

FIASCO OVER RALLIES BNP threatens AL with counter attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

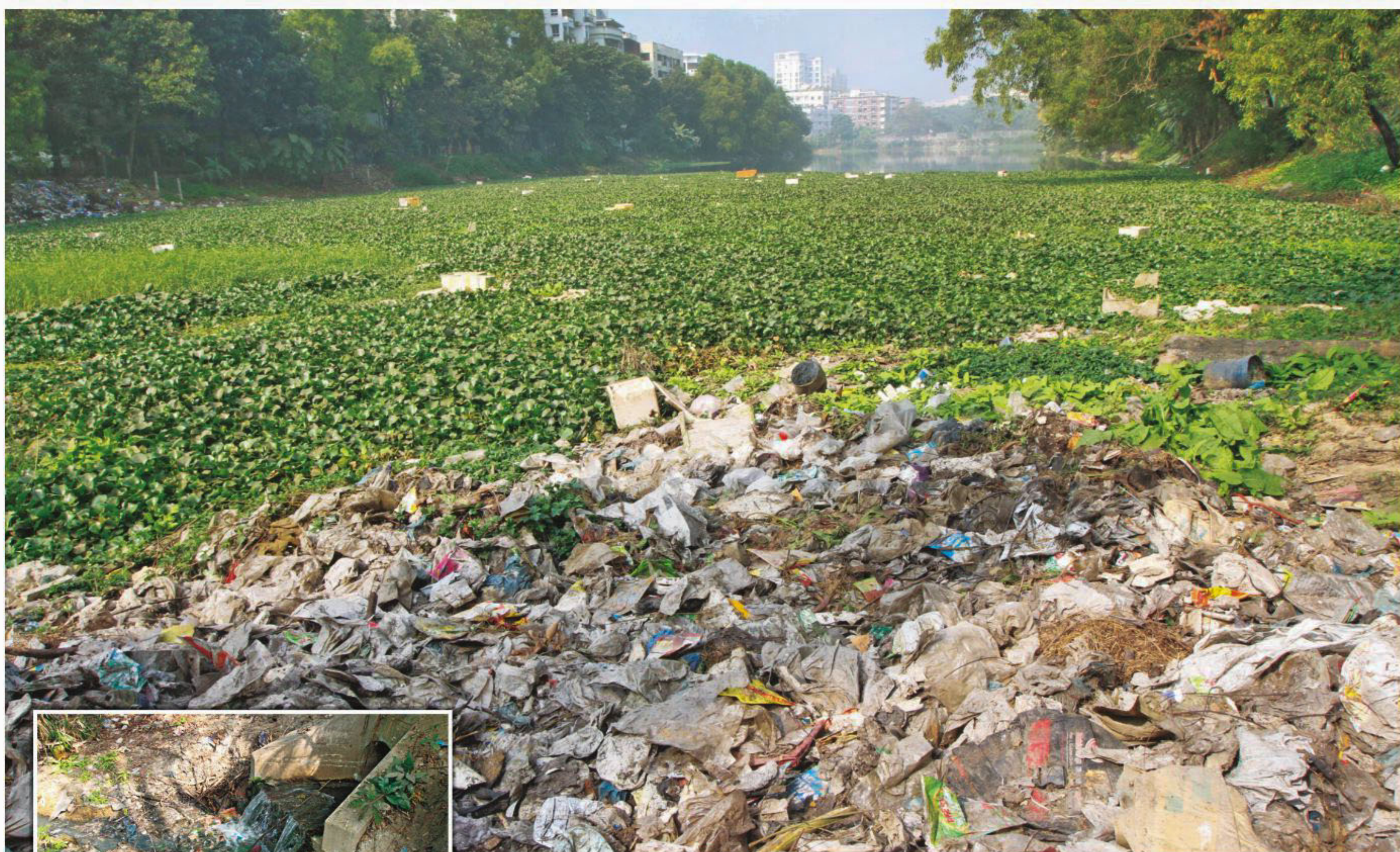
Awami League will not be able to smoothly hold rallies anywhere in the country if it created obstacles for BNP's programmes, BNP Joint Secretary General Rizvi Ahmed said without elaborating yesterday.

Meanwhile, BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said the "illegal" prime minister, Sheikh Hasina, must be held accountable for every future extrajudicial killing and incident of forced disappearance.

At a discussion in the capital's Jatiya Press Club, he reiterated that during their movement before the January 5 election, the government killed 310 opposition men and was responsible for the disappearance of 65 others.

Awami League Joint General Secretary Mahbul Alam Hanif on December 26 said time had come to think of whether BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia would be allowed to hold rallies if she does not apologise on behalf of her eldest son for making derogatory remarks on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

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Mindlessly littered garbage has solidified at one end of the Gulshan-Banani-Baridhara lake in the capital filling it up while water hyacinth grows unchecked threatening the oxygen levels and subsequently the presence of other aquatic lives. On top of it, raw sewage discharge, inset, continues unabated amid the neglect of the authorities concerned. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

HC asks govt not to arrest or harass Mintoo, Mir Nasir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the government to abstain from arresting or harassing BNP leaders Abdul Awal Mintoo and Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin in two separate cases until further orders.

Mintoo is an accused in a vandalism case, filed by Shahbagh police, over the clash in Bakshibazar Wednesday during hearing in two corruption cases against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and eight others.

Nasir is an accused in a defamation suit, filed by Brahmanbaria unit Bangladesh Chhatra League President Masum Billah, because the BNP leader was present at the programme where BNP Senior Vice-President Tarique Rahman termed Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman "a top Razakar".

The two have been granted amnesty from arrest or harassment in respective cases until further orders after they appeared before the HC yesterday morning seeking anticipatory bail.

The court passed the orders after hearing on two

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Empowerment of upazila parishads requires own earnings

Discussion told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Local government institutions like upazila parishads will not be empowered unless they have their own means of earning revenue, said local government officials at a discussion yesterday.

Bureaucracy will hold more power than elected representatives as long as the parishads are solely dependent on government funds, they added.

The discussion on utilisation of budgetary allocation in the parishads was organised by Upazila Governance Project (UZGP) of the Local Government Division at its office in the capital.

UZGP Divisional Facilitator Sohail Iqbal said upazila parishads already receive a portion of land transfer fees.

These parishads can receive portion of other government fees to be more independent, he suggested.

Iqbal said at present, these parishads are allocated a certain portion of the budget and carry out development activities accordingly.

"The approach should be that upazila parishads first come up with developmental plans and then ask for the required budget allocation," he said.

Similarly, Shahidul Islam, director of Local Government, Dhaka Division said there are no alternatives to "bottom up" planning in order to achieve proper utilisation

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Bangalee settlers attacked Adivasis to grab land

Citizens' delegation tells press conference about recent torching of indigenous villages in Rangamati after spot visit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangalee settlers repeatedly attack indigenous communities to evict them and grab their lands in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) and the latest December 16 attack on three Rangamati villages is a part of this long-term ill motive, said some rights activists yesterday.

They were addressing a press conference organised under the banner of

Nagorik Protinidhi Dal (citizens' delegation) at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

At least 54 houses, seven shops and a Buddhist temple in Suridas Para, Camp Para and Amtola villages near the Rangamati-Khagrachhari road under Naniarchar upazila were vandalised and torched during the attack by some 400-500 settlers from the nearby Bogachhari area.

The attack came following the destruction of some pineapple and

teak plantations of Bangalee settlers the night before. The indigenous people claim the saplings were planted on land "taken away" from them.

Many Bangalee settlers accused United People's Democratic Front of destroying the saplings said Razib Mir, a member of the 25-person delegation which had visited the areas for two days from December 23.

Comprising academicians, politicians,

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Conserve colonial heritage buildings selectively

Says prime minister, makes a host of recommendations as policies for town planning

Unb, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said conservation of British-era buildings should be selective.

"What heritage...we slaved for the British... I do not think we need to protect their heritage... I do not think there is any need to preserve any building of the British regime that is now in a deplorable condition. There is no need to preserve all the red buildings," she said.

The prime minister, however, said some eye-catching, attractive buildings might be

preserved considering the architectural aspects and historical importance.

Hasina also said some people might be hurt hearing her comments. "But this is what I think," she said, adding that people of this land fought against the British rule and gave blood to free themselves.

The prime minister was delivering her introductory speech at the housing and public works ministry at Bangladesh Secretariat as part of her visit to all ministries to see the progress and development

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Architecture reflects national taste

Bengal Foundation press conference told announcing international conference on Jan 15-17

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Architecture is not about constructing mere lifeless buildings, rather it is a significant medium of art, aesthetics, history and artistic taste of a nation, said architects at a press conference in the capital yesterday.

It is extremely vital that an architectural design reflects public aspiration, social values, economic affordability and environmental consciousness, said noted architect Bashirul Haq.

Like any other branch of the arts, architecture too is influenced and shaped by history, social tradition and time, and represents public aspiration, said Bengal Foundation Director General Luva Nahid Choudhury, who conducted the conference.

Bengal Foundation organised the press conference at The Daily Star Centre to announce an international architecture conference titled "Engage Dhaka 2015", to be

held from January 15 to 17, at Bangladesh Military Museum on Bijoy Sarani, where 15 noted architects from home and abroad are expected to participate.

The architecture conference, being organised in association with the Institute of Architects Bangladesh, will be dedicated to architect Muzharul Islam, who pioneered modernism in architecture in Bangladesh.

The conference will discuss sense of space in architectural design and how to understand every individual culture and reflect it through architecture, said Haq, adding that the conference will also help construct an outlook for future architecture in view of energy consumption and environment conservation.

Fumihiko Maki from Japan; Kenneth Frampton, Farooq Ameen and Rahul Mehrotra from the USA; William JR Curtis from France; Ken Yeang from Malaysia;

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From left, Kashef Mahub Chowdhury, an architect; Jalal Ahmed, general secretary of the Institute of Architects Bangladesh; Bashirul Haq, another architect; and Abul Khair Litu, chairman of Bengal Foundation, at a press conference at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday announcing an international architecture conference titled "Engage Dhaka 2015" to be held from January 15 to 17 at Bangladesh Military Museum on Bijoy Sarani.



People enter the airport through the back gate next to the runway of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, a restricted area, allegedly by bribing ansars who guard the gate. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Manpower export goes up 1pc, remittance 5pc

Reveals Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit based on BMET statistics

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's manpower export and the amount of remittance the country received have both increased this year amid growing challenges of ensuring safe migration and job opportunities abroad for an increasing number of unemployed people, revealed a research organisation on migration yesterday.

The country's export increased by one percent from last year and the remittance received by five, said Tasneem Siddiqui, founding chair of Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU).

She revealed the findings at a programme titled "Achievement and Challenges of the Manpower Export-2014" at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

A total of 411,000 Bangladeshis found jobs abroad between January and December 22 this year, while the figure was 409,253 last year, she said referring to statistics of the

Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET).

Furthermore, the remittance received till December this year was US\$ 14.5 billion with the figure expected to rise to US\$ 15 billion by the end of the month, she said, adding that the figure was US\$ 13.98 billion last year.

"The increased number of females migrating has led to the overall increase in manpower export and the remittance increase due to initiatives of Bangladesh Bank," Tasneem observed.

The percentage of females going abroad for work has increased by six percent from last year, she mentioned.

Oman, Qatar and Singapore were the main destinations for male migrants, while the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Jordan for females.

Tasneem also expressed concern over the government's slow pace in providing

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MALIGNING BANGABANDHU 3 more arrest warrants issued against Tarique

Five more cases filed, one summons issued

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Five more defamation cases were filed against BNP Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday of which three saw issuance of warrants for his arrest while a third saw him and three senior BNP leaders being summoned on February 4 next year for terming Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman a "big Razakar".

In Dhaka, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Dhaka unit Assistant General Secretary Abdul Aziz filed the case. The court also directed South Keraniganj Police Station's officer-in-charge to submit a progress report by February 5 next year.

The cases in Satkhira and

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