# Speedy tribunal to try Bishwajit murder case

UNB, Dhaka

The government has decided to shift the Bishwajit killing case to the Speedy Trial Tribunal for quick disposal.

Additional Public Prosecutor Shah Alam Talukder said this while filing a time petition with the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court yesterday.

"The home ministry will soon issue a gazette notification to this effect," he added.

Also yesterday, June 27 was set for starting the trial of 21 activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League, the student body associated with the ruling Awami League, on charges of killing Bishwajit.

Bishwajit, a youth who was a tailor by profession, was hacked to death in the capital during an opposi-

tion road blockade programme on December 9 last year.

City

Eight of the accused, now in custody, were produced before the court yesterday. Besides, Sub-inspector Jalal Uddin of Sutrapur Police Station, also the plaintiff of the case, appeared before the court to give deposition.

Earlier on June 2, the

Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court framed charges against the Jagannath University unit BCL men in the case. The case was shifted to

the Sessions Judge Court on April 29 after Metropolitan Magistrate Court took cognisance of charges against them on April 2. Inspector Mohammad

Tajul Islam of Detective Branch (DB) of police submitted the charge sheet on March 5.

# MPs, ex-MPs flout rules

FROM PAGE 1 has backed Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran and the BNP-led 18-party opposition alliance has lent its support to Ariful Haque Chowdhury for the mayoral post of Sylhet City Corporation (SCC).

Both the camps launched a last-minute campaign ahead of the SCC polls tomorrow, with incumbent and former lawmakers joining street rallies.

Saiful Alam, office secretary of district Awami League, said Kamran addressed 10 street rallies yesterday to woo votes.

Lawmakers Shafiqur Rahman Chowdhury of Biswanath and Mahmud Us Samad Chowdhury of Fenchuganj, Balaganj Upazila Chairman Mostak Ahmed Mofur and Jagannathpur Upazila

Contacted, Shafiqur said, "The electoral campaign will officially end tonight [last night]. So we are taking part in the last-minute campaign."

Chairman Akmol Hossain

joined several of the rallies.

Abul Kaher Shamim, chief election agent of Arif, said they had held 18 street rallies throughout the day.

Former lawmakers Kolim Uddin Milon of Sunamganj and Dildar Selim of Jaintapur and Bhairab municipality mayor Mohammad Shaheen addressed the rallies, he added.

RESULT-AFFECTING FACTORS

Heavy traffic snarls and waterlogging on city roads might adversely affect former city mayor Kamran's reelection bid. The problems have built

up over the years although

Kamran has completed his

second straight term in office,

with the AL in state power during the second stint. Voters complained that Kamran had allowed a good number of multi-storeyed shopping malls to be built on busy roads, adding to city

He also ignored the plea from locals for freeing footpaths and roads from hawkers. Rather, the former cultural and sports organisa-

traffic woes.

mayor's men used to collect tolls from hawkers, alleged local residents. These issues might just be

blessings for BNP favourite Arif. A total of 2.91 lakh voters will exercise their franchise tomorrow to elect the next SCC mayor and 27 councillors. Kamran at different elec-

toral rallies claimed that he

had implemented development projects worth Tk500 crore. But the drainage in the city has remained very poor as many streets in Bharthokhola, Chhararpar, Bilopar and Upashahar areas go under water even after a moderate rainfall. "We had voted for Kamran to get rid of

waterlogging. But our fate

remains the same as he took

no effective measures to end

our plight," said Abdul Hai

Saleh, a resident of Motijheelon May 5. Bharthokhola. On being elected mayor in 2003 and 2008, Kamran built good relations with cross sections of people. He

tions, whose members are campaigning for his reelection. Some senior voters said

Kamran on two previous occasions had enjoyed the vote bank of Greater Mymensingh Samity, Greater Rangpur Samity, Khulna Samity and Hindu

Christian Oikya Parisad has around 45,000, claimed the organisations.

BNP insiders said many

Indian authorities have The age of smart phones, emails and SMS seems to have pushed the humble telegram service to a quiet corner of museum with the

Many supporters of

to telegram

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New

decided to discontinue its telegram services from July

India says goodbye

state-owned BSNL deciding to shut down the service that had functioned for 160 years.

Once the main source of quick and urgent communication, good or bad, the service found itself struggling with the advent of technology and newer means of communication.

As per a circular issued by Shameem Akhtar, senior general manager (Telegraph Services) of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL), the telegraph service is to be discontinued with effect from July 15, 2013.

The circular also denotes all telegraph offices under

the management of BSNL will have to stop booking telegrams from July 15. Faced with declining

revenues, the government had in May 2011, revised the telegram charges after a gap of 60 years, in a last-ditch attempt to make the legacy commercially viable. But the increase could

not keep the service afloat. The charge for a 50-word telegram for services within India was hiked to Rs 27/50 from Rs 3/50, 4/50 earlier.

The history of Indian telegram began in 1850 with first experimental telegraphic line between Kolkata and Diamond Harbour in West Bengal state.

A year later, the British East India Company began using it and in next four

years telegraphic lines were laid across the country and the service was thrown open to the people in the year

# Politics may dent

FROM PAGE 1 It said risks in the postelection period include the possibility that past reforms are reversed or implementa-

tion delayed.

normal levels.

FROM PAGE 1

However, the global lender forecasts that the Bangladesh economy might pick up modestly to 6.1 percent in fiscal 2013 -14 and 6.3 percent in fiscal 2014 -15, as external demand strengthens gradually, and agricultural output returns to more

The report said Bangladesh's export volume growth accelerated as a result of strengthening demand for its garment exports although recent factory accidents could moderate the growth

The bank said Bangladesh has several domestic weaknesses, including infrastruc-

Such instructions come

before any election as the two-

wheeler is considered as an

easy mode of transport for

carrying out violence, said

Awami League-backed candi-

date Talukdar Abdul

Khaleque were seen cam-

paigning in different parts of

the city with posters of the

symbol under which their

favourite is contesting the

polls stuck to the front and

"We are conducting cam-

paigns as instructed by our

senior leaders. We don't know

that motorbikes are not

allowed today," one of them

At Notun Bazar Char, some

eight to ten supporters of

BNP-backed candidate

Moniruzzaman Mony were

riding on three motorbikes

directly involved in killing of

DB arrested Jahangir, the

prime suspect in the killing,

from the capital's Rayer Bazar

area around 1:30am on

Wednesday, Mohammed

Mokhlesur Rahman told

On information, Faysal

was arrested from the capi-

tal's Azimpur two hours after

the arrest of Jahangir. The

DB then moved to

Narsingdi with the duo and

According to their state-

Adiabad Kandapara grave-

Pavel to make money dou-

ble with the help of a

Dervish (saint) at

left his house with Tk 18

Pavel felt encouraged and

Narsingdi.

lakh.

arrested Farhad from there.

FROM PAGE 20

The Daily Star.

Pavel.

rear side of their bikes.

Supporters of ruling

sources in the ministry.

No-one cares

ture gaps and social unrest that are expected to hold back a stronger recovery in the coming year.

By the first quarter of 2013, industrial production was rising at different paces in Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan, while in Sri Lanka, it stabilised in the fourth quarter of 2012 after a steep decline in the previous two quarters.

The WB report said regional growth will be driven mainly by a projected pickup in India, whose GDP grew by 5.7 percent in fiscal 2013 that ended in March. The WB projected India's GDP growth at 6.5 percent for fiscal 2014.

The GEP report cut the global economic growth outlook for 2013, citing slower-than-expected expansion in China, India and

Khulna Metropolitan

Commissioner Shafiqur

Rahman said they had seized

51 motorbikes till the evening

and would continue the drive.

defying orders of the election

the city by Wednesday night

but many political leaders

lawmaker of Jhinaidah, was

engaged in campaigning with

Khaleque yesterday morning.

president Mazedul Islam,

who is not a voter of the city.

AL Gopalganj district unit

leader Babul and a central

leader of Jubo League stayed

at Hotel Royel till the noon,

Greed got him into death

Faysal then took him to

In the meantime, Farhad

Narsingdi, Monirul Islam

dug a grave at Adiabad

Kandapara graveyard to

burry Pavel after the killing,

unconscious by letting him

drink juice mixed with seda-

tive drugs. They then stran-

gled him to death," Monirul

said. "After burial, they even

set fire to Pavel's clothes and

shoes to hide the sign of

live at Nilkhet residential

National Bank and collected

Tk six lakh from a neighbour

Jewel, whom they gave

money previously to invest

On December 30, four

days after Pavel's missing,

in a business.

The victim's family mem-

"The killers made Pavel

he added.

killing."

ment, the DB exhumed bers said Jahangir was their

Pavel's skeletons from neighbourwhen they used to

said the hotel staff.

BNP Khulna district unit

stayed there after that.

There are more instances of

The outsides were to leave

Shafiul Alam Chanchal, a

while campaigning.

authorities.

Brazil, and a contraction in Europe, but said the world economy will be less vola-

The world economy is set to grow at 2.2 percent, less than the 2.3 percent growth registered last year. The WB, in its January forecast, had expected the global economy to grow by 2.4 percent. The report said the world's

economy is slowly getting back on its feet. However, recovery remains hesitant and uneven and predicted that the global economy will grow by 3 percent in 2014 and 3.3 percent in 2015.

"The financial conditions in high-income countries have improved and risks are down, but growth remains subdued, especially in Europe," the Washingtonbased lender said in its

name them. Enayet Ali, a close aide of Khaleque, and BNP lawmaker Nazrul Islam Manju said supporters had defied the orders maybe because of their ignorance. work in unsafe conditions." The commissioner said

they were raiding hotels to flush outsiders out of the city. Seeking anonymity, an official of the Khulna election commission office, said they had sent mobile courts whenover 2,500. ever they were informed of

conduct. Meanwhile, Manju, also BNP Khulna city president, demanded army deployment in the interest of peaceful elections.

any violation of the code of

A huge number of law Two BNP leaders from Dhaka were at Hotel New Safe but the hotel staff did not the city.

enforcers, including members of Border Guard Bangladesh and Rapid Action Battalion have already been deployed in

Solema got a text message

from an unknown mobile

number, reading "Mother,

forgive me. I took your

money without informing

you. I switched my phone

off as I had got married. She

lives in India and I will leave

for India within several days

cally. My daughter Anta

found his writings in his

computer and on Facebook

status that he went with

Jahangir," said Solema.

"Jahangir used to come to

our house to know about

Pavel since he was missing.

But he remained abscond-

Pavel's sister Anta Islam

said, "I want death penalty of

my brother's killers."

DNA test.

"We searched Pavel franti-

- Pavel."

#### FROM PAGE 20 Schakowsky said a number

US bill seeks

of garments and documents with Marine insignias were found in the rubble of the November 2012 Bangladesh Tazreen Fashions fire that

the building's exits were locked, forcing many to jump

"It is not only unjust but inhumane that garment Schakowsky.

Miller, who visited

in Bangladesh came to international attention after the April collapse of Rana 1,100 people and injuring

FROM PAGE 20 spending money.

Bulbul has already exceeded the Tk 15 lakh Bulbul's close aide.

But Bulbul dismissed the

close aides who is involved in his campaign. Having failed to get

donation from party leaders, Liton borrowed Tk 30 lakh from a contractor to meet the election cost, he added.

far, I have spent Tk 13 lakh. So there is no question of crossing the limit." Sources said those work-

ing for Bulbul's campaign were getting Tk 5,000-7,000 a day and those for Liton's Female campaigners on

find out the exact amount spent on the campaign and take action accordingly. "Our magistrates are

allegations against the ruling party-backed candidates and ministers who visited the electoral areas.

Bouddha Christian Oikya Parisad in Sylhet. But this time around, the votes will be split between Kamran and Arif. Greater Mymensingh Samity has around 60,000 votes while Hindu Bouddha

Hefajat-e Islam, a Qawmi madrasa based organisation, might side with Arif as fallout of police action on Hefajat men in the capital's

followers of its missing leader M Ilias Ali have been inactive in the electioneering as Arif is known as a follower of late BNP leader Saifur Rahman.

### BNP, allies count on Hefajat clout BNP standing committee, Motijheel's Shapla Chattar

FROM PAGE 1

But, of course, we will continue to ask the people not to vote for atheists and the supporters of atheists," Harun said. "We are even asking

mies socially," the Hefajat leader said, adding, "Anti-Islamic atheists are our enemies.' Harun said, "It is not our concern as to who will be benefited and who will be

the loser in the elections

because of our campaign.

We will just continue our movement for Islam." Another leader of the Hefajat, wishing anonymity, said a decision on its next course of action was pending because of Qawmi madrasa exams scheduled

Meantime, the 18-party alliance source said an informal effort was going on to ensure Hefajat's support at the next parliament elections for the BNP-led alli-

The source observed that many of the Hefajat followers did not turn up to cast their ballots in the last elecin elections or democracy and many did not vote for the BNP and Jamaat.

vote bank at the next parliamentary elections, likely to be held at the end of this year or the beginning of bloggers, all along have

Contacted yesterday, Khandaker Mosharraf

said his party supported some of the demands of the Hefajat. "We in principle supported Hefajat in its movement." So, he added, it is quite natural that Hefajat will

lend its moral support to the 18-party alliance in the next parliamentary elections. Hefajat, launched on January 10, 2010 to oppose the education policy and amendments which were in the spirit of the original

1972 constitution, was not

on the scene when the

Shahbagh movement

started on February 5. The Islamist group then took centre stage in recent days as an opposite force to the Shahbagh Gonojagoron Mancha pressing for the maximum punishment for

Its presence was felt with the February 15 killing of Rajib, a blogger who was branded an atheist. Hefajat was known as

war criminals.

anti-Jamaat-e-Islami, a key component of the 18-party alliance. Still, it has enjoyed open support from the opposition in making its anti-Shahbagh programmes a success.

Jamaat, historically known as an anti-liberation force and patron of communal war crimes charges. The Shahbagh activists, including online activists and demanded banning the

not only got direct backing from the alliance, two top BNP leaders, including Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, went on the stage along with Hefajat leaders. Hefajat from that rally announced the 13-point

demands, including the introduction of an antiblasphemy law, execution of "atheist bloggers" and a stop to the free mingling of men and women. Again, BNP Chairperson and 18-party chief Khaleda

Zia asked her party men on the evening of May 5 to stand beside the Hefajat men at Shapla Chattar's rally, which was organised as part of the Dhaka-siege programme to force the government to meet the 13point demand.

Khaleda's call came after a daylong mayhem around the rally spread panic among the people across the country as they witnessed the violence on private television channels.

All this and many other

political developments have made it clear that Hefajat has unannounced ties with the BNP and Jamaat, though the Islamist group claims to The top-brass of the be apolitical, anti-Jamaat and a force only fighting for Islamisation of the country. Later, Hefajat Secretary

politics, is behind bars on General Junaid Babunagari's confessional statement to the magistrate revealed that the BNP-Jamaat led 18-party alliance had patronised the Hefajat's May 5 rally at Shapla On April 6, Hefajat's long Chattar with the aim of

Denying his responsibility, Babunagari claimed 14 top Hefajat leaders received money and other assistance from the 18-party alliance to serve the opposition's pur-Meantime, Hefajat men

are supporting and in some

cases campaigning for BNP-

backed mayoral candidates

ahead of June 15 city corporation elections. They are playing the religion card against the ruling Awami League favourites. Regarding Hefajat's stand in the city polls, Harun said, "We are not asking people to vote for BNP-Jamaat-

supported candidates in the city corporation polls. "Rather, we are asking voters not to cast ballots for those who are collaborators and supporters of atheists. In our view, the Awami League government is a

supporter of the atheists "If this government meets our demands, definitely we can't express our opposition to the Awami

League during the elec-Expressing concern, some district-level leaders at the AL's extended meeting at the Prime Minister's official residence Gono Bhaban last month said, "anti-Awami League propaganda using religion" would be a chal-

lenge for the party. In response, AL chief Hasina urged party leaders to visit mosques, offer prayers and preach true Islam to foil the smear campaign against her party and government.

## Email with a real kiss

FROM PAGE 20

'sealed with a loving kiss', today an 'x' or two at the end of an email or text can be as romantic as it gets.

But now Burberry, in

association with Google, are aiming to bring some love back into our correspondence. They have invented

'Burberry Kisses' as a way of 'humanising technology through emotive digital experiences'.

What this means is users can log onto to

where they can send a personal kiss to a loved They can do this by either capturing a picture

of their lips on a desktop

camera or by kissing their

touch screen mobile.

Kisses.Burberry.com

If you're not able to provide a kiss of your own lips via a camera or touch screen, Burberry also have their own 'quick kisses' that can be sent.

Before sending their kiss, users can then chose

administration has raised

from Burberry's range of shades including pinks, purples, nudes and reds.

what lip colour they want

personal message before sending their kiss off digitally to their nearest and dearest. But the fun doesn't end

kiss is then brought to life through a personalised animation showing threedimensional city skylines such as London and New

He said the government

York, charting the delivery progress from the sender's location to the recipient's.

For those who still

They can then add a don't understand how to send a kiss, Burberry have created a how to video, which you can view below, explaining how it works. The Burberry website

The journey of each has a real time 'World of Kisses' map so people can see where kisses are being sent around the globe and discover which city is the most romantic.

#### BNP sceptic about fair elections FROM PAGE 1 Obaidul Quader said on the city corporation polls so date in Barisal by the local

speaking to journalists

after an around-one-and-a- confusion about free and deploy army in city corpo- votes without fear." half-hour meeting with fair elections," said Moin ration elections if need be. Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Secretariat.

of the elections. At the meeting, the opposition leaders made several

Khan.

to take all necessary measures including deploying

army for holding fair elections," the BNP leader said. Meanwhile, Communication Minister ment during the elections to polls.

Election Commission has

Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Chandina in Comilla. Two senior BNP MP vesterday in parliament demanded army deploy-

Thursday the EC might that "voters could cast their Standing on point of order, Shahiduddin

Chowdhury Anee and Jafrul Islam Chowdhury said government-backed cadres, ministers and MPs were trying to influence the city corporation polls for manipulating the results in their favour. In protest, treasury

bench senior member Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim said BNP was coming up with lame excuses sensing their sure defeat in the

#### yard at Raipura around area on Dhaka University ing when we came to know He described the city would not interfere or 4:00am, Mokhlesur campus. Pavel's father about that." Rakibuddin Ahmed yestercorporation elections as make any obstacles to hold-Ashraful Islam Bhuiyan is a Rahman added. Solema filed a case with day afternoon at the EC very significant prior to the ing the elections in a free Bulbul's camp are getting Tk former senior store officer of At a press briefing at New Market Police Station upcoming parliamentary manner, reported A corre-300-500 per day while those Dhaka Metropolitan Police the DU who died 37 days on January 2 this year which Headed by Moin, the polls. "The nation is eagerly spondent of The Daily Star. on Liton's camp Tk 200, Media Centre yesterday, before Pavel went missing. was later shifted to the delegation includes BNP waiting to see the outcome Quader was talking to added the sources. DMP Joint Commissioner Victim's mother Solema Detective Branch (DB) of leader Sujauddin, Abdul journalists after visiting Contacted, Returning Monirul Islam told report-Akhter said Pavel had withpolice. Halim and Jabiullah. Officer Subhas Chandra "If necessary, the construction of four-lane ers that Jahangir had allured drawn Tk 12 lakh from

The skeletons were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for forensic and working in this regard," he added. "The attack on a candi-

killed 112 workers. Survivors have stated that

from the 3rd or 4th floor windows. Public data indicates that the Army-Air Force Exchange imported 1,24,000 pounds of garments last year from several garment factories in Bangladesh, the statement

workers barely make ends meet and are subjected to working in unsafe buildings, many of which don't have fire escapes or potable water. As a huge purchaser of garments, the US military should not be complicit in putting the lives of Bangladesh's workers in grave danger," said

Bangladesh last month, in his statement said: "Workers that manufacture clothing embossed with our nation's military slogans and insignias shouldn't have to face blocked fire exits and threats of being fired for refusing to

Garment workers' safety Plaza, killing more than

## No money

rival Khairuzzaman Liton in

limit since the campaign began on May 27. He got a donation of Tk 78 lakh from businessmen and contactors loyal to the BNP and the Jamaat-e-Islami at a meeting in the house of a top BNP leader in Rajshahi on the night of May 26, said a local BNP leader who is

allegation. Liton, too, has exceeded the limit, said one of his

But Liton claimed: "So

campaign Tk 500-1,500.

Sarker said it was difficult to

is involved with different

alliance or any other party.

people to boycott our ene-

to end by the Ramadan.

tions as they do not believe So the BNP-Jamaat alliance wants to capture this

2014.

Hossain, member of the march to Dhaka and rally at toppling the government.