

# ACC to probe allegations against DC Mollah Nazrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) will probe allegations that deputy commissioner Mollah Nazrul Islam of Detective Branch (DB) (North) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police recently extorted Tk 1 crore from a businessman, said an ACC source yesterday.

The ACC will lodge a First Information Report if the inquiry officer, ACC Deputy Director Nasim Anwar, who is supposed to submit a report within 15 days, finds any primary evidence, added the source.

News reports stated that DB Sub-inspector Hasnat and Inspector Azhar, instructed by their boss, Nazrul, picked up businessman Syed Abidul Islam, 42, from his Gulshan-1 residence on April 7 around 3:00am.

He was released after the payment, alleged Abidul's friend Kabirul Haque Mukti, Narail 1 lawmaker.

As the incident surfaced, Hasnat and Azhar were closed while Nazrul was made DC (pro-

tection) on June 1.

The DB men threatened to implicate him in false cases if he did not pay Tk 10 crore, Abidul, hailing from Narail, told The Daily Star.

Another businessman, Azzadur Rahman Mithu, Nazrul's distant relative, brought down the amount to Tk 1 crore through negotiations, he said.

On the afternoon of April 7, Abidul, Mithu, Hasnat and another man withdrew the amount from the Shantinagar branches of Standard Chartered Bank, United Commercial Bank Ltd (UCBL) and Brac Bank, added Abidul.

UCBL and Brac Bank CCTV footage showed Abidul, Mithu and Hasnat withdrawing money.

Refuting the allegation, Nazrul earlier said Mukti had a grudge against him over an incident in Narail two years ago.

Abidul, assisted by Mukti, lodged complaints with the home ministry, Police Headquarters, DB and an intelligence agency, which are now under investigation.



This balcony on the first floor of a three-storey building in Chittagong city's Goanchi Bagan collapsed yesterday, prompting Chittagong District Administration to evacuate Class IV staff of Chittagong Medical College Hospital who used to reside there. The building has been sealed off. Four other adjoining dangerous buildings still house many families.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

## CITY CORPORATION ELECTIONS 2013

# 88 polling centres prone to untoward incidents: SMP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Against the backdrop of the June 15 Sylhet City Corporation polls, 88 out of 127 polling centres of the city's 27 wards were marked "prone to untoward incidents", stated Sylhet Metropolitan Police (SMP) yesterday.

Meanwhile, Election Commissioner Brig Gen (ret'd) Md Zayed Ali reached the city to oversee the election preparations and is scheduled to hold a meeting with the regional Election Commission offi-

cials today.

SMP Deputy Commissioner Ejaj Ahmed told The Daily Star that the classification was made considering the centres' previous incident records and location and police deployment in the polling centres would vary accordingly.

A total of 3,000 policemen, half coming in from other regions, would be deployed during the election alongside Border Guard Bangladesh, Rapid Action Battalion and Bangladesh Ansar and

VDP personnel, he added.

Moreover, 10 teams, headed by executive magistrates, are monitoring to check whether electoral codes are being violated during election campaigns and have already issued warnings against a number of councillor candidates.

A total of 2,91,046 voters, including 1,33,865 females, would elect one from three mayoral candidates, 27 from 136 general councillor candidates and eight from 35 women's reserved seat councillor candidates.

**Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad (speaking into the mic) holds a views-exchange meeting with the mayor and councillor candidates of the June 15 Khulna City Corporation polls in Khulna deputy commissioner's office yesterday.**

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA



## BCC MAYORAL POLLS Kamal declares to go for sustainable dev

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Mayoral candidate Ahsan Habib Kamal of the June 15 Barisal City Corporation polls yesterday, announcing his 22-point election manifesto, declared to go for balanced and sustainable development under a master plan if elected.

This included creating employment opportunities for women and youths and connecting Barisal with the national gas supply grid, he told a views-exchange meeting with journalists in Barisal city's Barisal Ashwini Kumar Hall.

Addressing the meeting, BNP Vice-Chairman Abdullal Al Noman, also BNP Barisal city unit president, questioned whether the Election Commission was impartial and demanded deployment of army in the polls.

Mojibor Rahman Sarwar, BNP Barisal city unit president, accused outgoing mayor and another mayoral aspirant Shawkat Hossain Hiron of misappropriating development project funds approved by the last BNP-led government.

Hiron also failed to construct a single bridge, filled up canals and hampered drainage facilities and he was using "black money" in the election campaigns, he added.

Hiron told The Daily Star yesterday that the allegations centring the bridges, canals and drainage were baseless and that he was the highest taxpayer among the three mayoral candidates.

Returning Officer Mujibur Rahman told The Daily Star that Kamal and his supporters had not submitted any letter specifying the allegations.

## Mock voting with EVM held in Sylhet, Rajshahi

STAR REPORT

Mock voting with electronic voting machines (EVM) was held in two wards, one each in Sylhet and Rajshahi cities, yesterday to get voters acquainted with EVM before the June 15 city corporation polls.

EVM will be used in one ward in each of the cities of Sylhet, Rajshahi, Khulna and Barisal during the polls.

Our Sylhet correspondent reports, the voting was held in 20 polling booths of three centres of ward 2, one among the city's 27 wards, consisting 6,291 voters, including 3,529 females.

Of the centres, two are in Madan Mohan College and one is Roshomoy High School. The use of EVM would also be shown to the voters today and tomorrow.

Meanwhile, the regional Election Commission ended a two-day training for the 2,811 presiding, assistant presiding and polling officers in Madan Mohan College on the use of EVM and on electoral code.

Our Rajshahi correspondent adds, the voting was held in three centres -- Laxmipur Girls High School, Government Laboratory School and Teachers Training Center -- of ward 8, comprising 6,823 voters, including 3,446 females.

Election officials were also trained on the use of EVM and on electoral code last week.

## Environment act violation cognizable offence

Says Hasan Mahmud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Violating the Environment Court Act 2010 is a cognizable offence for which the law enforcers can take action against the offenders like they are thieves or burglars, said Environment and Forest Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud yesterday.

The minister also said that over the last four years, the authorities had collected Tk 80 crore as penalty for polluting the environment in different ways.

He was speaking at a programme organised by Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Network and Micah Network at the Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital.

The minister said to increase greenery the government, over the last few years, took initiative for planting around 10 crore plants each year.

## Obituary

CITY DESK

Dr Nazma Latif Zaman (Bithi), visiting professor of North South University in Dhaka, died on Saturday at a Boston Hospital in the USA.

She left her husband, a daughter and son-in-law, says a press release.

She will be buried in Boston Muslim Graveyard.

A doa mahfil will be held on June 16 after Asr prayers at 23A, road-8, Gulshan-1, Dhaka.

Ayub Hossain

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gairbandha

Ayub Hossain, president of Fulchhari Upazila Press Club, died of prolonged illness in Gangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Dhaka yesterday. He was 58.

He left behind his wife and two daughters.

He will be buried in Fulchhari Shaheed Minar graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at Fulchhari Pilot High School ground this morning.

## Cops bust car thieving gang Recover 9 vehicles

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shock awaited Mohd Abdul Haque when he went to Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) in May to deposit fees for a digital numberplate for his car with the registration number Dhaka Metro Ga 12-3379.

"BRTA officials informed that someone had already paid the fee," said Haque.

After approaching Detective Branch (DB) of police, Haque found that another car recovered during a drive had the same registration, chassis and engine number as his.

"A gang of car thieves, assisted by a section of BRTA officials and brokers, first cloned documents of a registered vehicle and picture of the owner," explained DB Additional Deputy Commissioner Mohd Shahidullah, who led the drive.

They then changed the engine, chassis, registration numbers and colour of the stolen vehicle of the same model to that of the registered vehicle to sell those. "The buyer never knows he is buying a stolen car," he added.

The recovered car and a microbus were discovered in Royal Auto Care and

Servicing Centre in Kuril on April 15 following a tip-off from an employee of the gang leader and the centre owner, Mohd Ismail Hossain.

"Ismail, 37, a university graduate, and his associate Md Hanif Mridha, 32, were arrested from Banani on June 04," said Inspector Mohammad Ziaur Rahman.

Based on information gleaned from the arrestees during a three-day remand granted by a Dhaka court, another gang-member Imran alias Emdad alias Imu, 41, was arrested from Dayaganj on June 05, he added.

In the next two days, DB recovered seven stolen vehicles, six cars and one jeep, from around the capital.

The nine stolen vehicles and owners of six cars whose documents were cloned were present with their cars at a press conference in Dhaka Metropolitan Police's media centre in Minto Road yesterday.

"We kept copies of the original documents to prove the case," said Ziaur.

The involved BRTA officials could not be traced yet. "However, we caught some brokers and hope to get some names from them," he added.

## PROTECTING INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES' RIGHTS NHRC chair urges govt to ratify ILO Convention 169

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Human Rights Commission Chairman Prof Mizanur Rahman yesterday stressed the need for the government to ratify Convention No 169 of International Labour Organization to protect indigenous communities' rights.

"If we can compel the state and the government to ratify the international convention and implement it, we will be able to resolve the problems centring our country's indigenous issues," he told a consultation.

The convention, a legally binding international instrument open to ratification, deals specifically with the rights of indigenous and tribal peoples. Once it ratifies the convention, a country has one year to align legislation, policies and programmes to the convention before it becomes legally binding.

A parliamentary caucus on indigenous affairs, supported by Oxfam, organised the consultation on the draft of Bangladesh

Indigenous Rights Act, 2012 in the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

Referring to news report that 52 indigenous persons went missing in a February incident, presumably following factional feuds, Prof Mizanur raised questions on the government's role to rescue them.

He called upon indigenous people to remain united to protect their rights and maintain peace in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

Chairing the function, the caucus President Rashed Khan Menon reiterated his demand to implement the CHT Peace Accord-1997 and to enact the law immediately to protect indigenous people's rights.

The draft act proposed to form a national commission on indigenous affairs to uphold their rights, to conserve their traditions and culture and for the overall development of indigenous people of both hill tracts and plain lands.

Journalist Abed Khan, Dhaka University Prof Mesbah Kamal and indigenous community representatives spoke at the function.

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