



**CAR IMPORTERS IN TROUBLE**  
They lose Tk 7,000 crore as political turmoil disrupts supply chain, drives off customers  
PAGE B1

**CHALLENGES FOR GHANI**  
The Afghan president walks a tightrope over Pakistan, US ties  
PAGE 15

## Blogger killed in city again

2 suspects caught; second such murder after a month triggers condemnation, termed 'wake-up' call to govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Barely a month after the brutal murder of Avijit Roy, another blogger and online activist was hacked to death in broad daylight yesterday.

Oyasiqur Rahman Babu, 27, was attacked by three cleaver-wielding youths in the capital's Tejgaon Industrial area around 9:00am.

Two of the attackers were caught by the public and handed over to police. Both madrasa students, they confessed to the killing during primary interrogation.

The motive behind the murder appears to be "ideological differences", said Biplab Kumar Sarkar, deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Tejgaon division).

A staunch critic of religious fundamentalism, Oyasiqur was active mostly on Facebook though he used to write in Bangla blogosphere.

Immediately after his killing, social media was abuzz with condemnation.



Oyasiqur Rahman

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



A relative of online activist Oyasiqur Rahman Babu, hacked to death in Tejgaon industrial area yesterday, weeps after seeing his body at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

PHOTO: AFP

*It's too much for a father to bear*

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Tipu Sultan woke up his son Oyasiqur Rahman around 6:00am yesterday morning and asked him to close the door. He was leaving his Begunbari house in the capital for his Laxmipur village home. Oyasiqur got up, said goodbye to his father and closed the door.

Tipu, however, could not reach Laxmipur. He received a phone call around 9:00am when he was in Chandpur. To his utter shock, he was then told that his son had been attacked and killed.

The father could not think for a while, nor could he believe the caller. The abrupt news of his son's death was too much for him to bear. He fell sick and instead of returning to

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

AVIJIT KILLING

## Probe finds no police negligence

Father rejects findings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Ajay Roy, father of slain writer-blogger Avijit Roy, yesterday rejected the police probe findings that found no negligence of the policemen on duty around the murder scene at Dhaka University.

"The probe that did not find any negligence of the cops was conducted by none other than their [police's] colleagues," he said.

DMP Joint Commissioner Monirul Islam yesterday said the probe found no negligence of the on duty cops around the murder spot at DU. The probe report was submitted last week.

But according to media reports, none but photojournalist Jibon Ahmed came forward to help the couple after militants



SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## CITY CORPORATION ELECTIONS 2015

### Ministers rally behind AL men

Discuss strategy to win city polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four cabinet members and an adviser with the status of a minister had a meeting with leaders of Awami League's city unit to discuss strategies to clinch victory for the AL-backed mayoral candidates in two Dhaka city corporations.

The electoral code of conduct, however, doesn't permit any minister to take part in electoral activities or campaigns for a candidate.

"If any minister holds a meeting for a candidate, it is a violation of the electoral code of conduct," Election Commissioner Abdul Mobarak told The Daily Star.

When his attention was drawn to yesterday's meeting, Mobarak said he knew nothing about it.

Talking to this correspondent, ex-election commissioner M Sakhawat Hussein said, "It is an absolute violation of the code of conduct."

Contacted, Food Minister Qamrul Islam, who attended the meeting at the AL chief's Dhanmondi office, said there was no violation of the code of conduct, as they didn't

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

### Mintoo the richest among aspirants

Reveal their wealth statements submitted to EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a yearly income of over Tk 36 crore, mayor hopeful BNP leader Abdul Awal Mintoo is the richest among all the mayor aspirants in two Dhaka city corporations in terms of their annual income.

Another mayor aspirant and BNP leader Mirza Abbas, who earns over Tk 7 crore a year, is the second richest among the contenders, according to their wealth statements submitted to the Election Commission.

The third wealthiest is Hazi Saifuddin Ahmed Milon, the Jatiya Party-backed mayor aspirant in Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC), who earns around Tk 1.75 crore annually.

Businessman Annisul Huq, the Awami League-blessed Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) mayor hopeful, has the fourth highest yearly income of over Tk 73 lakh.

Interestingly, his wife Rubana Huq earns Tk 84 lakh per annum, around Tk 11 lakh more than her husband.

The annual income of DSCC mayor hopeful Sayeed Khokon, an AL favourite, is over Tk 41 lakh.

The EC last night uploaded on its website the wealth statements of all the mayor hopefuls in DNCC, DSCC and Chittagong City Corporation.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

### BNP to make it formal later

Candidates facing cases to seek bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Already in a difficult situation, the BNP will decide its next course of action on the Dhaka city corporation polls after assessing the fate of the candidatures of its mayor favourites and their bail prayers, party leaders said.

Mirza Abbas, Abdul Awal Mintoo and Abdus Salam filed nomination papers on Sunday through their representatives.

Abbas, a member of BNP national standing committee; and Salam, party's financial affairs secretary; filed nominations for mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) while Mintoo, an advisor to the BNP chief, for the same post of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC).

The three are on bail in some cases while their lawyers will move the High Court for bail in some others. Lawyers will file bail petitions with the HC after it reopens on April 1, BNP insiders said.

"We are taking preparations for seeking bail from the High Court and lower courts for the leaders who are either

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

## THE HUCKLEBERRY FINNS OF THE SHITALAKKHYA



Kids sail a raft made of Styrofoam sheets on the Shitalakkhya river in Narayanganj. On scorching Chaitra days, local children are often seen cooling off in the river, no matter how contaminated its water is due to dumping of industrial waste. They surely have fun but remain exposed to skin and other diseases. The photo was taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Seven to die for killing AL man

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced seven people, including a listed criminal, to death and jailed another for life term for killing an Awami League man in 2006.

Hazi Moniruddin Monu, member of AL Ward No. 12 unit, was gunned down on August 15, 2006.

Capital punishment has been handed down on Mohammad Shahdat Hossain, a listed criminal and accused in more than 20 criminal cases, Md Mintu, Masudur Rahman Tota, Noman Ibne Bashar, Liton Hossain Lotus, Mahinur Rahman Sohel and Md Hasan Sarwar.

The court gave life term imprisonment to Mosammat Jahanara considering her gender identity, although the murder charge brought against her was proved undoubtedly.

Jahanara was given the punishment for assisting the killers by identifying the victim.

The court also fined her Tk 20,000, in default of which she would have to serve one more year in prison once she surrenders or is arrested.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

**TOP QUOTE**

"Over the last 25 years, the governments have been wasting most of their energy to cling to power. Free rein is being given to corruption, misdeeds and crimes."

FOUNDER OF BISWA SAHITYA KENDRA  
**PROF ABDULLAH ABU SAYEED**  
AT A PROGRAMME IN THE CAPITAL

## POLLS CODE VIOLATION EC notice on 3 Ctg mayor aspirants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Election Commission yesterday issued show cause notices to three Chittagong City Corporation mayor aspirants for violating electoral code of conduct.

The notices were issued to Awami League-backed mayoral candidate AJM Nasir Uddin, BNP-backed mayoral candidate

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4