

UPAZILA POLLS END WITH MASSIVE RIGGING BY RULING AL



1) Unaware of what a grievous crime they are committing, young boys pampered by the Awami League stuff ballot boxes at Government Safar Ali College in Arai hazar upazila of Narayanganj during the fifth and last phase of the upazila parishad elections yesterday, while polling officers look on helplessly. 2) A ruling party man forcibly stamps ballot papers at No 72 Ganganagar Government Primary School in Rupganj upazila, Narayanganj. 3) A similar incident taking place at Maddyshilua Government Primary School in Chhagalnaya upazila, Feni. 4) Female AL supporters engaged in a festivity of stamping ballot after ballot in Zobair Miar Haat centre of Subarnachar upazila, Noakhali. 5) Voters being driven away by police from Arardari Aminia Kamil Madrasa in Satkhira sadar upazila before they could exercise their franchise.

PHOTO: STAR, BANGLAR CHOKH

Maldives closes Dhaka mission today

DIPLomatic CORRESPONDENT

The government of the Maldives has decided to formally shut down its high commission in Bangladesh from today due to 40 per cent budget cut of its foreign ministry.

"The government has decided to shut down some the missions abroad due to serious financial crisis and budget cut. Bangladesh is the first country where the Maldives shuts down its mission from April 1," Acting High Commissioner Ahmed Adil told The Daily Star.

The Maldives opened its mission in Bangladesh in 2008, and the diplomatic relation between the two countries was established on September 22, 1978.

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Auto-rickshaw owners withdraw today's strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

CNG-run auto-rickshaw owners yesterday withdrew today's strike in the capital after receiving an assurance that Communications Minister Obaidul Quader will meet their five-point demand by April 10.

Earlier, on March 29, Dhaka Mahanagar CNG Auto-rickshaw Malik Shamiti Oikya Parishad announced a three-day strike from today.

Nazmul Hasan, member secretary of the association, said the minister had talked to the owners over the phone during their meeting with Bangladesh Road Transport Authority at its chairman's office in the afternoon.

"The minister said that the authority would fulfil our demands by April 10. As per his assurance, we have

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Mugda General Hospital to get medical college by Jan: Nasim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 500-bed Mugda General Hospital will get an affiliated medical college by January next year, said Health Minister Mohammad Nasim.

He made the announcement after visiting the hospital yesterday. He, however, expressed disappointment over the hospital authority's failure to ensure full-fledged services there since its inception in July last year.

Stretching over 9.52 acres of land in the capital's Mugda with 129 doctors and 195 nurses, the hospital has necessary infrastructure to be a medical college hospital.

But the hospitals' services

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UK Minister Duncan arrives

DIPLomatic CORRESPONDENT



UK's Minister of State for International Development Alan Duncan arrived in Dhaka

yesterday to assess the progress made on health and safety standards in the ready-made garment industry since the collapse of Rana Plaza building.

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Land disputes get complicated due to scattered info

Says DLRS DG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Disputes over land ownership are complicated as information regarding a piece of land lies with many different departments and ministries, said Director General of the Directorate of Land Record and Survey (DLRS) Abdul Mannan yesterday.

"Information regarding tax, registration and maintenance are not available in a central database making it

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Rab arrests 2 with illegal VoIP tools in capital

Nabs 1 with gold bars worth Tk 1cr in Jhenidah

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested two persons with a large quantity of illegal Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) equipment in the capital, and a person with 24 gold bars in Jhenidah over the last 36 hours.

Acting on a tip-off, a Rab-2 team raided a house in West Raja Bazar area and another house at Kalabagan Lake Circus area in the capital and arrested Masum Billah and Mohammad Anis.

The team seized VoIP equipment worth around Tk 20 lakh from the houses.

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Quasem ordered torture of freedom fighters' aide

Victim tells war crimes tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A victim yesterday told International Crimes Tribunal-2 that Al-Badr members tortured him in Chittagong town in November 1971 at the instructions of Jamaat-e-Islami leader Mir Quasem Ali.

"Due to the inhumane torture at Dalim Hotel and Circuit House, I have lost my reproductive ability," said Lutfar Rahman Faruk, 65, breaking down in tears.

The 20th prosecution witness against Quasem worked as an organiser of freedom fighters' shelter in the town.

The Pakistani army and their auxiliary forces—Al-Badr and Al-Shams—cordoned off the shelter house on November 19, 1971

while the witness was holding a meeting with others.

Lutfar was taken to Dalim Hotel where he saw Quasem, then president of Islami Chhatra Sangha, who controlled the hotel.

"I saw many detainees blindfolded, and their hands, legs tied. On Mir Quasem Ali's directives, they [Al-Badr] also tied my hands, legs and blindfolded me," he said.

"While taken to Dalim Hotel, I requested Mr Quasem to give me a glass of water, as I was fasting. In reply, Quasem said 'what is the necessity of you fasting? Give him urine to drink'."

"On Mir Quasem Ali's directives, Al-Badr members lashed me with electric wires

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Times, NY Times ignored Bangalee's plights in 1971

Finds survey of 285 wartime reports

CITY DESK

The New York Times and The Times (London) ignored the plights of Bangalees in their reporting throughout the nine months of Bangladesh's Liberation War, says a new study.

The paper, appearing recently in the "Journalism: Theory, Practices and Criticism", a journal published by SAGE

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Minor domestic help found dead in cop's house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The dead body of a minor domestic worker was recovered from the house of a Crime Investigation Department official's house in the capital's Banasree yesterday.

The dead, Ambia Khatun of Bonkula village in Pabna, was employed at inspector Jahangir Alam's residence for around ten months.

Sub-Inspector, Mozammil Haque said

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Early detection of cancer can prolong lifespan

Say speakers at cancer awareness programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Early detection of cancer can increase the number of years survived by patients, said speakers at a cancer awareness programme yesterday at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

Lung and breast cancers are most prevalent in the country with cancer being the sixth leading cause of death according to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, said Dr CM Shamim Kabir.

The programme titled "Awareness of Cancer: Global perspective and treatment" was organised by Modern Cancer Hospital Guangzhou, China and their local agent

Medical Assistance and Advisory Services (MAAS) to inform people on how to prevent the disease and the treatments available at home and abroad.

Dr Karishma Shamarukh, director of MAAS, said, "Trained oncologists in agencies will provide patients with screening and consultation about treatment available."

Speakers spoke about new treatment options such as Cryotherapy and Interventional chemotherapy, which are available at Modern Cancer Hospital Guangzhou.

Bangladeshi patients willing to avail treatment at the Chinese hospital were asked to contact MAAS's office in Baridhara DOHS.



A large crater lies across the outer circular road between Siddheshwari and Mouchak of the capital, hampering vehicular movement for over half a month. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

PREVENTING GRAFT AT GOVT OFFICES ACC to hold public hearing at Upazilas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission is going to arrange public hearing at upazila level to hold public servants accountable to people -- a social accountability tool to prevent corruption at government offices.

The German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) will provide monetary assistance to implement the programme undertaken by the ACC.

ACC Commissioner Nasiruddin Ahmed yesterday made the comments at the prize giving ceremony of a debate competition arranged by the anti-graft watchdog in the capital's Shilpakala Auditorium on the occasion of ACC corruption prevention week.

"Initially, hospitals, police stations and land offices at upazila level in five districts will be brought under the programme," Nasiruddin told The Daily Star.

Locals will place their allegations against the officials of a certain department in the hearing, he said.

ACC will give accused officials chance to defend themselves, he said, adding that it would recommend departmental action if they fail.

At least a fortnight ahead of a scheduled public hearing, the ACC will issue notice to the government officials asking them to be present and face the scheduled hearing, he said, adding that the anti-graft watchdog was initially planning

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