

# HSC QUESTION LEAK

## Probe body given 15 more days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government committee probing the leak of English second paper question paper of the ongoing Higher Secondary Certificate exams has been given 15 more days to identify those responsible.

The Dhaka Education Board postponed the exam on April 9 following reports of the question paper leak. Other boards held the exam the next day as per the schedule.

The education ministry extended the time given for the investigation for the second time yesterday as the probe body failed to make any breakthrough even in 30 working days after its formation.

"We have given the additional time so that the committee can find out who are the real culprits behind the leak. We don't want to be hasty in this regard," Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid told reporters at the ministry.

He, however, refuted the allegations

of question paper leak of mathematics first paper held on Sunday.

Many people are saying that question papers are being leaked out, but they are not giving details as to who are leaking the papers and how, Nahid said.

The people engaged in "coaching businesses" might have been involved in the leak, he said at another event.

"Attempts were made to leak the question papers through social media to put the government in an embarrassing situation," he told reporters after the signing ceremony of transferring the authority of all secondary schools in three Chittagong hill districts to the CHT district councils.

The probe body will talk to some experts in information technology on how to stop such crimes, Education Secretary Muhammed Sadique said.

Sources in the ministry, however, said the slow progress of the investigation only gave the hint that the committee would not be able to identify

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PHOTO: COURTESY

Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, second from left, with the leaders of Saarc countries and new Indian Prime Minister Naredra Modi, fourth from right, and Indian President Pranab Mukherjee, fifth from right, after the swearing-in ceremony for Modi at the Rastrapati Bhavan in New Delhi yesterday.

## Car crash in KSA kills 4 Bangladeshis

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two Pakistani nationals were travelling by car.

The accident happened near Al Lith town in Mecca province as the Saudi-born car driver lost control over the

vehicle. Three Bangladeshis and the driver died on the spot. Two other Bangladeshis were critically injured.

One of the injured died at King Abdul Aziz Hospital. Another injured, Shahjahan, has been undergoing

treatment at the hospital, he added.

The bodies of the four Bangladeshis have been kept at the hospital mortuary.

The Bangladeshis were returning to their workplace in Kurfuda, some 150 kilometres away from Jeddah, from the

consulate after completing procedures for applying for their machine readable passports, Mokammel added.

On May 12, nine Bangladeshis were killed as a fire swept through a furniture factory in Riyadh in Saudi Arabia.

## Japan pledges \$5.9b

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Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida on March 22 in Dhaka announced providing \$1.18 billion as ODA for this year to be spent on five projects.

Hasina said during the official talks with Shinzo Abe, they had discussed almost all issues of bilateral ties, including economic cooperation. "I am pleased to state that it was a very constructive discussion."

"Thereafter, we have signed a joint statement reflecting the issues discussed and convergences arrived at. And the joint statement would provide a guide for the implementation of issues we both decided to carry out for the mutual benefit of the two countries," she said.

At a press conference on May 24, Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali said Dhaka would discuss several mega projects at the official talks.

The projects include the Ganges Barrage project, a multi-modal and multi-lane tunnel beneath the river Jamuna, a second nuclear power plant (NPP), a rail bridge parallel to Bangabandhu Bridge over the Jamuna, Eastern bypass road and restoration of water bodies surrounding Dhaka and improvement of

Mawa-Kalna-Narail-Jessore road with construction of a bridge at Kalna.

Speaking at the joint press conference, the Japanese premier said Japan had come up with a concept with the BIG-B.

"To realise the concept, Japan is expected to exchange economic cooperation amounting to about 600 billion yen for roughly 4 to 5 years," he added.

Abe said he welcomed his Bangladesh counterpart in order to further strengthen relations between the two countries over the years.

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and I shared the view of building a comprehensive partnership," he added.

He also said in the areas of politics and security, Japan and Bangladesh would begin foreign secretary-level talks to enhance policy dialogue.

"In order to jointly extend cooperation to the international community, Japan will also provide its knowledge to build a peace-building centre to be established in Bangladesh," he added.

In the areas of nuclear power, Japanese premier said Tokyo and Dhaka would begin expert-level dialogue on the peaceful utilisation of

nuclear power in Bangladesh to share the experience and lessons of the accident of Fukushima Daiichi power plant.

Abe said they also shared thoughts on starting a joint Bangladesh-Japan public-private economic dialogue to promote trade and expand private investment.

At the official talks, he expected that democracy would be further promoted in Bangladesh under the able leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Hasina said she had already extended an invitation to Prime Minister Abe and Madam Abe to pay a visit to Bangladesh soon. "The people of Bangladesh, my government and I are looking forward to receiving them in Dhaka," she said.

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali, State Minister for Foreign Affairs M Shahriar Alam, Ambassador-At-Large M Ziauddin, PM's Principal Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder, ERD Secretary Md Mejbahuddin, Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque, Bangladesh Ambassador to Japan Masud Bin Momen and PM's Special Assistant Mahbulul Hoque Shakil were present, among others, during the talks.

## Transport strike spreads

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6:00am today, they would withdraw the strike, transport leaders said.

Meanwhile, the indefinite strike called by transport workers and owners in Rajshahi division to press home their six-point demand continued for the second day yesterday amid inconclusive meetings between transport leaders and the divisional commissioner.

"The authorities promised to take action against unauthorised vehicles and illegal toll collection. Our strike will continue until we see the administration take action," said Manzur Rahman Pitar, convener of Rajshahi Bus Truck Owners and Workers Oikya Parishad.

Commissioner of Rajshahi division Helaluddin Ahmed told The Daily Star that the workers had agreed to withdraw the strike, having seen action against unauthorised vehicles.

"We will intensify action against illegal vehicles tonight [yesterday night]," he said.

Rajshahi Bus Truck Owners and Workers Oikya Parishad called the strike, demanding a ban on plying of unauthorised vehicles like Nosimon, Korimon and bhotbhoti on roads and highways, stopping toll collection by the police and harassment by the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority in the name of issuing fitness certificates, and suspension of double-

decker bus services in upazilas.

Pickets in Rajshahi city yesterday halted private cars and minibuses at different points and staged protests by lying down on roads in the Shiroil bus terminal area.

The strike has led to an increased demand for train tickets in the northern part of the country, while rickshaws, vans and auto-rickshaws have been charging passengers exorbitant fares, taking the advantage of the situation.

Fish trader Abdul Latif carried 10 drums of fishes to the railway station from Chapainawabganj to bring those to the capital but he could not find any room in the train to travel with his stuff.

Shafikul Islam had to spend double the amount he usually pays to travel from Rajshahi to Bagha upazila. On the way, he changed vehicles six times to reach his destination. The journey also took him two and a half hours more.

Meanwhile, the Bogra district administration on Sunday night met the leaders of Motor Transport Labour Federation at the deputy commissioner's office. The meeting proved abortive.

The President of Bangladesh Motor Transport Labour Federation, Rajshahi division, Abdul Latif Mondal, told our Bogra correspondent that they had not withdrawn the strike as the decision had to be taken at the divisional level.

## Modi starts

FROM PAGE 1

Sushma Swaraj will be external affairs minister. She will be assisted by former army chief General VK Singh as minister of state.

Arun Jaitley will be finance minister and will also hold additional charge of defence. He will be assisted in the defence by Rao Inderjit Singh as minister of state.

Former BJP president M Venkaiah Naidu will be parliamentary affairs minister. Another former party president Nitin Gadkari is expected to land a mega transport ministry. Sadananda Gowda will have charge of railways.

Former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Uma Bharti will be union minister for water resources. Najma Heptullah will have charge of minority affairs.

Former Maharashtra deputy chief minister Gopinath Munde is expected to be handed the rural development ministry. Maneka Gandhi will be union minister for women and child development.

Ravi Shankar Prasad is tipped to be law minister and also have charge of telecom. Radha Mohan Singh a Bihar BJP leader will hold the key portfolio of agriculture. Prakash Javadekar, senior BJP spokesperson, will be information and broadcasting minister and will also head environment.

Actress Smriti Irani, 38, who took on Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi in a spirited contest in Amethi in the general election, is tipped to be human resource development minister.

Delhi BJP chief Harsh Vardhan, who defeated journalist-turned-politician Ashutosh of the Aam Aadmi Party and former union minister Kapil Sibal from Chandni Chowk, will be the new health minister.

BJP spokesperson Nirmala Sitharaman will be the new commerce minister with independent charge. BJP Rajya Sabha member Piyush Goyal will be power and coal minister with independent charge. Party general secretary Dharmendra Pradhan will have independent charge of the high-profile oil ministry.

Leaders of BJP's allies in the NDA were sworn in too. Bihar leader Ram Vilas Paswan will have charge of food and civil supplies and consumer affairs; the TDP's Ashok Gajapathi Raju will be civil aviation minister. Shiv Sena leader Anant Geete has also been sworn in. Akali leader Harimrat Kaur will be food processing minister.

BJP veterans like Lal Krishna Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi, who were deputy PM and human resource development minister in the previous BJP-led government headed by Atal Bihari Vajpayee (from 1999 to 2004), respectively, did not find berths in the Modi ministry.

Sources: NDTV

## Buriganga land not for Rab

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building and residential quarters for its staff, filling up the channel.

The ministry in a similar process also leased out land to different authorities for setting up a national power grid sub-station, a 250-bed public hospital and a school in this part of the river which is popularly known as the Buriganga second channel.

Asked why the other land allotments were not cancelled, the minister said, "It's not possible to reclaim cent percent land of the river. We are trying to save as much land as we can."

Shaikh Yusuf Harun said nothing called the Buriganga original channel would have existed if the authorities failed to save the seven-acre land.

But it would not be possible to relocate the hospital as it has already been built, he mentioned.

Yesterday's meeting formed a 13-member inter-ministerial committee, said taskforce chair Shahajan Khan. The committee has been asked to find out ways to evict all encroachers and reclaim the channel.

The Buriganga original channel had been active and used to connect the Turag river at Gabtoli and Aati canal

until the Dhaka embankment was built in the late 80s.

The channel spread over a nearly five-kilometre stretch from Chandnighat to Rayerbazar across Lalbagh, Nawabganj, Hazaribagh and Mohammadpur, half of which has now been grabbed.

According to a report by assistant commissioner (land) of the Dhaka district administration in February last year, the river is filled up in Kamrangirchar and Kalunagar as over 100 encroachers have grabbed its land.

The city corporation has filled up a stretch of the channel from Loharpul to Companyghat dumping solid wastes, said the report.

The grabbers include powerful real estate firms, a ballpoint pen manufacturer, a battery manufacturer, fuel refilling stations and private individuals.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority under a scheme for Dhaka river port development in 2007 had intended to establish a harbour in the channel.

But the district administration never handed over the channel to the BIWTA for navigation purposes and conservation.

## Councillor Nila remanded

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hours of yesterday, the officer-in-charge of Siddhirganj Police Station said.

Nila, ward councillor of wards -4, -5 and -6, was arrested following the confessional statements of Sohag and Mona, two accused in the 2013 Jewel murder case.

The two men claimed that Nila was involved in Jewel's murder in Siddhirganj area on October 26.

Jewel's decapitated body was recovered from Jalkuri area in Siddhirganj.

Chief Judicial Magistrate Zabid Hossain passed the remand order after Siddhirganj police produced Nila in court with a seven-day remand prayer.

The ward councillor's family members, meanwhile, denied her involvement in the murder. They said Nila had evicted Sohag and Mona from her wards following Jewel's murder, and that they might be trying to implicate her in the murder to take revenge.

Her family also claimed that even though Nila was being shown arrested in the Jewel murder, the police were trying to link her with the seven-murder case.

Quoting police sources, our

Narayanganj correspondent reports that Nila had not been arrested before because former Narayanganj superintendent of police Syed Nurul Islam had asked former Shiddhirganj OC Abdul Matin not to do so, owing to her "relationship" with Nur Hossain.

Former SP Syed Nurul had also transferred the investigation officer of the Jewel murder case, Sub-Inspector Nazrul Islam.

On May 18, police detained Nila for interrogation in connection with the seven murders.

Nila was picked up after she had placed her deposition before a probe committee dealing with the seven-murder case.

On April 27, seven people -- Nazrul Islam, three of his associates, and Nazrul's driver, and Chandan Sarker and his driver -- were kidnapped separately but around the same time from the Dhaka-Narayanganj link road.

The bodies of six of them were found floating in the Shitalakkhya river three days later and another the next day.

7-MURDER CASE

The seven-member probe committee

formed following a High Court order interrogated six police officers, including two former officers-in-charge at the Narayanganj Circuit House yesterday.

The OCs are former officers-in-charge of Fatullah and Shiddhirganj police stations Akhtar Hossain and Abdul Matin.

Akhtar Hossain and Saiful Islam had allegedly refused to accept a case deceased Nazrul's family wanted to file, accusing Rab of taking Tk 6 crore from Nur Hossain to have the seven killed.

Former OC Abdul Matin was being questioned because of his alleged "closeness" with Nur Hossain.

Protests against the murder continued across the district town yesterday.

Narayanganj unit of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad staged a demonstration with the family members of the seven murdered men in front of Rab-11 office.

They called for confiscation of all properties owned by those accused of the murders.

The Narayanganj District Lawyers' Association boycotted the court for an hour in protest.

## One Hazari falls, another rises

FROM PAGE 1

And they had reasons to believe that too. The first person to shoot Ekramul was none other than Abid, Nizam's cousin, witnesses to the murder said, adding that the rest of the criminals were close to Nizam.

Nizam, however, took the high road when asked about this.

He told the Daily Star, "Those involved in the killing are murderers. It does not matter if they are my relatives or party men. I want their trial. I myself shall be liable, should my involvement in the murder be proved."

The dwellers of Feni Sadar went through the terror of Joynal Hazari from 1996 to 2001 when AL was in power. He had torture cells as well as the "class and steering committee", which virtually controlled the district.

His dominance disappeared with the Awami League losing the elections in 2001 and Joynal Hazari fled to India on August 17, 2001.

After Nizam's move to Feni from Chittagong, where he was involved in pro-AL student body Chhatra League, Nizami got involved in Feni Awami League in 2006.

In absence of Joynal, Nizam started becoming a powerful political figure. He had a strategy of getting all Joynal's men under his command. Ekramul, Dagonbhuiya upazila chairman Didarul Kabir Raton, AL leaders Jahangir Kabir Adel and Abdullah Hil Mahmud Shiblu were among them, locals and party grassroots said.

Nizami became the mayor of Feni municipality in 2010.

Such was the clout of Nizam then that despite being the lawmaker, BNP's Zainal Abidin, popularly known as VP Zainal, did not dare to say anything against Nizam, they said.

After the January 5 elections, Nizam reached the top of the district and established his dominance over everything in Feni under the patronisation of

Alauddin Ahmed Chowdhury, former protocol officer of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, party insiders claimed.

Nizam began extending his influence to control tender bids, sand trade and the transport sector.

Alauddin Ahmed, first member of Feni district AL, told The Daily Star that he never helped anyone takeover anything. "Rather, I helped and guided a number of young leaders in constructive politics," he said, adding that he was not involved in active politics anymore. Nizam, however, claimed something different. He said the district AL is united under the leadership of Alauddin.

Local leaders loyal to Nizam were included in the Feni district AL unit in December 2012. Abdur Rahman and Nizam were elected president and general secretary of the district AL.

There is almost nobody in the committee who dares to raise his or her voice against Nizam. Feni AL has no organisa-

tional activities and it is running under the wishes of Nizam, party insiders said.

NIZAM CONTROLS BNP

Mizanur Rahman, a BNP Feni district leader, said, "The top leaders of Feni district unit of BNP, including the president, general secretary and organising secretary, maintain liaison with the local AL MP."

"We even have to call Nizam over the phone for permission before holding any rallies or bringing out any processions in the district as the BNP leaders here do not want to get into trouble," he said.

Another BNP leader said cases have been filed against most of the BNP leaders of Feni during the last five years, apart from the top three leaders of the district, which suggests that they are in good terms with Nizam.

Alauddin Alal, president of BNP Feni municipality unit, said the failure of BNP leadership in Feni has led to this sorry state.

## Hotel for Bees!

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painted in the hotel's purple livery.

It features bamboo nesting areas and 'condominiums' for solitary bees such as the leaf cutter bee, along with 'bijou boxes' for social bees such as the tree bumble bee.

The terrace is dotted with wildflowers and bee-friendly plants and is already home to four hives, which house a thriving resident colony of 3,00,000 Buckfast honey bees.

The 'bee hotel' also provides accommodation for a variety of other insects such as rolled cardboard swirls for lacewings and crevice stacks for ladybirds, earwigs, woodlice and spiders.

And the bees get to see the sights of London on their stay: they fly over a three-mile radius, visiting tourists attractions such as Buckingham Palace, St James's Park and flower boxes in Mayfair, to gather nectar from 53 types of plants, flowers and trees including sweet chestnut, blackberry and horse chestnut.

Meanwhile, the hotel's human guests can watch the bees at work through glass walls on the third floor walkway corridor.

And those who want to learn more about the insects can sign up for a beekeeping workshop.

## রেডি/থায় রেডি/ নির্মাণাধীন ফ্ল্যাট

বনানী
উত্তরা
শ্যামলী
খিলগাঁও
গেভারিয়া
স্বামীবাগ
কাকরাইল
বাড্ডা
মিরপুর
মালিবাগ

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বিস্তৃত ফর ফিউচার লিঃ  
পদ্ম বিল্ডিং (৩৪ ও ৩৫ তলা), ৩৬ ও ৩৭, গুলশান, ঢাকা-১২১৫