

Chased by DB men, 4 drown in river

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Branch (DB) of Police were closed to Dinajpur Police Lines yesterday afternoon for their alleged involvement in the incident. A three-member probe committee led by ASP of Dinajpur Habibur Rahman Pramanik was also formed. The dead were identified as Md Jamal Hossain Mini, 40; Shabuj Saha, 33; Awlad Hossain, 33; and Ismail Hossain, 28. Police said locals of the area rescued Jamal around 7:00pm on Wednesday and rushed him to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead. The three other

bodies were recovered by the divers of Rangpur Fire Brigade yesterday. A witness, Ashraful Islam, said a DB police team led by Sub-Inspector Motiur Rahman raided a spot at Bangibechaghat under Dinajpur Sadar upazila around 6:00pm Wednesday to nab gamblers. The law enforcers surrounded around 20-25 alleged gamblers on the bank of Punarbhaba river. Being chased, they jumped into the river to escape arrest. Many of them swam ashore while 4 to 5 persons remained missing, said Ashraf. Later, locals started rescue operation and res-

cued Jamal around an hour after the incident. Meanwhile, members of Dinajpur Fire Bridge rushed to the spot and called in divers from Rangpur since they had no divers at the station. The divers arrived around 10:00pm on Wednesday and searched for the missing persons. After an hour they suspended rescue operation. They later resumed the search yesterday and recovered the three bodies. The search operation was suspended in the evening. Another alleged member of the gambling ring, Mohammad Jahid, 18, has been missing since

the incident. Contacted, Abdullah-Zaman, acting officer-in-charge of DB Dinajpur, denied chasing the gamblers. He, however, admitted that the members of DB went to the spot on Wednesday evening riding five motorcycles. Md Moinul Islam, SP of Dinajpur, confirmed that 10 policemen including two SIs and two ASIs of Dinajpur DB were closed in connection with the incident. Meanwhile, in the evening, locals of Ramnagar area in the town attacked Shahinoor Rahman, an alleged gambler in the area, beat him up and set his motorbike afire.

First ODI

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television Channel 9 will provide live coverage. When Bangladesh take on the West Indies, it will be the hope that the home team can get everything right taking on the certainty that the visitors have the personnel to overcome Bangladesh even if they do. The odds are stacked against Bangladesh in the match as they face an arsenal of explosive talent, that too without the one man who can match them blow for blow. Champion Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan will miss the first two ODIs because of a shin injury, and for the Tigers it could not have come at a less opportune time. His bowling will be sorely missed, being the most accurate and incisive of the Bangladesh bowlers, and particularly because it will be the first match in which the new ODI rules will be enforced, one of which makes life more difficult than it already is for bowlers. The changes comprise three new rules -- bowlers will be allowed two bouncers per over instead of one; there will be two blocks of Powerplay overs instead of three (the first will be during the first ten overs of an

innings with a maximum of two fielders allowed outside the 30-yard circle and the second to be taken by the batting side will be a block of five overs, during which a maximum of three fielders will be allowed outside the circle, to be completed by the 40th over; and the maximum fielders allowed outside the circle during non-Powerplay overs has been reduced to four from five. The last time the two teams locked horns was in a three-match ODI series in late 2011 in Bangladesh, which the West Indies won 2-1, but they were a considerably weaker team at that time. The pitch is almost certain to be a batting-friendly one, while a bit on the slower side. Irrespective of the conditions, the Tigers will have a task on their hands to overcome a side that contains the likes of Chris Gayle, Marlon Samuels, Kumar Roach and Kieron Pollard. It is worth remembering that the last time Bangladesh played ODI cricket was during the Asia Cup in March where they performed fabulously to narrowly miss the title. They will have to reprise that level of performance if they are to take anything away from today's match.

Doctors elect


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DAB did not bring any allegation during voting hours. Claiming polls victory in 59 out of 67 BMA branches, he said, "When vote counting is about to end, they are bringing allegation of vote rigging; so it is not acceptable." Contacted at 2:05am, BMA Election Commission President Alauddin Sheikh said they were still counting votes. He also said the results will be formally declared at 4:00pm today. Swachip and DAB were the major rivals in the polls to BMA, the national organisation of doctors. The biennial election was held largely peacefully across the country between 8:30am and 5:00pm yesterday. Only in Kushtia, polls were suspended due to faulty ballot papers. The number of total voters was 32,892, of which 13,338 were in Dhaka. From Swachip camp, Mahmud Hasan along with running mate Iqbal Arslan was contesting against AKM Azizul Haque and AZM Zahid Hossain of DAB for the posts of president and secretary general. A 41-member central committee and 364 central councillors were also supposed to be elected. The

voters would also vote for their own unit committee members. Talking to The Daily Star yesterday evening, BMA Election Commission Secretary Shakhawat Hossain said around 70 percent of the voters in Dhaka had cast their votes. He could not say what the situation was in other places. "It may take one or two days to announce the final results," he said, adding that the election commission did not know anything about polling suspension anywhere. However, DAB leaders claimed that the voting was rigged while Swachip leaders and BMA election commission claimed that the voting was fair and peaceful. "In Dhaka, voting was fair until 2:00pm. But during last three hours, pro-ruling party men rigged the election," said BMA president-aspirant Azizul Haque. He alleged that the election commission was biased towards Swachip. He claimed that ruling party men also rigged the election in Mymensingh. There was an incident of running battles between rivals in Mymensingh, our correspondent there reported. However, BMA Election Commission Secretary said, "The commission has received neither verbal nor written complaints from any parties." BMA secretary-general-aspirant Iqbal Arslan said, "Both of us [Swachip and DAB members] stayed at the polling centres all day. So, there is no possibility of vote rigging." Our Kushtia correspondent reports: Presiding officer of Kushtia BMA branch unit election Rafiqul Islam Tota said, "We found faults in the ballot papers around 9:30am when 18 votes were already cast. The polling was suspended around 11:30am." Our Mymensingh correspondent adds: Chases and counter chases took place between Swachip and DAB members during the election. Both groups hurled brickbats at each other but no casualties were reported.

Reduce cost of education

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expensive. She said the cost of Braille books should be reduced or made free of charge to encourage more visually impaired students in studies. If that was done, Oggro could have increased the number of visually impaired students from the existing 17 to 100. "There is no specially-designed curriculum in schools for the children with disabilities. Besides, the school premises, including the lavatories, are not made to the needs of the physically challenged," said Nazrana Yasmin Hira, programme manager of Manusher Jonno Foundation. SARPV's Shahidul Haque emphasised ensuring early-age treatment for the children born with disabilities. "Around 1% children suffer from rick-

ets and end up as physically challenged. Our public health sector is yet to recognise this," he added. Iqbal Hossain, adviser to Quality Primary Education Programme of Plan International, stressed the need for authentic data information on the country's physically challenged children. Referring to treatment, he said early detection and treatment can reduce 30% of disabilities. Kamal Hossain, manager of Shikhon, a community mobilisation and advocacy programme run by Save the Children, observed that a clear definition of disabilities was a prerequisite, as schools in Bangladesh often mix up slow learners with children with disabilities. Jowaherul Islam Mamun, president of Society for the Welfare of the Intellectually Disabled, Bangladesh, said in the 2011 census, only 1.4 percent of 14 crore people in Bangladesh had been recorded as disabled, which in reality, was much higher. "As per the 2011 report on disability by the World Health Organisation and the World Bank, Bangladesh has around 1.9 million physically challenged people, while the world has more than 1 billion, 15% of the total population," he said. He also lauded Bangladesh's decision to participate for the first time in the upcoming T20 World Cup for the visually impaired in Bangalore. However, he regretted the government turning a blind eye to such cricketers. Chairman of Bangladesh Human Rights Foundation Elena Khan urged the government to make all shopping malls suitable for children with disabilities so that they do not face trouble moving around. Julian Francis, a freelance consultant on disability, said, "Attitude of families and communities towards those born with disabilities, particularly in rural areas, should be changed. They are often called pagol or pagl [crazy people]. But people with disabilities can be creative and can contribute a lot to the society." Moderated by Nazrana Yasmin Hira, the roundtable was attended by, among others, Prof Mohammad Ibrahim of Dhaka University, Brig Gen Shahedul Anam Khan ndc, psc (retd), editor of Defence & Strategic Affairs of The Daily Star, and Munir Uddin Shamim, senior programme manager of IGS-Brac University.



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