

**TOKI MURDER SC stays HC order granting bail to Simanto**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed a High Court order granting a one-month interim bail to Saleh Rahman Simanto a killer suspect in Tanvir Mohammad Toki murder case in Narayanganj.

Justice Hasan Foez Siddique at Appellate Division passed the order following a petition filed by the government.

He also asked the government to file a regular leave-to-appeal petition in this regard.

Deputy Attorney General Ikramul Haque Tutul said, "Simanto is now behind bar. He will be able to get released from jail now on the stay order."

The body of Toki, son of Rafiur Rabbi, was found on the bank of the river Shitalakkhya on March 6, two days after he had gone missing.

**Obituary**

BSS, Dhaka

Quazi Abu Baker, a freedom fighter and retired executive engineer of Bangladesh Power Development Board, breathed his last at Apollo Hospitals in the capital on Monday night.

He had been suffering from cancer.

Baker was buried with state honour at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard yesterday afternoon.

Earlier, his namaz-e-janaza was held at the mosque at block-A, Nobodoy Housing Society.

Baker was hailing from Sultani village in Mehendiganj, Barisal.

His qukhwan will be held after Asar prayers at the mosque on Friday.

**Death anniversary**

CITY DESK

Today is the first death anniversary of Anwar Hossain, founder president of ICMAB, former president of ICAB and chairman of Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation.

On the occasion, a special munajat and a food distribution programme will be held at an orphanage.

All relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

**Milad Mahfil**

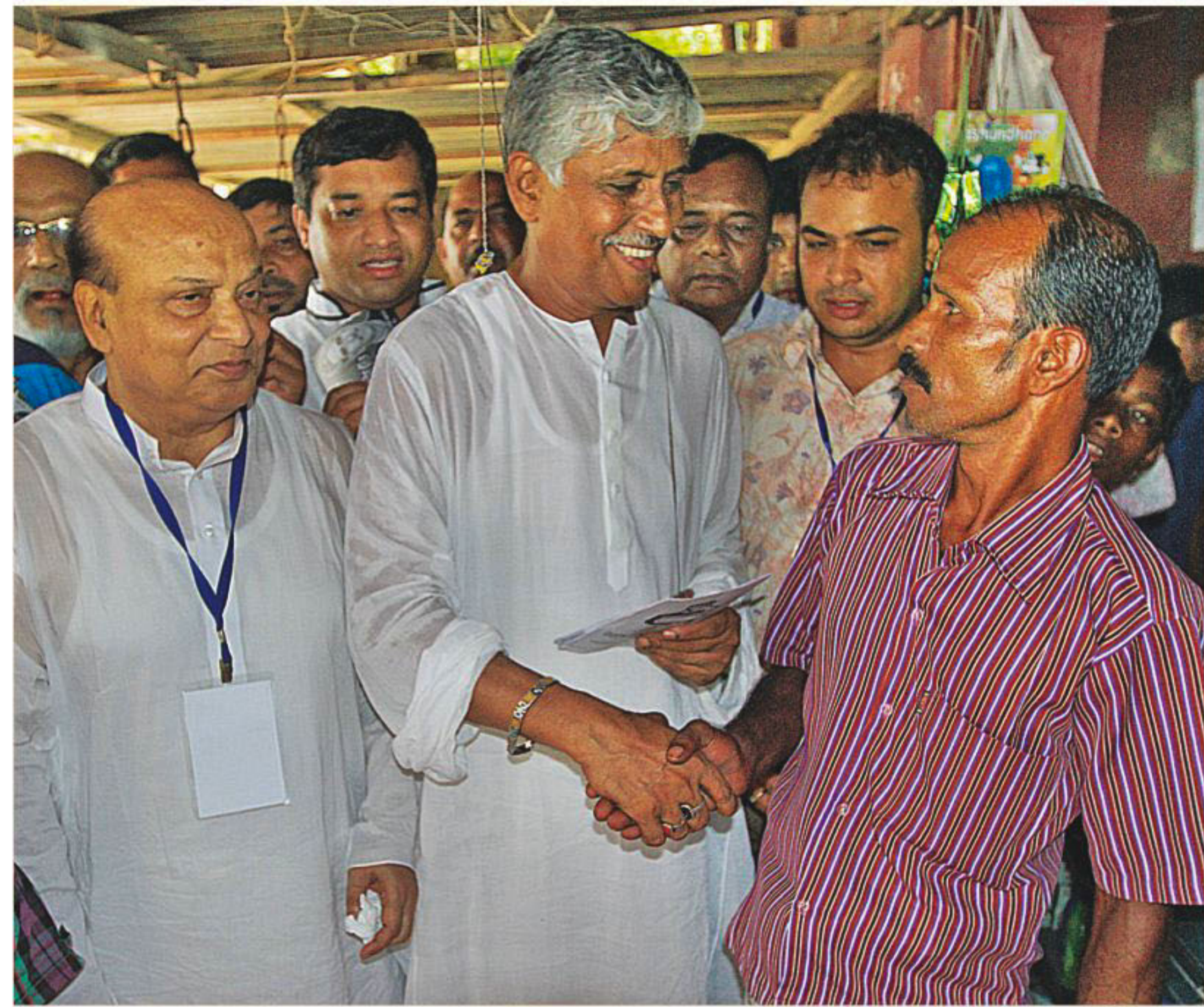
CITY DESK

A milad mahfil will be held at Hospital Mosque today after Maghrib prayers to pray for the departed soul of Dr Abu Ahmed Chowdhury, chairman of Samorita Hospital Ltd.

He died on Friday at the age of 85.

All friends, relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme.

**GAZIPUR CITY CORPORATION POLLS**



Awami League-backed mayoral runner Ajmat Ullah Khan, left, campaigns in Kashimpur area, and BNP-backed mayoral candidate MA Mannan, right, meets voters in Bangladesh Open University area in Gazipur yesterday. The election to Gazipur City Corporation will be held on Saturday. PHOTO: STAR, FOCUS BANGLA

**MAYORAL POLLS Regionalism, migrant voters likely to play key role**

PANKAJ KARMAKAR and ABU BAKAR SIDDIQUE AKAND, from Gazipur

Regionalism among the locals and the favour of migrant voters appear to be dominant factors in determining the first-ever mayor of Gazipur City Corporation.

Voters from Tongi think that Joydevpur has already had a lot of development works because it is the district headquarters of Gazipur.

So, according to them, the leadership of the newly formed city corporation should come from Tongi to ensure the area's development.

Awami League-backed mayoral candidate Ajmat Ullah Khan hails from Tongi, and had earlier served Tongi Municipality as a mayor for 17 years.

"As an industrial area, Tongi has not witnessed many development activities. It will be more deprived if the leadership goes to Joydevpur," said Raihan Ahmed, a student of Tongi Government College.

On the other side, people of Joydevpur think as the area is a district town and hub of all administrative activities, the leadership should be kept there.

"If Ajmat wins the mayoral polls, he will prefer Tongi to Joydevpur. We will have to go to Tongi for any necessary tasks," said Monir

Hossain, a shopkeeper at Shivbari in Joydevpur.

Faysal Ahmed, an inhabitant of South Chayabithi area in Joydevpur, echoed the same. "If the mayoral post goes to Tongi, most of the development works will be done centring Tongi, and Joydevpur will be neglected."

BNP-backed mayoral candidate MA Mannan hails from Kaultia area under Joydevpur upazila. He was the chairman of Kaultia Union Parishad.

There are a total of 10,26,964 voters in the Gazipur City Corporation area with more than 3 lakh voters belonging to Tongi upazila and over 7 lakh living in Joydevpur upazila.

Besides, a large number of the total voters come from outer districts. These migrant voters are considered to play major roles in the election.

Mostafizur Rahman, general secretary of the Greater Mymensingh Coordination Association in Tongi, said people of six districts are members of the association, and that they have more than one lakh voters.

Another one lakh voters, who migrated from Noakhali and five adjacent districts, are members of the Greater Noakhali Association in Gazipur, said its Treasurer Dulal Miah.

**N'ganj mayor Ivy woos voters for Ajmat**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Narayanganj City Corporation Mayor Selina Hayat Ivy yesterday campaigned for Awami League-backed mayoral candidate Ajmat Ullah Khan in Gazipur City Corporation polls slated for Saturday.

Visiting the city's different areas including Konabari, Ambagh and Kashimpur, she said Ajmat was experienced enough for running a city as he had been the mayor of Tongi Municipality for 17 years.

"Please cast your vote for an experienced person so that he can award you (voters) with massive development activities," said Ivy.

Lawmaker and singer Momtaz, AL leader Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, and Jahangir Alam, who pulled out from the mayoral race, along with Ajmat were also on the campaign team.

**Many presiding officers have political links**

The Daily Star investigation finds

PANKAJ KARMAKAR and ABU BAKAR SIDDIQUE AKAND, from Gazipur

A number of government officials who had affiliations with both the pro-Awami League and pro-BNP student bodies have been appointed presiding officers in the Gazipur City Corporation polls.

The Daily Star uncovered the fact through an investigation a day after an electoral agent of BNP-backed candidate MA Mannan filed a complaint with the returning officer naming 74 presiding officers having links to the Awami League politics.

The complaint says most of the 74 are from National University and seven of them are from Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University (BSMRAU), Gazipur.

A total of 392 presiding officers have been appointed for 392 polling centres for Saturday's elections.

The Daily Star checked on the backgrounds of 13-14 employees of BSMRAU who became presiding officers and found that many were directly involved with politics.

Moznu Mia, an assistant registrar of BSMRAU, was a Bangladesh Chhatra League leader at Bangladesh Agriculture University, Mymensingh.

"It is true that I was involved with politics in

student life. But now, I am a government officer and I am ready to perform any government duty," Moznu told The Daily Star.

Seeking anonymity, three other BSMRAU employees admitted supporting the AL.

On the other hand, Abdullah Mridha, assistant registrar (law and finance), BSMRAU, admitted that he was involved with Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal at Chittagong University.

"It is not very uncommon of a student getting involved with politics in university life. But it does not have any impact on my professional life," said Mridha.

Another presiding officer Alamgir Hossain Hawlader, an assistant engineer of BSMRAU, has been accused of supporting BNP and having openly campaigned for Mannan.

A mobile court on Monday fined Alamgir in Shalna area for seeking votes for Mannan in violation of the electoral rules, said sources.

Contacted, Alamgir hung up his phone claiming that a wrong number was dialled.

Returning Officer Matiar Rahman said, "When we prepared the list of presiding officers, all the mayoral candidates were present there and signed the sheet."

If the candidates have specific objections against anyone, they will withdraw the person, he said.



Some students of Chittagong Nursing College on the campus being given saline as they fell sick yesterday on the second consecutive day of their fast-unto-death to realise a six-point demand. PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

**RESCUE OF RESHMA BNP seeks judicial inquiry**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition BNP yesterday in parliament demanded that the government make a judicial inquiry into the "Reshma rescue" from the collapsed Rana Plaza in Savar, terming the rescue operation a "stage managed drama."

Quoting UK tabloid "Sunday Mirror," opposition acting chief whip Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee said the rescue operation was nothing but a drama.

"And the government staged the drama to shift people's attention from the regime's oppression on Hefajat at that time and their corruption," Anee told parliament, adding that such drama tarnished the image of the country as well as the army at home and abroad.

Sewing operator Reshma Begum was pulled out of the rubble 17 days after the factory collapsed, but now a fellow worker, according to the UK tabloid, has claimed she escaped with the colleague on the day of the disaster.

In reply, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury lambasted the opposition's allegations saying it was nothing but a "slap" at the army, fire service and civil defence, Rab, police and local people who took part in the rescue operations.

Matia also added that the journalist of the tabloid had been accused earlier of writing such "sensational and stage managed news."

The tabloid in its report quoted a colleague of Reshma, but did not mention the name.

**ACADEMIC FEAT**



Kurgan Ilizarov Centre, the largest Orthopaedic Institute of the World, Russia conferred the most prestigious degree on Dr. Md. Mofakhhkarul Bari as Honorary Professor symbolizing "the globally reputed medical scientist (orthopaedics)".

Prof. Dr. Md. Mofakhhkarul Bari, unit chief, National Institute of Traumatology & Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NITOR) was awarded the most dignified degree as "Honored Professor" symbolizing the globally reputed medical scientist (orthopaedics) in recognition of his outstanding professional expertise. He is the first foreigner qualified for this great global honor. Dr. Bari obtained M.D degree in 1984 he got M.S. degree in Orthopaedics from Kiev Scientific Research Institute of Orthopaedics & Traumatology. In 1995 he obtained Ph.D from Tashkent Scientific Research Institute of Orthopaedics and Traumatology. In 2003 and 2006 he pursued Post-Doctoral fellowship on Ilizarov technique in the Kurgan Ilizarov Centre.

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