

NEWS IN *brief*

**HC asks EC to allow Mohitul to contest by-election**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the Election Commission to allow TIM Mohitul Gani, an independent candidate, to contest the by-elections to Shariatpur-3 constituency scheduled for March 15.

Earlier on February 19, the returning officer (RO) of Shariatpur rejected his nomination on charge of anomalies in the list of voters supporting him to contest as an independent candidate in the polls.

The EC on February 23 also dismissed an appeal submitted by Mohitul challenging the RO's decision.

In response to a writ petition, the court stayed the cancellation of his nomination for four months and also issued a rule upon the EC and RO to explain in four weeks why their decisions should not be declared illegal.

Mohitul submitted the petition before the HC bench of Justice Farid Ahmed and Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif yesterday challenging the decision of RO and EC.

Barrister Rakanuddin Mahmud and Barrister Mustafizur Rahman Khan appeared for the petitioner while Attorney General Mahbubey Alam and Additional Attorney General MK Rahman stood for EC.

Shariatpur-3 constituency remains vacant after the death of ruling Awami League lawmaker Abdur Razzak. AL has nominated Nahim Razzak Sammu, son of late Razzak, to contest the polls.

**Khaleda goes to Lalmonirhat today**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia reached Bogra at 8:45pm yesterday on her way to Lalmonirhat.

She will stay in Bogra Circuit House overnight and will start for Lalmonirhat today morning.

On the way to Bogra from Dhaka, she delivered her speeches in several rallies, including Tangail, Sherpur and Shahajahanpur upazila in the district.

BNP activists and well-wishers put up more than 300 gates on Dhaka-Dinajpur highway from Chandaikona of Sherpur upazila to Rahabol of Shibganj upazila to welcome her.

**Cop killed in road crash**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A police sub-inspector, who was seriously injured when he was hit by a bus on Friday morning, succumbed to his injuries at a city hospital yesterday.

A bus of Prochesta Paribahan hit Ali Haider Sharif, 45, in front of the office of Group 4 in Narda Kalachandpur area in the city at around 10:30am, leaving him injured critically, according to a press release.

He was admitted to United Hospital, where he died at 2:30pm yesterday.

**Produce Hathazari violence perpetrators: HC**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Based on a newspaper article, the High Court yesterday directed police to produce the perpetrators involved in demolishing Hindu temples in Hathazari of Chittagong before it on March 6.

The police will either arrest the people responsible to produce them before the court or identify them, said Deputy Attorney General ABM Altaf Hossain.

Issuing a suo moto rule, the court also summoned the Chittagong superintendent of police and officer-in-charge of Hathazari Police Station on March 6 to explain their roles in the incident.

It also issued a rule upon the authorities concerned of the government and police to explain in three weeks why they should not be directed to prosecute the perpetrators.

Extra, a weekly magazine of the daily New Age, published an article, "Religious Vengeance", on February 17 saying that propaganda and zealous activities led to the vandalism on a number of temples, markets and houses at Hathazari on February 9 and 10.



A delegation of Sector Commanders' Forum led by Maj Gen (retd) KM Safiullah calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Prime Minister's Office in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

TACKLING BDR MUTINY

# All except BNP, Jamaat extended support: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday alleged that all but BNP and Jamaat had lent their support to efficiently tackle the BDR mutiny.

"All except BNP and Jamaat had extended their support to the government in tackling the BDR mutiny on February 25-26, 2009," she told a meeting with her party leaders from Comilla (South) district at her official residence Gono Bhaban.

The meeting was arranged as part of her ongoing view exchange meetings with Awami League's grassroots leaders.

Members of the Awami League Central Working Committee and Comilla (South) district AL, presidents and general secretaries of AL associate bodies of the area, local party MPs, party-backed upazila chairmen and vice-chairmen in the district, and presidents and general

secretaries of upazilas, municipality and union units attended the meeting.

The prime minister mentioned that two hours before the BDR mutiny the opposition leader had gone out of her cantonment residence for an unknown location.

"Why did she go under ground, what was on her mind?" Hasina questioned adding that the opposition leader has not yet come up with any answer.

Claiming that the government tackled the situation efficiently, Hasina said had it failed to tackle the mutiny tactfully more dead bodies would have littered across the city.

"If we had failed to tackle the situation delicately the city would have seen more dead bodies."

Hasina said the trial of the BDR mutiny accused at 45 places of the country has been completed and those found guilty have been pun-

ished. "The trial of mutiny has been completed and now the trial for the killings is going on."

She said, "Seventy-four people, including 57 army officers, were killed during the BDR mutiny at the Pilkhana on February 25-26, 2009."

The prime minister said Khaleda Zia like her husband always tries to come to state power by banking on the army.

She also mentioned that BNP and Khaleda Zia are now siding with the anti-liberation forces and trying hard to save them. "The intention of BNP and Jamaat is crystal clear... they want the nation to bow down to others."

We're the nation of heroes, we've pride. But the BNP and Jamaat did not like that," she said.

About the anti-government movement by BNP and its allies, she said the opposition leader has launched the anti-government campaign as her illegally earned money is run-

ning out. "They (BNP) want to create anarchy in the country."

Hasina again took a swipe at the journalists saying that nowadays the media people are writing according to their whims.

"After the 2001 national election, the journalists did not enjoy freedom. They used to receive invisible advice before writing," she said.

At that time, she said, 16 journalists were killed across the country, but the media people failed to write about those deaths.

"But now the reporters are writing whatever they like. Sometimes they exaggerate the matter. Such kind of freedom they did not enjoy in the country in the past, not even during the caretaker regime," she said.

Hasina also said all the elections under the present government were held in a free and fair manner and no complaint was raised about any election.

**Journos' 1-hr strike today**

UNB, Dhaka

Journalists in all newspapers, news agencies, television and online media will observe a one-hour work abstention from 12:00noon to 1:00pm today to press for the arrest of the murderers of the journalist couple Sagar-Runi.

The journalists will also wear black badges today.

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, Dhaka Union of Journalists, Jatiya Press Club and Dhaka Reporters Unity also announced a countrywide mass hunger strike on March 1 from 10:00am to 4:00pm if the killers are not arrested by then.

In Dhaka, the mass hunger strike will be held at Jatiya Press Club.

The unions also demanded trial of all past murderers of journalists in the country.

# Boi Mela only for original publishers from next year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To conduct the month-long Amar Ekushey Boi Mela in a more organised way, the Bangla Academy authorities have decided to allocate bookstalls only to original publishers and to limit the fair to the academy premises from next year.

"We are not ready to allot stalls to any socio-cultural or non-governmental organisations (NGO) from next year as the fair will be exclusively for original publishers," Bangla Academy Director General Dr Shamsuzzaman Khan told journalists in the city.

The academy authorities disclosed the decision of the 23-member Amar Ekushey Grantha Mela Executive Committee at a press briefing in the academy's administrative building yesterday.

Shamsuzzaman said they had been considering shifting a portion of the stalls to the Dhaka University

Gymnasium from next year, but the idea was dropped as it would be difficult to maintain the fair at two places.

"So, we decided to keep the fair limits within the Bangla Academy premises," he said.

The authorities will go for implementing the decision unless pressurised otherwise, said Shamsuzzaman. He, however, did not clarify as to who or what could create the pressure.

The fair executive committee made the decision against the backdrop of widespread allegations that a huge number of socio-cultural organisations and NGOs have been setting up stalls at the book fair every year, violating the rules and regulations of the fair authorities.

Most stalls did not carry the required number of publications and the authorities had to face problems in maintaining discipline at the fair.

Shahida Khatun, director (Estab-

lishment, Planning and Training Division) of Bangla Academy, who is also member secretary of the fair executive committee, said the committee would first undertake a policy to trace out the original publishers and then go for implementing the decision.

Murshiduddin Anwar, deputy director of Bangla Academy, said if the decision was implemented, the number of bookstalls would be limited to 150-155. The number was 425 this year.

Noted cultural personality Ramendu Majumdar, a member of the fair executive committee, said stalls should be allotted on the basis of the quality of books the publishers bring to the fair and not by quantity.

Meanwhile, a total of 115 new titles arrived at the book fair yesterday. There were, however, fewer visitors than in the last few days.

**Bid to abduct DU student by ex-husband**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A female student of Dhaka University was abducted from the university campus by her former husband yesterday.

The victim, a student of the social science faculty, however, managed to escape hours after the abduction.

Assistant Proctor Dr Md Aftab Ali Sheikh told The Daily Star that the student's former husband Ashraf Al Miah, along with four or five others, intercepted her in front of Rokeya Hall around 8:30am and forcibly picked her up in a microbus.

"Taking me in the microbus, two persons grabbed my hand while Ashraf pulled out a syringe from his pocket and threatened to inject me with sedative if I shouted for help. So, I kept quiet," the student told The Daily Star at Shahbagh Police Station yesterday.

She filed an abduction case against Ashraf, staff of a private firm, and four to five unnamed others with the police station.

She said, when the abductors stopped the microbus near Muktiyoddha Sarani at Azampur in Uttara, she jumped off it and ran into the apartment of a nearby building.

The abductors followed her up to the flat and asked its owner to hand over the girl. But the owner along with dwellers of neighbouring flats got rid of them.

Being informed, the DU authorities, accompanied by police, rescued her from Uttara around 12:30pm.

The student said she had divorced Ashraf, hailed from Bogra, on August 5 last year as he used to torture her frequently. Her family also filed a case against him with Moitri, a local family court of Bogra, she added.

Ashraf was lobbying in different ways to get back his wife, police said quoting the victim.

The two had an arranged marriage in 2009, police added.

University sources said Ashraf came to the DU campus around three months ago and demanded the girl to get back with him, but she refused.

**11 houses gutted in Kamrangirchar**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 100 rooms of 11 houses built of tin and wood gutted in a fire in Kamrangirchar on the outskirts of the city yesterday.

Fire service sources said the fire had originated at a house in Koylarchat Muslimbagh at around 11:00am.

Four fire service units rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control at around 12:40pm.

Fire Service sources suspect that the fire was originated from an electric short circuit.

**Some border incidents 'distorted' in media**

Says Pinak Ranjan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A former Indian envoy to Bangladesh yesterday said some reports in the media on incidents on the border between Bangladesh and India were "distorted".

Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty, who was the Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka from 2007 to 2009, said he had collected the information from intelligence and other agencies after coming to know about the border incidents from the media.

Terming these reports in the local media as "perception problems", Pinak, at a dialogue on India-Bangladesh relations at Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation in the city, said, "I do not know how to deal with it (the perception problems)."


Currently special secretary (Public Diplomacy) of the Ministry of External Affairs, India, Pinak said media reports have a profound impact on people, many of whom begin their discussions by pointing to headlines in daily newspapers.

His remarks came amid a recurrence of killings of and torture on Bangladeshis on the border by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF).


Last month, some Indian TV channels including NDTV, aired a video clip showing a Bangladeshi being beaten up by some BSF members in Murshidabad district, Paschim Banga.

The BSF killed 31 Bangladeshis last year, including 15-year-old Felani, which raised protests throughout Bangladesh, said Odhikar, a rights group, adding that the number was 74 in 2010 and 98 in 2009.

## আমরা তোমাদের স্মরণ করি




**মরহুমা রোকেয়া হোসেন**  
মৃত: ২৭ ফেব্রুয়ারী ২০১০ইং



**মরহুম এ কে এম নূরুল হোসেন**  
মৃত: ১৭ জানুয়ারী ১৯৯৩ইং

আমাদের ছেড়ে তোমরা চলে গেলে অন্যলোকে পরম করুনাময়ের ডাকে সাড়া দিয়ে। তোমাদের এই প্রস্থান আমাদের চারপাশে তৈরী করেছে গভীর শূণ্যতা। আজো তোমরা রয়েছ আমাদের সাথে প্রতিটি মুহুর্তে, প্রতিটি ক্ষণে। পরম করুনাময়ের কাছে তোমাদের আত্মার শান্তির জন্য প্রার্থনা জানাই। সেই সাথে আজ ২৭ ফেব্রুয়ারী ২০১২ইং রোজ সোমবার বাদ মাগরিব গুলশান-১ স্থিত বাসস্থানে একটি দোয়া ও মিলাদ মাহুফিল অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। মরহুমের সকল আত্মীয়-স্বজন ও শুভানুধ্যায়ীদেরকে উক্ত মিলাদ মাহুফিল অনুষ্ঠানে অংশগ্রহন করতে বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

স্মরণেঃ পরিবারের পক্ষে " মান্নি, মোস্তাক, সাম্মি, জাফরি, সুমি, আসিফ, রাকা, লোপা, রুনা, বেবি, সামিয়া, ওয়াসিম, সাদ, সাদাদ, মোরসালিন, সাফকাত, রেজওয়ান, মেহেরিন, অনিসা, মেহজাবিন, তাজেয়ার, সামরিন, সামান্জা " ও আত্মীয়-স্বজন, কর্মচারী-কর্মকর্তাবৃন্দ।



## WEATHER TODAY

**Dry weather likely**

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during late night till morning, Met Office said.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 06.00pm today and rises at 6:22am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 35.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khepupara and lowest 12.3 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

| City/Town   | Temperature Celsius |      | Humidity in percentage |         |
|-------------|---------------------|------|------------------------|---------|
|             | Max:                | Min: | Morning                | Evening |
| Dhaka       | 30.8                | 18.0 | 37                     | 33      |
| Chittagong  | 33.3                | 17.8 | 54                     | 82      |
| Rajshahi    | 32.0                | 14.6 | 71                     | 35      |
| Rangpur     | 28.1                | 15.5 | 52                     | 37      |
| Bhulna      | 31.8                | 17.8 | 71                     | 49      |
| Barisal     | 32.8                | 16.6 | 69                     | 48      |
| Sylhet      | 31.0                | 15.8 | 47                     | 31      |
| Cox's Bazar | 33.0                | 17.0 | 62                     | 69      |