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# BNP fronts too see selection, not election

**RAKIB HASNET SUMAN**

BNP is picking leaders for the central committees of its front organisations, preventing those from electing their top leaders in a democratic way.

Asked, a number of BNP leaders said the issue of electing top leaders of the front bodies was never discussed in the party forum.

The party has already announced the central committees of Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal, Jatiyatabadi Sechhasebak Dal and Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal. It also formed the central committee of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) though JCD is no more a front body of BNP.

Insiders say BNP would soon announce the central committees of Jatiyatabadi Krishok Dal and Sramik Dal, though the latter is no longer its front body as per the Representation of the People Order (RPO).

Approved by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, the central committees were announced by issuing press releases, sparking protests and anger among the supporters.

The central committees of other front organisations -- Muktijoddha Dal, Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangathon, Tanti Dal, Olama Dal and Matsyajibi Dal -- will also be formed later in the same way, the insiders add.

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir however claimed the party high-ups did not impose the committees on the front bodies. The chairperson and senior leaders shared views with leaders of the front organisations' different levels before announcing the committees, he said.

"The new committees of the front and associate bodies will reorganise their respective organisations through holding councils from grassroots to central levels to ensure democratic practices within the organisations," Alamgir said in reply to a query.

In fact, BNP itself did not follow its constitution to elect its central leadership. Councillors were not allowed to elect the central leaders in the December 8 national council.



Dhaka City Corporation earlier had decided to collect and dump garbage between 10:00pm and 6:00am in a covered truck, but in this photo, an uncovered lorry loads rubbish at the city's Jatrabari yesterday around noon. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

# Water pipeline a blessing for Satkhira villagers

**1,500 getting arsenic-free water under public-pvt initiative**

**REAZ AHMAD, back from Satkhira**

Water pipelines under a public-private partnership (PPP) scheme have saved over 1,500 people of Nalta village in Satkhira from saline and arsenic contaminated water.

Since water drawn by shallow tubewells became undrinkable due to salinity and arsenic, a deep tubewell has been set up, a reservoir was built and over 13 kilometres of pipeline network was created here last December.

The deep tubewell at Hadipur, some 4 km from Nalta, is 280 feet deep and the water is salt and arsenic-free.

"We had to fetch water from places four to five kilometres away from our village. It is wonderful to have supply water at an affordable cost," Jaheda Begum, a homemaker in her 50's, said last Wednesday.

She said they now pay Tk 100 a month for the supply water. The supply runs twice a day--from 8:00 to 9:00 am and 5:00 to 6:00pm, added Jaheda.

This pipeline network in Nalta is the first of 21 PPP schemes under Bangladesh Water Supply Programme Project (BWSP). Funded by the World Bank the project has been implemented by the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) under LGRD ministry.

The BWSP is innovating measures like small-scale piped water in villages to keep people from using arsenic contaminated water.

In the early 90's, shallow tubewells became popular in rural areas for its low cost and convenience. But that success countered a setback as arsenic started to creep in. The water of 200 to 250 feet underground got contaminated in many parts of Bangladesh. By late 90's water from 20 percent tubewells became harmful for domestic work, said a World Bank report.

The World Bank and DPHE officials involved in the project said the 21 water pipeline schemes involving 18 private

**PURCHASE BODY Summit Power proposal rejected**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The cabinet purchase committee yesterday rejected the proposal for approval of Summit Power to set up the 450-megawatt Sirajganj power plant.

After a meeting of the committee with Finance Minister AMA Muhiith in the chair, Joint Secretary Nurul Karim of Cabinet Division told journalists the purchase committee has invited fresh tender for the plant.

Karim said the previous proposal placed during the BNP-led alliance government in 2004 is no longer alive.

# RMG units without fire safety warned

**If necessary, factories to be closed for violating rules**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The government yesterday warned garment industry owners of stern actions if their factories lack fire safety compliance.

The warning came at an inter-ministerial meeting held at the home ministry with Home Minister Sahara Khatun in the chair.

The meeting was convened to discuss what to do for fire safety in garment factories in the advent of summer when most fires occur in garment factories. It also discussed the reasons for and solutions to incidents of fire.

"If necessary, we will close down the factories that are not following the rules, and failing to ensure fire safety," State Minister for Home Shamsul Haq Tuku told reporters after the meeting.

He said many factories are located in such places where firefighters cannot enter when fire breaks out. Water is also not available at some of those places, he added.

Leaders of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), and Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) attending the meeting, requested the government to increase fire safety monitoring of garment factories.

They requested the government to allow them to import duty-free ambulances and fire fighting vehicles to increase their fire fighting capacity. They also urged the government to

# Nizami, 4 other Jamaat leaders denied bail

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The High Court yesterday rejected the bail prayers of five Jamaat-e-Islami leaders including its chief Matiur Rahman Nizami in two separate cases filed against them on charge of hurting the religious sentiments of Muslims.

The court also directed them to surrender before the trial court within nine weeks.

The four other accused are Jamaat-e-Islami Nayebe Ameer Delwar Hossain Sayeede, Dhaka city Ameer Rafiqul Islam Khan, Palta Thana Ameer Shafiqul Islam Masud and Chhatra Shibir leader ASM Yeahia.

The cases were filed in Khulna and Rangamati on charge of comparing Nizami with Prophet Hazrat Mohammad (PBUH).



Bangladesh Solar Energy Society presents a battery-run three-wheeler, Borak Super, at the Renewable Energy Expo held in the city yesterday. A solar panel is installed on the roof of the vehicle to provide about 20 percent recharge for its batteries.

# Green 3-wheeler ready to roll

**SHAHNAZ PARVEEN**

The highly low cost battery-run three-wheeler dubbed as Borak Super gets even more energy efficient as local entrepreneurs introduced solar panels to partly power up its rechargeable battery.

At a three-day Renewable Energy Expo at Dhaka University, Bangladesh Solar Energy Society presented Borak Super vehicle modified with solar panels.

Borak Super ran for a short period of time in the capital. The vehicle is considered as the most energy efficient and environment friendly that has ever hit the Dhaka streets.

Mohsin Khan, owner of Ma Enterprise, the first company to introduce the three-wheeler in the country, explained, Borak Super mainly runs with four rechargeable batteries.

The zero emission three-wheeler consumes electricity worth around Tk30 a day. The solar panel will save its 20 percent electricity.

With an eight-hour recharge from a regular power outlet the vehicle can run 120 km at its highest speed of 40 km per hour. To minimise energy consumption the body was made with light material, Mohsin added.

During the day the solar panel keeps on charging the batteries that will ultimately save 20 percent electricity, he went on to say.

# SHEIKH MONI KILLING Govt to probe case again

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The government will reinvestigate Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni assassination case eight years after Criminal Investigation Department (CID) gave the final report on it.

In response to a query of Awami League lawmaker Sukumar Ranjan Ghosh, Home Minister Sahara Khatun yesterday said this in parliament.

Moni, nephew of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and founding chairman of Awami Jubo League, was killed with his wife Arzu Moni in their Dhanmondi house on August 15, 1975.

After long 21 years Mohammad Shahabuddin, a close aide to Moni, filed a murder case with Dhanmondi Police Station in 1996 accusing

# FAKE NOTE MAKING Equipment seized, 1 held

**A CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj**

Police yesterday recovered fake currency from Purba Sanarpara of Siddhiganj under Narayanganj sadar upazila.

Rafiqul Islam, a member of

# BHOLA-3 BY-POLLS Rab, armed police to be deployed

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Mobile and strike forces comprised of members of Rapid Action Battalion and armed police battalion will be deployed on April 21 to maintain law and order for holding Bhola-3 by-election in a free and fair manner.

The Election Commission took the decision at a meeting at its secretariat yesterday after reviewing the law and order situation ahead of the April 24 battle of the ballots between Awami League and BNP candidates.

The chief election commissioner, two election commissioners, home secretary, inspector general of police, and DGs of the Rab and Coast Guard, among others, attended the meeting.

The EC earlier decided not to deploy army for the polls

# Diarrhoeal diseases on rise

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The rate of patients' admission with diarrhoeal diseases at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) has been increased and the number has crossed 950 on Saturday.

Till 6:00pm yesterday, 779 patients from capital's Mirpur, Khilkhet, Badda, Jatrabari, Rampura and Demra areas took treatment at the hospital.

The hospital sources said the number has been increasing

# Fleeing mugger dies in road accident

**3 held after snatching Tk 10 lakh**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

A mugger was crushed under the wheels of a truck and another arrested in Tongi early yesterday. In Gazipur an armed gang looted around Tk 10 lakh in the afternoon.

UNB reports: Five muggers snatched Tk 18,000 and two mobile phone sets from two rickshaw passengers around 2:00am.

Soon, the thugs fled towards Gazipur town by a private car, with a police team in pursuit.

The criminals left their car and dispersed, as another police team started pursuing the vehicle.

# Govt to make updated list of smugglers' godfathers

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The government is preparing to update the list of godfathers engaged in smuggling, Home Minister Sahara Khatun told the House yesterday.

"Law enforcement agencies, including intelligence agency, were asked to collect information to this end," she said while replying to lawmakers' queries.

The home minister on March 15 unveiled in parliament a list of 42 top criminals

**Prayer Timing**

April 5

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-40	5-15
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-21	6-24
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

**OnlinePoll** ✓

Do you think DMP's decision to remove makeshift shops and construction materials from roadsides will help ease the traffic congestion in Dhaka?

Yes (77.8%)  
 No (21.2%)  
 No Comments (1.0%)

**Total votes: 899**

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think the country will achieve 7000MW electricity by 2013 the way government is handling the tender process?

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