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JAMUNA RESORT Govt cancels 30-year deal

HC asks govt not to evict leaseholders in 3 months

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The government has decided in principle to hand over the operational charge of Jamuna Resort to army by cancelling a 30-year lease to a consortium of Bangladeshi and foreign companies halfway through.

Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA) on Wednesday conducted a drive and vacated the resort by evicting around 180 staff of Jamuna Resort Ltd (JRL), the management consortium, without any prior notice.

Pro-BNP businessman Abdul Awal Mintoo, whose son Tabith Awal is vying for the Dhaka North City Corporation mayor's office with BNP's endorsement, is the chairman of the JRL.

According to JRL officials, all that the BBA authorities showed during the drive was a lawyer's certificate.

Later yesterday, a High Court bench directed the authorities concerned not to evict the JRL in three months.

However, the resort -- located on the south bank of the Jamuna river in Tangail, around 100km from the

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The chef and his kitchen staff are thrown out of Jamuna Resort with their belongings yesterday after the government 'hastily' cancelled the lease for the resort and put it under lock and key, bottom right. The resort was being run by Jamuna Resort Ltd and BNP leader Abdul Awal Mintoo is the chairman of the company. His son is running for mayor in Dhaka North City Corporation polls.



PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

SEXUAL ASSAULT AT BAISHAKH CELEBRATION Riddle over number of CCTV cameras

EMRAN HOSSAIN

Varying accounts on the number of CCTV cameras installed for keeping the Pahela Baishakh celebrations under watch have caused confusion over the actual police surveillance.

Initially, the Dhaka Metropolitan Police provided journalists with a list detailing the number of cameras and their placement on Dhaka University campus. The DMP said there were 19 CCTV cameras installed around TSC. The Daily Star found 18 of the cameras in the list.

But actually there were 22 cameras

installed in that area, said sources in the Information and Communication Technology department at the DMP headquarters on April 21.

The ICT department was responsible for arranging and sorting out power supplies to the cameras.

The revelation adds substance to the allegation that police were trying to cover up the incident of sexual assault on women.

According to witnesses, including Liton Nandi, president of Bangladesh Chhatra Union's Dhaka University chapter, at least one woman was stripped almost naked on

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Plagued by perennial problems, Dhaka and Chittagong -- our two major cities -- go to polls on April 28. What will a mayoral hopeful do to solve those problems if elected? How all the modern amenities will be ensured? What is his vision for the future of the city?

Looking for the answers, The Daily Star has talked to a mayoral candidate.

A 'new generation city'

Pledges Dhaka North mayoral aspirant Mahi B Chowdhury

RASHIDUL HASAN

Mahi B Chowdhury, mayoral candidate in Dhaka North City Corporation, wants to turn the capital into a "new generation city".

"Most of the residents in Dhaka north are educated and belong to the middle class. This is a perfect place to plant the seeds of change to give the city a new shape, and make it safe, vibrant and shiny," the joint secretary general of Bicolpodhara Bangladesh (BDB) told The Daily Star in an interview on Wednesday.

The 45-year-old former lawmaker said he was backed



PLEDGES & PRIORITIES

by Projonmo, a platform of online activists on Facebook, not by the BDB, in the mayoral race.

"I am backed by the new generation, especially those connected with social networks. I also have a correlation with members of all political parties."

Mahi, who has a reputation as a good orator, is involved with different youth organisations focusing on the aspirations of

the youths.

About the concept of the "new generation city", Mahi

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Abbas' bail petitions sent to CJ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court bench yesterday sent the bail petitions of Mirza Abbas in connection with two criminal cases and the split orders on the pleas to the chief justice for a decision.

The bench of Justice Quamrul Islam Siddique and Justice Gobinda Chandra Tagore forwarded the pleas and split orders to the chief justice office around 4:30pm, Kabir Ahmed, a secretary to the chief justice, told The Daily Star.

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Credible polls not possible without secure environment

Says UN chief

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has said a transparent, inclusive and credible election is not possible without a secure and safe environment for campaigning.

"The secretary-general reiterates his appeal for transparent, inclusive and credible elections, which are only possible in a secure and safe environ

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CITY ELECTIONS 7-day ban on arms carrying from Apr 25

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The home ministry yesterday imposed a seven-day ban on carrying and brandishing licensed firearms across Dhaka and Chittagong city corporation areas ahead of the April 28 polls.

The ban will remain effective from 6:00am on

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Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (C) and coach Chandika Hathurusingha (L) are giving a long look at the Mirpur wicket on Thursday, ahead of today's lone T20 International against Shahid Afridi-led Pakistan. The Tigers are yet to win a game against Pakistan in their seven meetings so far in the shortest format of cricket.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Blame game over attack at Bangla Motor

AL, BNP sue each other

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two more cases of attempted murder have been filed by the Awami League and BNP camps against one another following an attack on Khaleda Zia's motorcade in the capital's Bangla Motor on Wednesday.

Around 40 to 50 ruling party men were accused in the case filed by Abdul Quaiyum, an adviser to the BNP chairperson, yesterday.

Babu Hasan, sports secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League's Shahbagh unit, sued 20 to 25 BNP men in connection with the attack.

Earlier, both camps have filed two cases of attempted murder against one another following another attack on Khaleda's motorcade in the capital's Karwan Bazar on Monday.

Those who hurled bricks at Khaleda's motorcade and vandalised several vehicles when the BNP chief was campaigning for her party's mayoral candidate on Monday evening are mostly leaders and activists of the ruling AL's associated bodies.

The Daily Star has identified a dozen of the attackers from video footage of the incident. The police are yet to

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SUMMIT ON MIGRANT CRISIS

EU leaders mull military action

AFP, Brussels

EU leaders were to meet yesterday to discuss possible military action against human traffickers in Libya in a desperate effort to halt the tidal wave of refugees trying to reach Europe by sea.

As Malta honoured the estimated 800 people who died in the Mediterranean's

worst migrant disaster with a poignant inter-faith funeral service for 24 of them, a draft statement for the summit seen by AFP committed leaders to "undertake systematic efforts to identify, capture and destroy vessels before they are used by traffickers".

The wooden coffins of the 24 victims -- 20 men and four male teenagers -- were laid

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Restaurant grows food next to customer's table

ODDITYCENTRAL.COM

Lots of people are into growing their own food these days, and it looks like restaurants are trying to catch up too. Hollywood restaurant "Tender Greens", for instance, is filled with vertical gardens, and everything they grow is served on the menu!

"We've always been interested in

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PRAYER TIMING
APRIL 24

Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
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JAMAAT 5:00 1:15 5:00 6:31 8:30

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