

# Ctg city polls

**FROM PAGE 1**  
days before the polling day and they will remain there for five days, Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda told journalists after the meeting at the conference room of EC Secretariat.

A unit of army personnel would be deployed for a ward or a number of wards under the CCC, he said.

The EC asked police to intensify their drive to recover illegal arms in the CCC area and set up check posts at key points after the announcement of poll schedule.

EC officials said a draft election schedule was prepared with the tentative polling date on June 17.

The EC will finalise the poll schedule this morning and announce it in the afternoon, they said.

"We must hold the polls before June 25. There is no obstacle to holding the polls with the existing boundary of wards. So, we decided to announce the poll schedule tomorrow [today]," CEC Huda said.

Constituted in May 2005, CCC's five-year tenure will expire on June 25 this year. According to the Local Government (City Corporation) Act 2010, election to the CCC must be held in 180 days before its tenure expires.

The EC decided to appoint a deputy secretary of EC Secretariat, Jesmin Tuli, as returning officer to conduct the poll.

If appointed, Tuli will be the first EC Secretariat official to do the job, said EC officials.

Additional divisional commissioner of Chittagong was appointed as the RO in the last CCC election in 2005.

Field-level officials at EC Secretariat will be appointed as assistant returning officers. Five of the seven assistant returning officers will be from outside the CCC, the EC officials said.

The EC is also considering reduction of the period of electioneering from 21 days to 15 to cut down poll expenditure of the candidates, they added.

The CEC said they also discussed introduction of electronic voting system.

"We want to introduce electronic voting machine in a ward under Khulshi Thana," he said.

Huda said the EC did not make the final decision to this effect. Experts will visit the CCC area to assess technical requirements for using electronic voting machines.

The commission will also discuss the matter with experts of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), who produced the machines. It will also see whether the Buet experts can visit the area.

On EC's requisition, the Institute of Information and Communication Technology of Buet produced 130 EVMs for casting and counting votes.

The EC decided to introduce e-voting in ward-49 in Dhanmondi under Dhaka City Corporation on an experimental basis. But it could not proceed with its decision to hold the DCC polls in May.

# '71 WAR DOCS LOST Indian parties demand probe

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Political parties in India have demanded a probe into media reports about destruction of military records in the Eastern Command of Indian army relating to the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War.

"This is a surprising development. If true, it is for the government to look into the matter and find the papers which were of great significance in terms of our history," said Shakeel Ahmed, spokesman of India's ruling Congress party, which heads the coalition UPA government.

He said, "These were highly-valued documents about a war which was a great triumph for India."

Main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) also demanded a full-fledged inquiry into how the records have gone missing. "The government must come out with answers," BJP spokesman Ravi Shanker Prasad said.

"Victory in the Bangladesh Liberation War was India's first conclusive success over Pakistan. The success of Indian army in defeating Pakistan occupation army in Bangladesh is a golden chapter in India's history. India's diplomatic and war-time strategy was a milestone," Prasad said.

The Communist Party of India (CPI) wondered if destruction of the records was "an attempt to alter history".

# BSF kills 1 in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Bangladeshi national was shot dead by Indian BSF on Bichhkanandi borders in Gowainghat upazila yesterday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Jamal Uddin, 22, son of Abdul Matin, hailing from nearby Muslimpara of Bogaiya haor area in the upazila.

Sources said the BSF fired gunshots without any provocation as Jamal was grazing his cows 20 yards inside Bangladesh territory around 4:00pm. He died on the spot.

# Another

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Protection and Welfare Policy-2010' has been posted on the website of the labour and employment ministry. The policy will be finalised soon, it added.

But the policy was not available on the website till filing of this report last night, rather a link titled "Domestic Worker Conduct And Welfare Policy 2010 (Draft)" has been put without uploading it.

The ministry has also requested sending opinions, comments and suggestions on the policy through the website at [www.mole.gov.bd](http://www.mole.gov.bd) or in writing within May 20, the handout said.

When contacted, Labour Secretary Nurul Haque was surprised to learn this and said he is looking into the matter.

# Govt eyes jobs

**FROM PAGE 16**  
They said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and South Korean President Lee Myung Bak would hold talks on May 18, which is expected to culminate with the signing of four agreements -- export of skilled and semi-skilled human resources, ODA, Energy and ICT, and cultural exchange.

Of the agreements, export of manpower through government channel namely Employment Permit System and cultural exchange will be renewed until 2012.

There is also a possibility of South Korea announcing duty-free access of a large number of Bangladeshi items to its market this year.

Foreign ministry officials said both the sides would identify the sectors for Korean ODA in Bangladesh. The Korean government is also eager to cooperate in the field of renewable energy and solar power system and to extend technological support.

There will also be talks on expanding Dhaka-Seoul cooperation in varied fields, including infrastructural development in shipbuilding and transfer of green technology.

Sheikh Hasina is also scheduled to attend a seminar of Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific there.

The Korean Chamber of Commerce and Industries will host a luncheon in honour of the PM where CEOs from leading Korean companies will seize the opportunity to talk with the premier on expanding Korean investment in Bangladesh.

Hasina is expected to address the WIEF inaugural session in Kuala Lumpur on May 18. She will also hold talk with her Malaysian counterpart Najib Tun Razak, focusing on recruitment of Bangladeshi workers and expansion of bilateral trade and investment.

The PM is expected to return home May 21.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, Prime Minister's Adviser Masihur Rahman and Special Envoy to the PM Mohammad Ziauddin will accompany Sheikh Hasina during her tour.

COMMON ADULTERATION IN DIFFERENT FOODS	
Red chilli powder	Brick dust, pulses
Turmeric	Toxic powder colour, flour
Salt	White sand, less iodine
Rice	Urea fertiliser, artificial colour, brick chips
Pulses	Artificial colour
Bottled water	Supply water, dirt
Honey	Sugar syrup
Coconut oil	Soybean oil, palm oil
Tea	Coloured sawdust, dried used Tea
Mustard oil	Soybean oil with Mustard essence
Soybean oil	Palm oil
Ghee	Vegetable oil, palm oil, essence with smashed potato
Sweetmeat	Substandard Chhana, saccharine, fat-less milk with textile dye
Fish	Chemicals (Formalin etc), Colour
Beef	Buffalo meat
Fruits	Chemicals (Calcium carbide etc), hormone
Vegetables	Pesticides, insecticides
Puffed rice	Urea fertiliser
Biscuit and bread	Low-quality flour with textile dye
Ice cream	Dyes, impure milk powder
Drinks	Textile dye and artificial sweetener

# Nothing is pure

**FROM PAGE 1**  
The government should immediately take stern action against it," ABM Faroque, president of Bangladesh Pharmaceutical Society, told The Daily Star yesterday.

They use these dyes to change colours of textiles and leather. But dishonest producers use those in confectionary products, beverage, sweetmeats and other snacks.

"We don't want to eat colours of lungi and saree anymore," he said.

In his immediate reaction following a High Court order on fruit adulteration yesterday, ABM Faroque expressed gratitude to the justices who made the verdict.

The government does not have virtually any control over import, sale and use of harmful chemicals that the dishonest traders are applying in food items.

Calcium carbide, chemical they use to ripen fruits artificially, is not produced in Bangladesh. So the government could easily impose control over this kind of chemicals, he said.

In his book on food adulteration -- "The consumers should know" -- he says food additives legally used like different preservatives, thickeners, chilling agents, food colours, flavour enhancers, and antioxidants are harmful to health.

He also mentions a list of food including pickle, ice-cream, chocolate, fruit drinks, candy, pastry, curd, sweetmeat, chanchaur, lozenge, biscuit, iftar items and food from some Chinese restaurants.

It has been remaining a common practice, and also admitted by Bangladesh

Standard and Testing Institute (BSTI), that a wide variety of food items are being sold with fake BSTI seals.

Talking to businesspersons and traders, it was learned that wholesalers mix different chemicals like Aliliso, Thayo-saiyanaed and Diasial Carbinol, known as "master essences", with crude soybean oil to passing it off as mustard oil.

Pure butter oil and ghee are also very rare in the market, sources say. Dishonest traders use a host of ingredients -- animal fat, palm oil, potato smash, and vegetable oil -- to make fake butter oil.

They even mix steirain oil, an ingredient in soap, with ghee to increase the proportion.

Sources in Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) say most of the red chilli powder used in the market is adulterated. In most cases, the spices are mixed with brick dust. Fine sawdust is also often mixed with cumin and other ground spices.

"The consumers are helpless as now it is very hard to rely on anything or trust anyone," said a consumer in Karwan Bazar when asked about adulterated food.

The government had formed a mobile court to launch drives in different food outlets and food producing industries following a series of reports published in The Daily Star on "Eating Dangerously".

The yearlong drive of the mobile courts brought a little change in the overall situation.

The government has also made the Consumer Protection Act as well, but it is not implemented properly.

# MPO list

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Nahid in his own defense told the cabinet that the list was prepared following proper rules, and on the basis of a performance index, the sources said.

There is a set of criteria for including educational institutions on the MPO list, which are: student numbers, numbers of students taking public examinations every year and the pass rate, and the dates of government approval for the institutions.

Sources present at yesterday's meetings said a few cabinet members alleged, Nahid does not understand the pulse of AL politics yet, as he came from a different party. When the premier gave the responsibility of reviewing the list to Nahid, those ministers vehemently opposed it.

So the premier directed her Education Adviser Dr Alauddin Ahmed to prepare a fresh list after reviewing the announced one in consultation with the members of the committee that prepared it.

At the same time, Hasina directed the education ministry to refrain from issuing any gazette notification regarding the announced list for now.

The PM's education adviser confirmed the decisions. "We will prepare a new list soon," he said adding that the number of institutions will increase on the new list.

A few senior ministers however came forward to back Nahid at the meeting. A few central leaders of AL also supported him outside the meeting. "He is a visionary minister, and all should cooperate with him," AL Information and Research Secretary Afzal Hossain told The Daily Star, adding that Nahid prepared the list according to the rules.

AL sources said some ruling party lawmakers and ministers have been up in arms against Nahid since the announcement of the MPO list, as their choice institutions were not included. Those ministers and lawmakers already promised their constituents that they would manage to get institutions of their areas on the list, and now they are fearing public wrath, the sources added.

Ruling party lawmakers and influential leaders persistently pressed the education minister and ministry officials to include institutions of their choice on the list for at least a month prior to its announcement. The pressure reached such a level that the committee officials had to refrain from going to Bangladesh Secretariat to avoid the lobbyists.

The education ministry on Friday published a list of 1,022 non-government secondary and higher secondary educational institutions as new additions to the list of MPO recipients.

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury, chair of the National Education Policy Formulation Committee, told The Daily Star that political consideration should not be a factor in selecting which educational institutions would qualify for MPOs.

"Under governments formed by political parties, there will always be political pressure, but the education minister and the ministry must rise above that with courage. And I believe Nahid has been doing that," he said.

Education adviser to the immediate past caretaker government, Rasheda K Chowdhury, said the government can review the list if there is any systematic error in it. "If the list is reviewed only on political consideration, then the government's pledge for ensuring quality education will be questioned."

"Quality education needs quality institutions and teachers, and the education minister and his ministry have been trying to ensure that restlessly," she added.

Saying that the main goal of providing MPO is to ensure quality education, she said the goal was repeatedly hampered in the past due to partisan MPO lists. "I hope this government will not repeat the same mistake," she added.

# SQ Chy

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Anti-Corruption Commission.

A HC bench of Justice MA Wahab Miah and Justice JBM Hasan asked the government not to arrest or harass SQ Chowdhury in this case during this period.

However, the court also directed the trial court to consider his bail prayer after his surrender.

The court passed the order in his presence yesterday after a hearing on the bail petition filed by the BNP leader.

Earlier on May 6, the ACC filed the case with Dhanmondi police station against the BNP leader on money-laundering charges.

The case statement says SQ Chowdhury laundered \$250,000 and HK\$100,000 (\$12,864) to buy Beximco Pharmaceuticals' global depository receipts (GDRs). Barrister Fakhru Islam appeared for the petitioner.

# Prothom Alo

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Rahman wanted to save Tajuddin" while the Bangladesh Protidin report was titled "Salam Pintu admits relations between Prothom Alo editor and Maulana Taj".

The reports implicating Prothom Alo Editor Matiuur Rahman and Special Correspondent Tipu Sultan are completely false, fabricated and baseless. We reject and vehemently condemn the false reports.

In its report, Kaler Kantha claimed that the Detective Branch of Police on April 29 interrogated him (Abdus Salam Pintu) and recorded his statement under Section 161 of the Criminal Procedure Code." The Detective Branch is commonly known as DB. But it is the CID (Criminal Investigation Department) that investigated the August 21 case. So the base of the Kaler Kantha report is wrong. However, the report at one place mentioned that CID has been investigating the case. The Bangladesh Protidin report said Pintu had given a statement to CID.

We feel the news published in the two dailies of Bashundhara Group are not only vindictive, but also a deep-rooted conspiracy.

Prothom Alo has been investigating the August 21, 2004 grenade attack from its very occurrence and publishing a series of reports on it.

During the last four-party alliance government's rule, an attempt was made to divert the investigation of the case by making up a "Joj Miah" story. Prothom Alo was the first to publish a report terming Joj Miah's statement a cock-and-bull story and ran a cartoon on it.

Prothom Alo has been following different aspects of the investigation for the last six years as a responsibility of a newspaper. It is Prothom Alo that first published a report based on an investigation that militant organisation Harkatul Jihad had been involved in the attack.

Also, Prothom Alo was the first to report that former deputy minister Abdus Salam Pintu's younger brother Maulana Tajuddin had supplied the grenade used in the attack. Also, we were the first to report that the militants held a meeting at Abdus Salam Pintu's home to plan the attack.

The past six years witnessed much of drama over the August 21 attack case. Whenever an attempt was made to divert the investigation, Prothom Alo broke the news as a responsible newspaper. In a commentary, the Prothom Alo editor demanded the real culprits are identified and condemned the alliance government's farce in the name of investigation.

So we think the false news published in the two papers of Bashundhara Group is another ill attempt and conspiracy to derail the investigation of the case. If the case is hampered, mainly the militant groups and their backers will be benefited.

The quarter thinks Prothom Alo is a big obstacle to diverting the investigation. So we feel the two newspapers have simultaneously published the fabricated reports to benefit the evil force by attacking Prothom Alo. It is nothing but an attempt to protect the evil force, which tried to rob a political party of

# Cop suspended

**FROM PAGE 16**  
classmates that constable Qaiyum misbehaved with her with wink of indecent hints near the college gate.

Sonia's classmates got furious hearing the complaint and a bunch of students and some locals gave Qaiyum a mass beating.

Later on, the constable was handed over to the police.

Gopalganj Superintendent of Police Kuddus Amin said the constable was suspended and closed to the Police Lines.

Further action against him will be taken after investigation into the allegation, the SP added.

# Tarique back

**FROM PAGE 1**  
owned by UK BNP President Kamar Uddin, in Southgate, a suburb in the North London borough of Enfield where Tarique resides. The meeting lasted nearly three hours from 2:30pm.

Sources present at the meeting told UNB that the political situation in Bangladesh and internal groupings in the UK BNP and its front organisations were discussed. Tarique wants to hold more such meetings in the future.

The sources said 40-50 present and former presidents and general secretaries of the BNP and Juba Dal attended the meeting.

its leadership through the grenade attack. The investigation has been hindered and attempts made to destroy the case from its beginning.

We would like to say it categorically that no meeting had ever been held between anybody and Maulana Tajuddin at the Prothom Alo office. The claim that Prothom Alo Editor Matiuur Rahman or journalist Tipu Sultan had close ties with Abdus Salam Pintu and Tajuddin was made up and imaginary.

The description quoting the so-called statement that "Tajuddin used to meet Matiuur Rahman through Tipu" is completely false and fabricated. As a professional journalist, Tipu Sultan -- in different times following the principles of journalism -- has taken statements of Abdus Salam Pintu and Tajuddin, accused in the August 21 grenade attack case about their involvement, which was published in Prothom Alo. But Abdus Salam Pintu or Tajuddin had never come to the Prothom Alo office.

Matiuur Rahman had never met them at the Prothom Alo office or anywhere else. Nor did they have any talks through any medium. The contents of the reports in which the two papers said about formation of a political party to help BNP, DGF backing and alerting Tajuddin about the August 21 grenade attack are completely fabricated and baseless.

It is not the first attack by Bashundhara Group on Prothom Alo. From the very beginning, the Bashundhara newspapers have been publishing false, fabricated and malicious news against Matiuur Rahman, editor of Prothom Alo, and Latifur Rahman, chairman of its owning company Mediastar Ltd. Earlier, this clique had posted posters in parts of the capital city demanding the hanging of Matiuur Rahman and Latifur Rahman.

Not only that, earlier more than six months after the devastating fire at Bashundhara City, Bashundhara Group filed a general diary with Tejgaon Police Station bringing false and fabricated allegations against the editors of Prothom Alo and Samakal.

Yesterday's reports in Kaler Kantha and Bangladesh Protidin are part of their continuous ill attempts. It is just another cooked-up story by Bashundhara Group that used its newspapers. We are bewildered at such misuse of press freedom out of vindication. We condemn it.

We request you to publish this protest of Prothom Alo on the first page with same importance as the published reports. At the same time, if Kaler Kantha and Bangladesh Protidin authorities do not apologise for publishing this false news, we will be compelled to take legal action.

On behalf of Prothom Alo (Md Nurul Alam) Deputy Manager (Administration) Prothom Alo

# 20 hurt

**FROM PAGE 16**  
University Act, 2005. The section says the university has to be run with its own income after 2013.

Kamrul group first attacked on their rival group at the geography department around 11:15 am following slapping an activist of Kamrul group over joining the demonstration.

At one stage, supporters of Gazi group launched a counter attack on their rivals, triggering sporadic clashes on the campus.

Chases and counter chases between the two groups with sharp weapons, sticks, brick-bats created panic among the thousands of students that also disrupted classes at different departments for several hours, campus sources said.

Police played the role of silent spectators for around half an hour during the clash and after that they tried to control the situation, witnesses said.

Katwali police picked up two students--Babul of mathematics and Mamun of statistics departments--in connection with the violence and released them in the afternoon.

The injured persons have been given treatment at different hospitals in the city.

Refuting the allegation of their inactivity during the clash, OC of the police station Mohammad Salahuddin said police brought the situation under control.

Proctor of the university Kazi Asaduzzaman told The Daily Star that a four-member probe committee with Dr Hasna Hena as its convener has been formed to identify people involved in the clash. He warned of action against those who will be found guilty.

Additional police have been deployed on the campus to avoid further clash.

# Ensure safe fruits

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Board of Revenue to take immediate steps to stop the import of contaminated fruits and submit a progress report in this regard before the court within 15 days.

It directed the deputy inspector general of police in Rajshahi to deploy police forces in the commercial mango orchards in that area to stop the use of chemicals for ripening mangoes.

The HC asked the commerce, food and home secretaries to form a committee comprised of representatives of those ministries to make recommendations for the government to stop the use of chemicals in fruits and submit a report in this regard before the court within 15 days.

Furthermore, the HC directed the authorities concerned to file cases against people responsible for the use of chemicals in fruits under the Special Powers Act, 1974.

The HC bench of Justice A H M Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Md Delwar Hossain gave the directives after hearing the public interest writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB).

The bench also issued a rule upon the government to explain within three weeks as to why it should not be directed to take effective measures to protect public health by stopping the use of chemicals in fruits and why their inaction in this regard should not be declared illegal.

Commerce, home and food secretaries, inspector general of police, managing director of BSTI and its director, director general of Rab, commissioner and deputy inspector general of police of Rajshahi and chairman of the NBR have been made respondents to the rule and the directives.

# ATN Staff

**FROM PAGE 16**  
chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the afternoon and demanded immediate arrest of the killers.

Nibaran Chandra Barman, sub-inspector of Turag Police Station and in charge of the case, said they have arrested seven muggers from different areas of the city. They were accused in different cases, some under the Speedy Trial Tribunal Act. The arrestees, however, have not provided any information about Mithu's murder.

Barman said police are yet to affirm whether Mithu had been killed by random muggers or murdered. Different law enforcement agencies including the Detective Branch are working together to unravel the mystery behind the killing.

Sources said microbuses transport commuters from Farmgate to Kawla in Dakkhin Khan. However, according to regular commuters, sometimes muggers posing as passengers gain access to the microbuses and snatch valuables from passengers.

Police said they are also looking into this.

The body of Shafiqul Islam Mithu, 40, was recovered from Mirpur-Uttara embankment at Rustampur around 10:15am Sunday. He was missing since Saturday night.

Mithu was a resident of Madhyapara in Dakkhin Khan. He left behind a daughter and an expecting wife.

A murder case has been filed against Hachunia, Sheikh added.

Police sent the body to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital Morgue for autopsy.

# Child raped

**FROM PAGE 16**  
undergrowth yesterday morning and arrested Habibur Rahman Hachunia, 18.

Police said Sonia had gone to buy some goods around 11:00am when Hachunia, a labourer, lured her to his house and violated her leaving her critically injured. As she started screaming in pain he strangled her, stuffed her body into a sack and dumped it into the bushes, police added.

Locals found the body and informed police yesterday morning. They also helped the police arrest Hachunia at his residence.

Moniruzzaman Sheikh, sub-inspector of Phulpur Police Station, told The Daily Star about the marks of injury on victim's body, and that Hachunia has confessed to the crime.

A murder case has been filed against Hachunia, Sheikh added.

Police sent the body to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital Morgue for autopsy.