

# PAHELA BAISHAKH DMP plans stringent security measures

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The law enforcement agencies will take extra security measures on the eve of this year's Pahela Baishakh following the murder of two bloggers allegedly by militant outfits within a span of 32 days.

The decision was taken during a meeting, presided over by Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque, at the Police Headquarters in the capital, said a press release.

Fourteen years ago, the celebration of Bangla New Year turned into horror for people when Islamist militants carried out deadly blasts at the Ramna Batamul, the centre point of the celebration.

A Dhaka court handed



Some of the jatka (hilsa fry) seized in Karwan Bazar out of a total 5,000 kilogrammes rounded up around the capital by a mobile court yesterday, the fifth day of the jatka conservation week. Six traders, four in Karwan Bazar and two in Merul Badda, were fined Tk 5,000 each while the fish was distributed among slum dwellers and orphanages. Though fishing jatka, less than around 23 centimetres or nine inches, is banned for eight months, from November 1 to June 30, it is found in markets round the year while the illegal practice comes to light during the conservation week when law enforcers apparently become more active. The trade is fuelled by demand from people of the low-income group hoping to savour the taste of Bangladesh's national fish on Pahela Baishakh or the new year as per the Bangla calendar at prices ranging from Tk 300 to 400 a kilogramme, for the prices of adults are well out of their reach.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# LIBYA KIDNAPPING Freed 2 Bangladeshis returning

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two Bangladeshi migrant workers, who have been freed on March 24 after being held captive by militants for 18 days in Libya, left Malta for Dhaka yesterday.

"They have left Malta around 3:30pm local time. They will reach Dhaka through Istanbul by a flight of Turkish airline," ASM Ashrafur Islam, counsellor (Labour Wing) at Bangladesh embassy in Tripoli, told The Daily Star over phone yesterday.

The airline will make a stopover in Istanbul, he said. He, however, could not confirm whether they might reach Dhaka today or tomorrow.

Ending all confusion over their whereabouts, Helal Uddin of Jamalpur and Anwar Hossain of Noakhali reached Tripoli last Thursday and flew the next day for Malta where the office of their employer, Value Added Oilfield Services (VAOS), is situated.

Their families, however, said they could not contact the duo after they got on the flight.

Anwar's wife Marufa Khatun told The Daily Star that Anwar on Friday said they would reach Dhaka in a day or two.

Unidentified militants abducted the Bangladeshis along with seven other foreigners -- four Filipinos, an Austrian, a Czech and a Ghanaian -- from the Al-Ghani oilfield south of Sirte on March 6.

Later, the Bangladeshis were freed with another Ghanaian in Sirte on March 24. But the local army in Misrata of Libya caught them for interrogation.

Finally, VAOS brought them to its office in Tripoli before sending them to Malta.

# CITY CORPORATION



# ELECTIONS 2015

## Amir Khasru accuses EC of not treating candidates equally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

BNP Chittagong city unit president Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday accused the Election Commission of not treating all mayoral candidates of the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) polls equally.

"The ruling party-backed mayoral candidates and their supporters enjoy full freedom. They [AL-backed candidates] are not facing any barrier when holding rallies or meetings, but when we sit for meetings in our residences, we get served notices," he said.

He was briefing the media while unlocking the BNP office, which law enforcers had locked three months ago since the beginning of the blockades

## EC to exchange views with contestants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) will hold a views-exchange meeting with the April 28 city corporation elections' contestants, apparently for opinions and suggestions and to urge compliance with the electoral code of conduct and seek cooperation to hold free and fair polls.

On April 11, Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed, as chief guest, election commissioners and returning officers (RO) will sit with the Chittagong City Corporation poll's contestants in the port city's Muslim Institute Hall at 11:00am.

On April 12, they will meet those of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) polls and the next day those of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) polls, both in the capital's Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

Meanwhile, the EC issued a special circular allowing women councillor candidates of the reserved seats for the first time to use vehicles for campaigning. Previously, only mayoral candidates could avail the facility.

Moreover, the Dhaka Divisional Commissioner rejected appeals of two mayoral aspirants, Nayeem Hasan of DNCC and Babul Sardar Chakhari of DSCC, against

cancellation of their nomination papers.

ROs cancelled the papers on April 1 on grounds of defaulting loans and the two filed the appeals two days later.

Earlier, appeals of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Adviser Abdul Awal Minto and former BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu were rejected.

In Chittagong, four councillor aspirants had their cancellations overturned during hearing of 15 general and reserved councillor aspirants' appeals. Nomination papers of 41 councillor aspirants were cancelled by ROs on grounds including hiding information and defaulting loans.

Meanwhile, two mayoral aspirants for DSCC replied to notices served on Saturday for violating the code.

Awami League-backed aspirant Sayeed Khokon sought blessings after Jumma prayers on Friday and Jatiya Party-backed Saifuddin Ahmed Milon's electoral posters were yet to be taken down, said DSCC RO Mihir Sarwar Morshed.

Campaigning is allowed only in the 21 days prior to the start of voting, meaning they can start on April 7.

Khokon denied conducting any campaign. Promising to remove the posters within a day, Milon said, "Some of my posters were pasted before announce of election

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## Ctg councillor aspirant fined Tk 50,000

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A ward 3 councillor candidate of the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) polls was fined Tk 50,000 by a mobile court yesterday for breaching the electoral code of conduct by organising a "feast to woo voters" in the port city's Shahidnagar.

Tipped-off, Executive Magistrate Habibul Hasan led the drive in Md Shafiqul Islam's residence around 8:45pm.

Campaigning is allowed only in the 21 days prior to the start of voting, slated for April 28.

## HC clears way for Dhaka city polls rejecting writ plea

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for the Election Commission to hold elections to Dhaka north and south city corporations which have been scheduled for April 28.

The HC bench passed the order after rejecting a writ petition filed by Eunus Ali Akond, a Supreme Court lawyer, saying that ruling on a similar petition is still pending with another HC bench.

Eunus filed the petition on April 1 challenging the legality of the Local Government (City Corporation) Act, 2009, under which Dhaka city corporation was divided into north and south, and seeking a stay on the elections.

He also challenged the provisions for security money and purchasing voter lists by the candidates.

## Avoid BNP-backed candidates

Says Hasan Mahmud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Awami League Publicity and Publication Secretary Dr Hasan Mahmud yesterday termed BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia a "queen of terror" and urged all to avoid BNP-backed candidates in the city corporation polls.

He was addressing a views-exchange meeting held at JM Sen Hall in Chittagong city yesterday.

Sana toni Nagorik Samannay Committee Chittagong organised the

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3

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**Application Deadline: April 15, 2015**

## 'Criminal' stabbed dead over illegal bamboo bridge toll collection

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A collector of illegal toll was stabbed dead following a clash yesterday around 9:30pm between two influential groups of locals over a bamboo bridge above a canal between the capital's Aftabnagar and Banasree.

Md Kajal, 28, is a cadre of listed criminal Joyal, claimed Badda Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Abdul Jalil. He was declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The group of listed criminal Kailla Raju, aiming to take control of the bridge built by Joyal's group, which charges Tk 2 per person for crossing the bridge, went over to Aftabnagar and hacked Kajal, added the OC.

## Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Badar Uddin Mia; father of Emtiar Ferdous, district correspondent of GTV and Dainik Karotoa; died of a cardiac arrest in Sujan Academy area of Chapainawabganj Sadar on Saturday. He was 65.

He was buried at Khalghat graveyard in the town yesterday. He left his wife, two sons and three daughters.

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