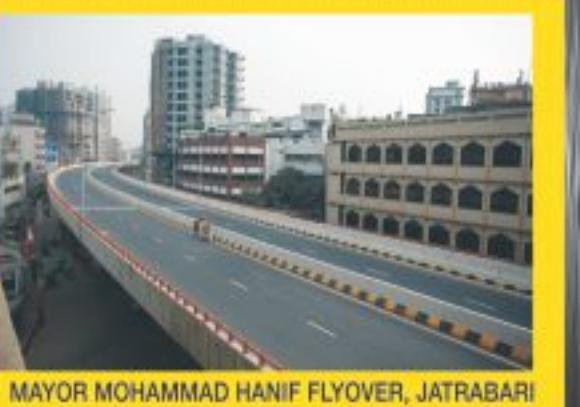


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## UPAZILA ASPIRANTS' AFFIDAVITS EC finally gets those on web

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the face of huge criticism from different quarters, the Election Commission yesterday uploaded affidavits of candidates for upazila parishad elections on its website.

The EC move came eight days after the deadline passed for candidates to withdraw their nominations. Upazila polls begin on February 19 in the first phase.

During last one week, the EC adopted dilly-dallying tactics in making the affidavits public on different excuses. It said the task of processing the affidavits was yet to be completed.

Several newspapers yesterday ran reports that the EC intends to hide the information of candidates to protect the interest of a particular quarter.

As per the electoral law, returning officers will take necessary measures for massive publicity of the candidates' affidavits after the last date of withdrawal of candidature.

Publicity will have to be done at public places so that the voters can access the information about the contenders. Additionally, returning officers would send copies of affidavits to the EC through internet to upload those on websites.

In the first phase of upazila polls, a total of 432 aspirants will vie for the post of chairman, 513 will run for vice-chairman and 329 for woman vice-chairman in 98 upazilas.

Election commissioners and EC officials several times in last one week said they have directed all the returning officers to hang the affidavits in the notice boards of their offices.

Seeking anonymity, some officials at the EC secretariat said the commission was not interested in uploading the affidavits on its website on the presumption that the ruling



## LIVING HONESTLY

Born to a poor family in Mymensingh, Yusuf Sarker lost his farmer father at the age of five. His mother struggled to manage meals for her four sons and a daughter. Despite the odds, youngest son Yusuf passed SSC but could not pay for further studies. He moved to Dhaka. "Aware of the fact that there are scores of people out there who can't go home from work to have lunch, I decided to help," said the 30 year old. He bought a bicycle five years ago and started transporting lunch to work from their homes. He gets around Tk 10,000 from the 16 people he serves and sends a large part of his income to his mother, despite having a family of his own now.

PHOTO:  
ANISUR RAHMAN

## Yusuf's war trial closed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three days after the death of "Razakar founder" and Jamaat-e-Islami leader AKM Yusuf, the International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday put an end to his trial, which was in its final stage.

Declaring the case closed, the tribunal said, "With the death of the accused [Yusuf], the rest of the proceedings have become redundant."

"...At the same time, this

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## COMMODORE RABBANI MURDER 3 jailed for life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday sentenced three people to life imprisonment in connection with the murder of Commodore (Rtd) Ghulam Rabbani, former managing director of Korean Export Processing Zone (KEPZ), in 2004.

The court also acquitted an accused and ordered the lower court to retry another accused, who earlier was acquitted, for the killing of Rabbani, who also was a former aide-de-camp (ADC) of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The three convicts to have got life sentence

are-- former general manager of the KEPZ Abu Naser Chowdhury and former chief security officer of the KEPZ Humayun Kabir Chowdhury and Md Selim.

The HC ordered the trio, who are currently on bail, to surrender to the lower court in six weeks after receiving the verdict.

It also fined the convicts Tk 50,000 each and said they would have to serve five more years in jail if they failed to do so.

Rabbani, who also had been a vital prosecution witness in both the Bangabandhu murder and the jail killing cases, was shot in the throat by a group of criminals at

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Ghulam Rabbani

## AL for partisan local govt polls

### City AL to split before DCC polls

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The Awami League Central Working Committee, highest decision-making body of the ruling party, yesterday unanimously agreed that all the future elections to local bodies should be held in a partisan manner.

A meeting of the 72-member committee asked party general secretary and LGRD Minister Syed Ashraful Islam to take initiatives in this regard, said meeting sources.

If the government takes the decision, all the polls to local bodies -- zila parishad, upazila parishad, union parishad, municipality and city corporation -- will be held in a partisan manner like the parliamentary elections.

Speaking at the meeting at Gono Bhaban, Ashraf rejected the possibility of holding a mid-term election, saying that the next general election will be held in 2019 as per constitutional provisions.

The first session of the 10th parliament began on January 29 and the tenure of the incumbent government will expire on January 28, 2019. Thus, the next parliamentary election will be held within 90 days upon expiry of the current government's tenure," he told the meeting.

The government would not change its stand on the next polls under any pressure, insisted the minister.

"The Awami League has an absolute majority in parliament and the party can amend the constitution. But we've no intention of amending the constitution or stepping down," added Ashraf.

He expressed optimism that the Sheikh Hasina-led government would fulfil its electoral pledges during its five-year tenure. "But it's not possible for the prime minister and her cabinet alone to fulfil each and every pledge," mentioned the AL leader.

AL President Sheikh Hasina at the meeting proposed that

WEALTH REPORTS  
ACC summons  
2 former  
ministers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday summoned former health and family welfare minister AFM Ruhal Haque and former state minister for water resources Mahbubur Rahman Talukder to quiz them about allegations of amassing wealth illegally.

Ruhal Haque has been asked to be present at the ACC headquarters on February 24 and Mahbubur on 23.

The anti-graft body served notices on the duo, warning them of legal action for failure to respond to the orders, said a top ACC official.

Following newspaper reports, the commission on January 22 started preliminary investigation into the corruption allegations

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PRAYER TIMING		February 13
Azan Jamaat		
Fajr	5:30 - 6:05	
Zahr	12:45 - 1:15	
Asr	4:15 - 4:30	
Maghrib	5:52 - 5:56	
Esha	7:15 - 7:45	

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Interactive books for children

TAMANNA KHAN and FARDAUS MOBAROK

With both parents working, three-and-a-half-years-old Saifan is often left to himself to know the world from a set of books by a device that he can play with and learn without anyone's assistance.

Two English, one Bangla and one Arabic books come along with a pen-like electronic device that reads to children when it is pressed on to alphabets, words, rhymes, poems and surahs.

Published by Holy Publication, the book-set is

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



PHOTO: STAR

This children's learning book comes with an electronic pen that tells the number or the letter it is placed upon.



ব্যাক ব্যাক

আমৃত অধিকার

### Language has no religion

SYED BADRUL AHSEN

Fury was all around. The report of the Basic Principles Committee seemed to inject fresh energy into the movement for Bangla. The progressive political classes clearly felt the need to sustain the struggle. However, it was

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1