

# SC scraps acquittal of Mamun's wife

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday scrapped a High Court judgment that had acquitted businessman Giasuddin Al Mamun's wife Shahina Yeasmin of a corruption case.

On Sunday, the SC cancelled the HC acquittal of Mamun, a close aide to BNP leader Tarique Rahman, in the same case.

In 2008, a court jailed Mamun for 10 years for accumulating property worth Tk 101.73 crore beyond his known source of income while his wife Shahina for three years for abetting him to amass the wealth.

In response to two appeals, the HC in 2012 acquitted the two in the case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

The SC also asked the HC to hold further hearing on Shahina and her husband's pleas. The SC gave the order after the ACC challenged the HC verdict.



Teachers and employees of non-MPO educational institutions have been observing a fast unto death since last week to press home their demand for their inclusion in the government's Monthly Pay Order (MPO) scheme. The photo was taken at Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# KADER SIDDIQUE'S CANDIDATURE SC stays Tangail by-polls till disposal of plea

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday extended its order that had stayed the Tangail-4 by-election until the High Court disposes of the rule over the candidacy of Krishak Shramik Janata League President Abdul Kader Siddique.

The SC also asked the HC to dispose of the rule by January 31 next year.

A four-member Appellate Division bench, headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, gave the order after hearing a petition, in which the Election Commission challenged an HC order that asked EC to accept Kader Siddique as a candidate.

The by-election is scheduled for November 10.

On October 21, following a writ petition filed by Kader Siddique, the HC directed EC to accept his candidacy and also asked EC and the government to explain why cancellation of his candidacy for loan defaults could not be declared illegal.

On October 27, the SC stayed the election till yesterday. Attorney General Mahubey Alam, who appeared for EC, told reporters that EC could not conduct the election until the HC disposed of the rule.

Kader Siddique's candidacy was cancelled on October 13. Kader filed a petition with EC against the decision, but the commission rejected it on October 18. He later challenged the decision at the HC. The Tangail-4 constituency was declared vacant on September 1 after Awami League lawmaker Latif Siddique resigned.

# Greens find BT brinjal farming a failure

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Green activists yesterday demanded a halt to the government efforts to introduce genetically modified (GM) crops, mainly BT Brinjal, which they say has been proved a "failure" in the farmers' fields.

They said their investigations found that BT Brinjal was not up to the mark in terms of production and required pesticides, though the main feature of the crop was that it was resistant to pest attacks whereas traditional brinjals were vulnerable to such attacks.

They demanded that the government publish a white paper on the findings of BT Brinjal that has been cultivated in last two

seasons, and assess the need for whether another GM crop, golden rice that is enriched with vitamin A, can be cultivated in the field.

The observations came at a discussion titled "Introduction of GMO Crops: BT Brinjal and Golden Rice", organised by the Alliance Against GMO and Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon at the Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

In her keynote presentation, Farida Akhter, executive director of Ubiniq, said Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute distributed saplings of BT brinjal to the farmers in two seasons -- in January 2014 and in November 2014.

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## Protest

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youths to prevent these attacks. Samina Lutfa, an associate professor of sociology, said the killing of bloggers would not stop if the government did not want to.

Imran H Sarker said, "The militants are getting inspired because the government has accepted this kind of murders."

Teachers of DU's Bangla department and colleagues of Dipan's father Abul Quasem Fazlul Huq, Convener of Gonosamhati Andolon Zonayed Saki, rights activist Khushi Kabir, Chairman of Department of Mass Communication and Journalism Dr Mofizur Rhaman and Chairman of Department of Communication Disorder Prof Hakim Arif were also present.

On Saturday, unknown assailants hacked Dipan, owner of Jagriti Prokashani, to death and critically injured Shuddhoswar's Ahmedur Rashid Tutul and bloggers Tareque Rahim and Ranadipam Basu.

**PROTEST AT RU**

About 100 students of Rajshahi University under the banner of Kendrio Sangskritik Jote brought out a procession and formed a human chain on the campus yesterday, alleging that the government was turning a blind eye to the repeated killings of free-thinkers.

**UK MINISTER CONDEMNS**

UK Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Hugo Swire has expressed deep concern over the attacks on publishers and bloggers in Bangladesh.

"Deeply concerned by another horrific attack on bloggers and publishers in Bangladesh. Protecting universal free speech is vital," he tweeted yesterday.

# 6 die in road crashes

CITY DESK

Six people were killed and 50 others injured in road accidents in last two days.

Our Moulvibazar correspondent reports: A truck driver and his helper were killed as the truck turned turtle at Haminabad in Rajnagar upazila of Moulvibazar on Sunday night.

The deceased are driver Manju Kalekha, 30, and helper Bidu Namasutra, 36.

Our Mymensingh correspondent reports: Pinki Akhtar, 20, was killed and 25 others were injured, 10 of them critically including her (Pinki) husband, as a bus carrying them skidded off the road when its driver lost control over the steering on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at Hazir Bazar in Bhaluka upazila early yesterday.

Our Lalmonirhat correspondent adds: Muntasir Mawla Moon, 36, an assistant

teacher of Patgram Tarak Nath School and College, died instantly when a truck hit his motorbike in Kalirthan area of Patgram upazila in Lalmonirhat on Sunday night.

Locals seized the truck but its driver and helper managed to flee the scene.

Our Bogra correspondent adds: Maya Begum, 22, a housewife, was strangled to death when her scarf got entangled with the wheel of a battery-run auto-van on Bogra-Shariakandi road in Shariakandi upazila in Bogra yesterday.

Meanwhile, at least 24 were injured when a bus rammied into a roadside tree on Akkelpur-Dupchanchia road in Bogra around 10:00am yesterday.

Our Bogra correspondent reports: Md Jahangir Alam, 40, died when a Dhaka-bound truck crashed him at Sarkerpara village of Dinajpur-Phulbari road on Sunday night.

# Rizvi gets bail in 2 arson cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted ad-interim bail to BNP leader Rizvi Ahmed in two cases over a petrol bomb attack on a bus in Chaudagram upazila in Comilla on February 2.

Eight people were killed and 28 injured in the attack on the bus on Dhaka-Chittagong highway. Police filed two cases accusing 56 people including Rizvi. After hearing two separate bail petitions filed by Rizvi, the HC also issued two separate rules upon the government to explain why Rizvi should not be granted regular bail in the cases.



Chief of Indian Naval Staff Admiral RK Dhowan and Chief of Bangladesh Naval Staff Vice Admiral M Farid Habib exchanging memento in New Delhi yesterday during the latter's four-day visit to India.

PHOTO: PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU, INDIA

# VOTER LIST UPDATING Check Rohingyas: CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Strict vigilance should be maintained so that none, including Rohingyas, other than Bangladeshi nationals are included in the voter list, which is being updated currently, said Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad.

The CEC told journalists after a views-exchange meeting with the mayor, ward councillors and officials at Chittagong Circuit

House, organised by the EC yesterday.

Regarding intrusion of Rohingyas in the voter list update in Chittagong, Rakibuddin said, "Strict vigilance has to be maintained everywhere, not only in Chittagong."

He informed that the updated voter list will be made public on January 2 next year, adding that the list will be available at all election commission offices. "If there are objections, those can be made and we will scrutinise them," he added.

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ঠিক সন্ধ্যা **৭:৫০** মিনিটে

**QUANDARY** (noun) a state of perplexity or uncertainty over what to do in a difficult situation.

Season 4

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