

## NEWS IN *brief*

### IER publishes Braille system books

DU CORRESPONDENT

Institute of Education and Research (IER) of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday published books in Braille system for the visually challenged students.

Vice-chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique unveiled the cover of a book at a programme at the institute.

Pro vice-chancellor Prof Harun-or-Rashid, Treasurer Mizanur Rahman and IER Director Prof Salma Akhter were present at the function.

### Construction worker electrocuted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A construction worker was electrocuted yesterday at an under-construction building in the city's Mirpur.

The deceased was Mohammad Sabuj, 25, of Amtali upazila, Barguna. Mirpur police said Sabuj came in contact with an electric cable while he was working outside the building standing on a ladder and fell down. He died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

### JSD for e-voting in Dhaka city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Rob) yesterday said the electronic voting machine (EVM) should be used in the next national election inside Dhaka City Corporation only and suggested its phased introduction across the country later if the system obtains people's credibility.

A team of JSD led by its President ASM Abdur Rob expressed the opinion in a dialogue with the Election Commission at the commission secretariat in the city. The EC is holding dialogues with 38 registered political parties on different electoral and other issues.

### Berger architecture contest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Berger Paints Bangladesh Ltd yesterday invited applications from members of the Institute of Architect for the 5th Berger Award for Excellence in Architecture contest, says a press release.

Application submission will begin July 2 and continue till July 16. Rupali Chowdhury, managing director of Berger Paints Bangladesh, made the announcement at a press conference at Dhaka Club.

## 30 hurt in RMG clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 30 people were injured in a clash between agitating workers of a garment factory and law enforcers at Ashulia industrial zone yesterday morning.

Production in four factories remained suspended for half a day while the factory authorities closed the units for today fearing further attacks by the workers.

Police said workers of Deniar Fashion Limited staged street demonstration at the main gate of the factory around 8:30am demanding an increase in their wage. The angry demonstrators also damaged properties of three adjacent garment factories.

On information, police rushed in and charged batons to drive the demonstrators out of the Dhaka-Tangail highway. Angry protesters pelted brickbats at the police.



Awami League President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurates the 62nd founding anniversary programme of her party at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

## Laundered money to be brought home: Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League president and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government would bring back home the public money, which the anti-people force had smuggled in the name of ruling the country.

Without mentioning BNP, Hasina said, "This party comes to power just to amass huge wealth through corruption and looting... when Awami League comes to power, people get many things and when they (BNP) come to power, people lose everything."

She was addressing a discussion at Bangabandhu International Conference

Centre arranged by AL to mark the party's 62nd founding anniversary.

Hasina inaugurated the celebration by releasing 62 pigeons and balloons. The discussion began with the national anthem while Hasina hoisted the national flag and General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam hoisted the party flag.

Early Hasina as the prime minister and the president of Awami League placed separate wreaths at the portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the premises of Bangabandhu Bhaban in Dhanmondi.

### CASE AGAINST TARIQUE Legal process on for quick disposal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Proper legal process is going on to quickly dispose of the money laundering case against Tarique Rahman, elder son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, and his business friend Giasuddin Al Mamun through the lawyers of the Anti-Corruption Commission, said Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury in parliament yesterday.

Replying to lawmakers' queries, Matia, who is also in charge of the cabinet division in the parliamentary business, said the case was filed against BNP Senior Vice Chairman Tarique Rahman and his friend Mamun with Cantonment Police Station in the city in October, 2009 on charge of laundering Tk 20.41 crore to Singapore.

"Date of hearing on charge framing against them [Tarique and Giasuddin] in the money laundering case has been fixed on July 3," Matia informed the House in a scripted answer.

### SC stays Pintu's bail order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld its chamber judge's order that stayed a High Court order granting bail to former BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu in connection with the BDR mutiny case.

The HC on June 7 granted ad-interim bail to Pintu for six months and also issued a rule upon the government to explain why he should not be granted regular bail in this case.

## Koko faces four more cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Apart from the money laundering case, four other cases are pending with the lower courts against Arafat Rahman Koko, younger son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Of the cases, two are corruption cases, one extortion while another tax evasion case.

Koko and Ismail Hossain Saimon were yesterday jailed for six years each in connection with siphoning off over Tk 20 crore bribe money to Singapore. The court also fined each of the convicts Tk 38.83 crore.

### GATCOGRAFT

The accused had been charged with breaching tender conditions in appointing Global Agro Trade (Private) Company Ltd (Gatco), an indenting house, for container handling at Dhaka Inland Container Depot (ICD) and in the restricted area of Chittagong Port ICD yard despite its lack of experience and skills.

ACC Deputy Director Golam Shahriar Chowdhury filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station. In his case report, he alleged that Khaleda and Koko violated the conditions and influenced the tendering process. The Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) officials helped Gatco win the tender although a three-member tender evaluation committee of the port termed Gatco unfit for the work.

After an investigation, the ACC pressed charges against Khaleda, Koko and 22 others.

But later on July 15, 2008, a High Court order stayed the proceedings of the case.

### ILLEGAL WEALTH

The ACC on April 23, 2008 filed another case against Koko for concealing information about his wealth and amassing wealth through illegal means.

In the case, the ACC accused Koko of concealing information properties worth about Tk 11.20 lakh and illegally amassing wealth of about Tk 2.23 crore.

Charge has been framed against Koko. But this case was also stayed on August 13, 2008 upon an order from the HC.

### EXTORTION

A proprietor of an advertising firm, Add Media Ltd, on May 16 of 2007 filed a case against Koko and two of his brothers-in-law for extorting Tk 1.20 crore from him.

Koko's in-laws are Mustaqin Reza and Muktaqin Reza.

Abu Ahmed Jayed Rabbi filed the case with Gulshan Police Station against them alleging that Koko along with the two came to his office at Gulshan-1 on April 27, 2004 and demanded Tk 1.20 crore as extortion.

Later, the company paid the demanded money to Koko and two others on different dates.

This case was stayed too following an HC order.

### TAX EVASION

National Board of Revenue (NBR) on March 1 last year filed a tax evasion case against Koko.

In the complaint, Deputy Tax Commissioner of NBR Shahin Akhter Hossain said Koko evaded Tk 52.39 lakh of his income tax between 2002-2003 and 2006-2007 fiscal years.

Koko repeatedly provided false information about his real income and expenditure, said the NBR statement.

The case is now pending with the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka and its proceeding is going on.

### Suicide attempt before police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A female schoolteacher yesterday tried to commit suicide in presence of police and neighbours in the city's Mohammadpur.

Shamsunnahar Champa, 35, wife of Raju Ahmed of Nurjahan Road, made the attempt for alleged torture by her husband.

Cahmpa tried to hang herself before Shihab Uddin, sub-inspector of Mohammadpur Police Station, said the SI.

### DHAKA-MAWA ROUTE Movement of vehicles halted for two hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Vehicular movements on Dhaka-Mawa highway halted for two hours yesterday morning as rickshaw and van pullers staged demonstrations demanding entry of non-motorised three wheelers into the city through second Buriganga Bridge.

Around 1,500 rickshaw and van pullers put barricade near the second Buriganga Bridge at Babubazar at around 8:00am and later they started demonstrating at Keraniganj on the outskirts of Dhaka city.

The demonstration created around two kilometres long traffic jam on both sides of the bridge causing huge suffering to the Dhaka-bound and out-bound passengers, said HM Jasim Uddin, a sub-inspector of South Keraniganj Police Station.

At one stage, chase and counter chase started among the law enforcers and the agitators, he added.

Protesters alleged that police were not allowing them to enter the capital from Keraniganj crossing the bridge since June 16.

Witnesses said the law enforcers and officials of the local administration visited the spot and talked with the agitators.

On the assurance that rickshaws will be allowed during the daytime, the agitators removed barricade from the road around 10:00am, sources said.



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