

RU teacher  
suspended for  
swindling  
students

## Savar rescuers honoured for their efforts

Ninth-grader Tushar was not the only one honoured for his rescue efforts in the Savar tragedy, but his exceptional courage gained him special notice in the award-giving ceremony organised by the Workers' Party of Bangladesh in the capital yesterday.

Tushar, a student of Probhati Ideal School, showed maturity beyond his years while working on spot for 22 days rescuing people and recovering the dead, reported awardees.

"The people trapped inside gave the biggest inspiration - their spirit was ever-optimistic and their belief in my capability to get them out was unfailing. In future I would like to continue doing the work I did at Savar," Tushar told The Daily Star over phone.

Other children like him who received awards included members of Red Crescent Society, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides.

Over 200 individuals and ten organisations were awarded for their contribution in the rescue efforts.

The presence of women among the awarded was especially noticeable, and among the many females regarded with special honour were Asma Akhter Liza, a theatre artist, and Rowshan Jahan Lisa, an activist of the Gonojagoron Mancha.

Also honoured were Managing Director of Enam Medical College Hospital Dr Enamur Rahman who provided free emergency medical services, Fire Service and Civil

## Housewife 'commits suicide' in capital

A housewife allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling in her residence in the capital's Pallabi area yesterday.

The deceased was Rumana Akhter, 26, the second of wife of garment worker Mohammad Tuhin, 35. Rumana was also a garment worker.

Quoting family members, Pallabi Police Station Sub-Inspector Abu Bakr Siddique said Rumana committed suicide following family disputes.

The body was recovered around 2:00pm, and it was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for an autopsy.



WBB Trust and Prottasha, an anti-drug abuse organisation, form a human chain at the base of Santrashbiroddhi Raju Bhaskorjo in Dhaka University yesterday demanding a ban on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship. The programme was organised marking World No Tobacco Day, observed yesterday.



Rainwater collects in potholes on Fulbaria road in the capital yesterday making movement difficult for vehicles and pedestrians.

PHOTO: STAR

Agartala-Dhaka route

### Maitree bus service resumes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Maitree bus service on Agartala-Dhaka route resumed yesterday after more than eight months of suspension following torching of an Indian bus by a mob in Bangladesh.

Officials of Tripura Road Transport Corporation (TRTC) said the vehicle left Agartala with passengers for Dhaka yesterday morning.

The bus service was suspended after a "Maitree" bus was set ablaze at Narsingdi during a political clash on September 21 last year.

However, Bangladesh bus "Shyamoli" shuttles on the route according to its previous schedule.

"Maitree" bus runs from Agartala to Dhaka on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, while "Shyamoli" shuttles the other days of the week, except Sundays.

## Rajshahi AL, BNP put away intra-party feuds BNP bloc united, AL not in Barisal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The mayoral election to Rajshahi City Corporation came as a blessing both for Awami League and BNP, as their local units started to put away intra-party differences, taking the June 15 election to be the toughest battle in the last two decades.

For BNP, the party which was riven by infighting between its city President Mizanur Rahman Minu and district President Nadim Mostafa even a couple of weeks ago, the election gave a chance for them to reunite, both considering the election as a major national issue, said party insiders.

After city Jubo Dal President Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul was backed by the BNP-led alliance, Nadim, who had aspired to join the race, started working for Bulbul. Jamaat-e-Islami withdrew its candidate and is also working for Bulbul alongside other parties of the alliance and Hefajat-e-Islam.

BNP wants its leader to regain the city mayorship which Minu held for 17 years until 2008.

Seeing BNP's reunification, AL activists too started coordinated campaigns for outgoing mayor and city AL General Secretary AHM Khairuzzaman Liton, considering the poll as a battle between the forces for and against the Liberation War spirit, according to party sources.

The AL-led alliance is also working for Liton although he earned discontent of his party men for his attempt to keep the corporation free from partisan politics.

The two major parties first fought in the RCC election in 1994 when BNP's Minu defeated his nearest rival and AL leader Abdul Matin Khan. In 2002, AL had no candidate and supported Workers' Party of Bangladesh leader Fazle Hossain Badsha. Minu won the election.

The 2008 poll changed the scenario and Liton won it by a margin of 23,810 votes. Although BNP did not join the race, nor it supported anyone, Bulbul contested it as Minu was in jail.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Apparently taking lessons from past mistakes and regarding unity as the best strength, the opposition BNP and its allies have successfully got together ahead of the third Barisal City Corporation election scheduled for June 15, said party insiders.

In 2008, BNP-backed Sharfuddin Ahmed Santu was defeated by a small margin of 587 votes by Awami League's Shawkat Hossain Hiron. Shantu got 46,208 votes while Hiron bagged 46,795.

Participation of two more local BNP leaders-Ahsan Habib Kamal and Ebaidul Huq Chan--in that election was considered a major factor for Santu's defeat, as the BNP vote bank was spilt into three candidates.

Since the BNP-led 18-party alliance backed BNP district (south) unit President Ahsan Habib Kamal this time, two other leaders--BNP city unit General Secretary Kamrul Ahsan Shahin and former BNP district unit General Secretary Ebaidul Huq Chan--withdrew from the mayoral run.

However, the situation for the ruling AL seems to be the opposite. The AL-led 14-party alliance is still divided as a Jubo League leader refused to pull out of the election.

The ruling alliance on May 10 officially backed outgoing mayor and city AL President Shawkat Hossain Hiron but Mahmudul Haque Khan Mamun, joint convener of city Jubo League, decided to remain in the race, which, according to insiders, will be damaging for Hiron. Jatiya Party declared to support Hiron.

Laskar Nurul Huq, election coordinator for the 14-party alliance, said Khan Mamun even ignored the repeated call for withdrawal by central Jubo League and AL leaders. He claimed that the alliance was unitedly electioneering for Hiron.

Mamun said he was campaigning regularly with his activists.

BNP city unit President Mojibor Rahman Sarwar MP said the alliance decided to remain united and back Kamal because public opinion would be reflected in this election.



Mayoral candidates Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran, left, and Ariful Haque Chowdhury, right, exchange greetings with people in Shekhghat and Sobhanighat areas of Sylhet city respectively yesterday while electioneering for the June 15 Sylhet City Corporation polls.

## Kamran, Arif enjoying full party support

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Two mayoral candidates, backed by Awami League and BNP, are likely to fight a tough battle in the June 15 Sylhet City Corporation election as both are apparently enjoying almost full support from the two rival camps and facing less intra-party rivalries.

Outgoing mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran appeared to have full support from the AL-led 14-party alliance except from a small group in Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, said party insiders. The alliance also formed a coordination committee for his campaign.

However, Jatiya Party, another component of the ruling alliance, is yet to start campaigning for Kamran, as it has not received any direction from the central high command, they added.

Kamran, president of city AL, is also enjoying support from different quarters, especially the local cultural and social organisations, as he maintained a good relation with them and built a rapport in the last 18 years of his mayorship and municipality chairmanship.

On the other hand, the BNP-led 18-party alliance-backed candidate Ariful Haque Chowdhury, a central committee member of BNP, has convinced most of the people from the camp.

On advice from the party chairperson, three BNP men quit the mayoral race. They are city BNP Vice President Nasim Hossain, city BNP General Secretary Abdul Quaiyum Jalali, and Swetchhasebok Dal central leader Shamsuzzaman Zaman. City Jamaat Ameer Ehsanul Mahbub Zobayer also withdrew his candidacy.

Although Nasim and Jalali, along with Jamaat leaders, started campaigning for Arif, Zaman turned out to be a predicament since he along with his followers did not support Arif.

BNP Vice Chairman Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury canvassed votes for Arif during a programme organised to mark the 32nd death anniversary of former president Ziaur Rahman at the city's Zinadabazar Thursday night.

Leaders from both camps from the capital will join the election campaigns, said sources.

## Intra-party feuds annoy Khaleque, Mony

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Internal feuding within the Awami League and the BNP has put the mayoral candidates from the two rival blocs at a disadvantage in the upcoming Khulna City Corporation election.

The split in BNP, however, seems to be less destructive.

On January 24, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina declared in Khulna that the AL would back outgoing mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque in the June 15 election.

But this could not bring him much fortune--the conflict within the local AL is now putting Khaleque into an unfavourable situation in his fight against BNP-backed candidate Moniruzzaman Mony, who faces less intra-party conflicts, said AL insiders.

Quarrelling between Khaleque, president of city AL, and Mizanur Rahman Mizan, general secretary of city AL, would impact the results of the polls, they feared.

Their split got wider after the last parliamentary election. Followers of Mizan, who contested the polls with AL ticket, think he lost to BNP's Nazrul Islam Monju due to non-cooperation of Khaleque. Mizan and his followers also did not get "facilities" from the KCC during Khaleque's mayorship, and they were not treated well by Khaleque, party insiders said.

Some central leaders of the AL, including an influential Bagerhat lawmaker, are trying to resolve the conflicts and ensure victory for Khaleque, sources said. Mizan and some local leaders, however, denied having any internal conflict and said they were working for Khaleque.

In the BNP-led opposition camp, the relation between the followers of BNP lawmaker Nazrul Islam Monzu, president of the party's city unit, and his predecessor Ali Asgor Lobby worsened, as Lobby's supporters did not get party backing to contest for councillor posts.

Monzu is working for Mony, backed by the BNP-led 18-party alliance, but Lobby loyalists might create hurdles for Mony, said BNP insiders.

Mony, who recently resigned as city BNP general secretary, said there were no conflicts in the BNP.

UNB, Dhaka

## World No Tobacco Day observed

The World No Tobacco Day was observed in the country as in 175 other countries across the globe yesterday to sensitise people about the bad effects of tobacco use.

The theme of this year's World No Tobacco Day is "Ban tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship".

Different organisations observed the day with elaborate programmes across the country.

Adhunik, a national anti-tobacco organisation, and WHO organised a seminar in the capital's Jatiya Press Club in the morning.

National Professor Dr MR Khan was the chief guest while Dr Abdus Sobhan Golap, special assistant to the prime minister, and former MP Ashraf Uddin Khan Imu were present as special guests at the function.

Anti-tobacco Media Alliance (ATMA) brought out a procession in the capital marking the day.

The procession started from Doyel Chattar at Dhaka University and ended in front of the press club after parading different city streets.

On the occasion, a national programme will be held at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital on June 11 as Friday (May 31) is a weekly holiday.

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages on the occasion.

PHOTO: STAR