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NEWS flakes

Two more HC judges turn in wealth reports

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two judges of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court (SC) yesterday submitted their wealth statements to Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque.

Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Syed Mohammad Ziaul Karim sent their wealth reports to the Office of the Chief

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Functioning of JPC's new body stayed

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday stayed the functioning of the newly elected managing committee of the Jatiya Press Club (JPC) till the disposal of the case filed against 12 members of the new committee.

The court also asked the new committee to hand over the charge back to the previous

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PRAYER TIMING January 11

Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5:30 - 6:05
Zohr	12:45 - 1:15
Asr	4:00 - 4:15
Maghrib	5:36 - 5:40
Esha	7:00 - 7:30

Money offered to woo voters

Campaign ends in Rajshahi, Rangpur division municipalities

M ABUL KALAM AZAD and ANWAR ALL, from Rajshahi
RAFIQUE SARKAR, Rangpur.

Money has become the prime tool in the last-moment campaigns for Wednesday's municipality polls.

With official campaigns for the polls ending at Monday midnight, the candidates and their election representatives were seen approaching the voters with cash.

Taking the win in the polls as a matter of prestige, the mayoral and councillor candidates, especially the outgoing mayors, businessmen candidates and the ones backed by Awami League lawmakers, are allegedly spending huge money to buy votes in Rajshahi.

Rebel candidates of AL and BNP have also joined the race here. In many places, they are spending more money as they stood against their party nominated candidates.

On Sunday night, police arrested Akher Ali, election representative of BNP's rebel candidate in Arani municipality, while distributing money among voters.

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Army personnel guard a polling centre in Bogra yesterday. Members of armed forces have been deployed in 15 municipal areas of Rajshahi division ahead of tomorrow's municipality elections.

PHOTO: STAR

MUNICIPAL POLLS Army men deployed in 15 towns Voting tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Army personnel were deployed yesterday in 15 municipality areas of Rajshahi division with sweeping power to help regular law enforcement agencies to maintain law and order, as 49 municipalities of the division go to the polls tomorrow.

The Election Commission (EC) identified these municipalities as vulnerable to poll violence.

While on election duty, army persons, like police officers, can detain anyone without an arrest warrant for violation of electoral rules within the radius of

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MUNICIPAL POLLS 2011



Polls charge up AL, BNP grassroots

HASAN AHMED TUSHER and RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

Grassroots leaders and activists of both the ruling party and the main opposition are upbeat about the upcoming municipality polls.

Awami League leaders believe the party activists, who have remained inactive since the grand alliance assumed power, will get charged up and united centring the polls.

BNP leaders say the election has given them a great chance to unite the party activists and boost their activities at the ward level.

Central leaders of both parties have been holding meetings with grassroots leaders, who had remained largely detached from the party high command in the last two years.

AL presidium member Obaidul Quader said party leaders and activists, who had remained inactive for quite long, are now putting full effort to strengthen party activities ahead of the municipality polls.

BNP Standing Committee member Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman said their leaders and BNP-backed candidates are working together.

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TAHER'S EXECUTION HC asks for 6 politicians' statements

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked six politicians to place statements during the hearing on the petition challenging the trial and execution of Col Abu Taher in 1976.

The politicians -- Sirajul Alam Khan, ASM Abdur Rab, Maj (retd) Zia Uddin, Hasanul Huq Inu, Sharif Nurul Ambia, and Mahmudur Rahman Manna -- were put in jail by the same military court that passed death sentence on Taher.

The HC bench of

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Expressway gets go-ahead

Agreement in a week

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs yesterday approved the Dhaka elevated expressway project paving the way for the government to sign a concession agreement with the project's private investor.

The approval came at a committee meeting at the Cabinet Division of the Secretariat.

"It will take a week to sign the concession agreement with the bid winner," Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, secretary to Bangladesh Bridge Authority, told The Daily Star.

Bid winner Ital-Thai Development Company has to form a new entity and get it registered with the joint stock of companies to implement the 26-kilometre expressway project.

The cabinet committee asked the Bridge Authority to submit the minutes of the negotiations between the government and the bidder, which ended on Thursday.

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SABBIR MURDER Arrest warrant against Sanvir, 2 others

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants against Shafiat Sobhan Sanvir, son of Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan Shah Alam and two others in a case filed for killing Humayun Kabir Sabbir, a director of the group in July 2006.

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Iran plane crash kills 77

AFP, Tehran

Iran yesterday launched a probe after an Iran Air passenger jet crashed and broke into pieces in heavy snow and fog killing 77 people and injuring dozens of others, state media said.

The Boeing 727 airliner with the state-run Iran Air crashed near the northwestern city of Orumiyeh at around 7:45 pm (1615 GMT) on Sunday after it took off from Tehran's Mehrabad airport, state television said on its website.

"Unfortunately, 77 of our citizens were killed" in the accident, the state television said yesterday, out of the 105 people trav-

elling on what reportedly was an ageing Boeing airliner delivered to Iran in 1974.

Television footage of the crash showed the airliner broken into three pieces and buried in thick snow, with some corpses covered in blankets and laying near the plane's debris.

An Iranian Red Crescent official told state television on Sunday that the "plane hit the ground and broke into pieces. Thankfully there was no fire."

"This flight had 105 persons on board, 94 passengers and 11 flight crew," ISNA

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7 PHOTO ON PAGE 6

ONLINE POLL

Do you think the ruling Awami League should immediately publish annual wealth statements and sources of income of prime minister, ministers, MPs and their families to fulfil its election pledge?

Yes (93.2%)
No (6.2%)
No Comments (0.6%)

TOTAL VOTES : 665

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government is responsible for the biggest fall of the stock market in its 55-year history?

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We Mourn

With profound regret we mourn the demise of our beloved colleague M. Aminul Haque, Head of Human Resources & Transformation, who left us for his heavenly abode (Innalillaha Wa Inna Ilaihi Razeun) on Sunday, 9 January, 2011 at 11.55 pm . He was 62 years old. He left behind his wife, a son, a daughter and host of friends and relatives.

His Namaz-e-Janaza will be held on Wednesday, January 12, 2011 at Baridhara DOHS Jam-E-Masjid after Asr Prayer. He will be buried on the same day at Banani Graveyard after his Namaz-e-Janaza.

M. Aminul Haque was an amiable person and a devoted member of the AB Bank Team. We are deeply saddened at his demise. May Allah rest his soul in eternal peace and grant the bereaved family the strength to bear his loss.

- AB Family

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