money would be whitened in the last year of the three-year amnesty, Muhith said. He made it clear that black money should come in the first year of the amnesty period as the expected huge money cannot be invested in a single year.

The minister was talking to the reporters after meeting with visiting International Finance Corporation (IFC) Director Pierre Guislain at the Economic Relations Division when they discussed how the IFC could help Bangladesh improve the investment climate following the major budgetary measures.

There is widespread apprehension among cross-sections of society lest there should be investigation into the source of money of the investors once they are identified as black money holders.

A senior lawyer who is now in government told UNB, "It would be clear after issuance of the SRO in this regard."

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## SHOOTOUT

## 10 Rab men sued for 'killing' Dhaka polytech student

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A relative of an 'encounter' victim has filed a murder case against 10 personnel of the Rapid Action Battalion.

Jasim Uddin, brother-in-law of polytech student Mohammad Ali Zinnah who along with fellow student Mohsin Sheikh was killed allegedly in a shootout with a team of Rab-2 on the city's Manik Mia Avenue on May 27, filed the case against 11 persons with a Dhaka court Monday.

The other accused is the victim's roommate Sajib.

The crime-busters facing murder charge are deputy assistant directors Furzal Hossain and Minhaz Uddin, Sub-Inspector Shafiqul Alam, Lance Nayek Sheker Ali, Havildar Abdul Qudus, Sepoy Mansur Elahi, Lance Nayek Emran Ali, Constable Nurul Huda, Lance Corporal Siddiqui Rahman and Constable Monirul Islam.

Metropolitan Magistrate AKM Ermadul Haque recorded the statement of the complainant, took the charges into cognisance

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## Climate fund to get \$150m from UK

**Minister tells JS; also reveals measures to check river pollution, encroachment**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The UK government has pledged to commit around \$150 million to the Multi-Donor Trust Fund to be formed by Bangladesh to cope with the climate change.

Speaking in parliament, State Minister for Environment and Forest Mostafizur Rahman said formation of the fund is now at the final stage with donor agencies and countries promising the government necessary financial assistance.

He said Bangladesh has taken various measures to be on guard

against threats posed by global warming and rising sea levels.

It has already proposed to set aside Tk 700 crore for the fund to begin adaptation to the possible changes in environment, the state minister added.

"We look to complete the formation of the climate change fund by June," he said in a scripted answer to a query from ruling Awami League lawmaker Tohura Ali.

Earlier on June 10, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told parliament the country will be able to pool the resources it needs to tackle the impacts of global warming.

In answer to AL lawmaker M Abdur

Latif's question, Mostafizur said the government has plans to introduce numerical weather prediction system, a modern technology able to make more precise weather forecasts.

Replying to a query from AL lawmaker Nazma Akhtar, he said his ministry has asked the industry owners to set up effluent treatment plants by June 30 as "industrial effluent is responsible for around 60 percent of the pollution in rivers surrounding the capital".

The state minister said the government has taken a raft of measures to prevent pollution in Buriganga, Turag and Balu rivers. Of the measures, 31 are

for the short term, 14 mid term and five are the long term.

"Besides, it has adopted 40 action plans to free rivers from grabbers and pollution."

Mostafizur said the government itself is setting up a central ETP for tannery industries in Savar.

Central ETPs are being set up also in export processing zones in Dhaka and Chittagong under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) scheme, he added.

The state minister's scripted answers were tabled following a decision of the Business Advisory Committee of the Jatiya Sangsad.



## BSF abducts photographer Shahidul Alam

UNB, Kurigram

Dr Shahidul Alam of Drik Gallery in Dhaka, visiting Roumari border of the district

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