

# Nazmul Huda creates yet another party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In less than six months, former BNP leader and ex-minister Nazmul Huda floated another political party named Bangladesh Manabdhikar Party (BMP).

On May 7, Huda formed "Bangladesh National Alliance" and announced to contest in all 300 constituencies in the next parliamentary elections with an aim to establishing good governance.

Two years ago, in 2012, Huda formed "Bangladesh Nationalist Front (BNF)" after quitting as a BNP vice-chairman.

However, he was ousted by BNF leader Abul Kalam Azad after a few months after its creation. Subsequently, Azad announced himself as BNF chairman.

Twenty-two candidates of BNF took part in the January 5 polls and Azad was elected from Dhaka-17 constituency uncontested.

A founding member of BMP, Huda told a press conference at his business office on Topkhana Road of the capital yesterday that BMP's aim was to form government and enact laws on human rights and build a rights-based society.

He did not specify his post in BMP, saying anyone could head the party. He also did not say if any party would join his to create an alliance.

Huda, who started his political career with Jagodal, founded by late president Ziaur Rahman in 1977, called upon the rights bodies to join BMP.

Asked if the name BMP, which sounds a little like BNP, would confuse people and voters, Huda said he had no intention of creating confusion. People are now educated and will understand the difference, he added.



**ABOLITION IN NAME OF RESTORATION** Renovation works on Karapur Mian Bari Mosque, believed to be over 300 years old and situated in North Karapur village under Barisal sadar upazila, by self-proclaimed descendants of the mosque's founders have resulted in an alteration of the original colour and facade. The locals, however, are for keeping the mosque in its original form. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: ARIFUR RAHMAN

# Barisal villagers oppose building of cantonment

Hold press briefing in capital to convey demands  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The residents of three villages in Bakerganj upazila of Barisal yesterday urged the government to back off from its plan to establish an army cantonment there.

If the cantonment is built, over 7,500 people will become homeless and their livelihoods will be threatened, some of the villagers told a press conference at the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

As per the proposed design, the cantonment will take around 1,244.07 acres of land of Dudhalmou, Krishnakathi and Kanki villages.

Around 842 households, 13 mosques, 12 temples, five schools, one kindergarten school, two cyclone shelters, 58 family graveyards, and dozens of business establishments are located in this area.

"All these establishments will be destroyed, and the people will turn refugees," said Maksudur Rahman, an inhabitant of the area, while reading out a written statement.

There are vast swathes of Khas land and char in Bangladesh, which the government could use for building a cantonment there, but it is inhumane to displace several thousand from their ancestral land, said Forkan Hawlader, another resident.

"We are hopping from the Prime Minister's Office to other government offices and visiting our local representatives, but nobody paid heed to our demand," another villager Delwar Hossain.

On September 5, the Barisal deputy commissioner and other top army and civil officials held an opinion sharing meeting with the villagers about the cantonment at Dudhalmou high school.

But almost all the people who attended the meeting

# Prevention of child marriage requires multipronged effort

The Daily Star - UNFPA seminar told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Education, eradication of poverty, strict enforcement of laws, and raising social awareness collectively can prevent child marriage, said speakers at a seminar yesterday.

The seminar titled "Say 'NO' to Child Marriage" was organised by The Daily Star in association with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) at a restaurant in Chittagong city.

Families should make their children aware of the adverse effects of child marriage while news media should

create mass awareness and social media can be used for running campaigns, said Wasika Ayesha Khan, lawmaker of Awami League.

Several times, public representatives like Union Parishad chairmen obstruct law enforcers when they reach spots to stop such marriages, mentioned Deputy Commissioner of Chittagong Mejbah Uddin, adding that such representatives must be held accountable.

Mahbubur Rahman, secretary of Chittagong Hill Tracts Land Dispute Resolution Commission,

Khagrachhari, proposed that there should be a provision in child marriage restraint act for legalising marriage before 18 years of age, only for some "exceptional circumstances" and with permission from courts as he believed that too many restrictions provoke secret incidence of child marriage. However, he did not explain the nature of the circumstances.

Shamima Parvin, senior programme officer of UNFPA, said the number of child marriage incidents was significantly lower in Chittagong.

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# Child marriage causes violence against women

Roundtable of Prothom Alo, gender studies dept of DU told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As child marriage is one of the main reasons of physical, mental and sexual violence against women, minimum marriageable age for females should not be lowered from 18, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

The roundtable on stopping child marriage was organised by the Bangla daily Prothom Alo, and the Department of Women and Gender Studies of Dhaka University at the daily's office in the capital.

Urging the government not to lower the marriageable age, National Human Rights Commission Chairman Prof Mizanur Rahman said, "People who advised the prime minister for this have misled her."

Tania Haque, head of the department, said, "Although the laws stipulate that females cannot marry before 18,

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Lawmaker Wasika Ayesha Khan addresses a seminar titled "Say 'NO' to Child Marriage" organised by The Daily Star in association with UNFPA in a Chittagong city restaurant yesterday. Mejbah Uddin, deputy commissioner of Chittagong; Mahbubur Rahman, secretary of Chittagong Hill Tracts Land Dispute Resolution Commission, Khagrachhari; and Shamima Parvin, senior programme officer of UNFPA, among others, spoke on the occasion. PHOTO: STAR

# PAVEL'S MURDER FOR Tk 18 LAKH

# Mother frustrated over delay in charge filing

Investigators reason permanent address of one accused yet to be unearthed

RAFILU ISLAM

Getting justice seems to be a far cry for a widow in the capital, at least for the last two years, with submission of the charge sheet in the case over her only son's murder being held back merely because, as the investigators reasoned, the permanent address of an accused is yet to be unearthed.

Losing her husband, only son and the family's savings in quick succession, all Solema Akhter can do now is pass her days with her daughter Anta Islam amidst uncertainty and the anxiety of when the next call would come from an unknown number with a voice at the other end threatening to kill them.

Several police officials The Daily Star contacted recently informed that there was no bar on submitting a charge sheet which did not contain the



**Ariful Islam Pavel** permanent address of a detained accused.

Just 37 days after his father passed away, Ariful Islam Pavel, a second year student of United International University, went missing on December

26, 2012 from his residence at Concord Emporium in the capital's Katabon with Tk 18 lakh in his possession.

Six months after Solema filed a case, three persons, Jahangir, Faysal and Farhad, were arrested in June 2013 in Rayer Bazar, Azimpur and Narsingdi respectively by the Detective Branch (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Their confessional statements led to the discovery of Pavel's skeletal remains from Adiabad Kandapara graveyard in Narsingdi's Raipura.

Jahangir was the family's neighbour in Nilkhet residential area on the Dhaka University (DU) campus. Pavel's father Ashraf Islam Bhuiyan was a former DU senior store officer.

Detectives said Jahangir allegedly

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