

Hanif hopes for ban on Jamaat by next March

Law, home ministries say process yet to start

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif yesterday hoped that the decision over banning Jamaat-e-Islami would be finalised by March next year.

"The High Court ordered a ban on Jamaat while the party's registration has already been cancelled. The case in this regard is in the Appellate Division now. Legal proceedings have been continuing. I hope the matter would be resolved within March next year," he said at a press briefing at the Dhanmondi office of AL President Sheikh Hasina.

The Daily Star contacted officials of the law and home ministries, but did not find any initiative on the preparation of proposals regarding banning Jamaat. But a senior official of the home ministry informed that there had been talks in this regard.

"But the ministry has not yet started the process," he told The Daily Star wishing anonymity.

Earlier in August 2013, the High Court declared Jamaat-e-Islami's registration as a political party illegal.

Later on June 1, 2015, the then Election Commission cancelled Jamaat-e-Islami's registration.

On Wednesday's murder attempt on an Italian citizen in Dinajpur, Hanif said the attempt was a heinous effort to hinder the ongoing trial of war criminals.

"BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and her ally Jamaat tried in vain many times in the past to stall the trial of the war criminals," he added.

People rejected yesterday's hartal called by Jamaat as public lives remain normal despite the hartal, he claimed.

BBIN motor rally to reach Bangladesh Nov 28

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four nations Friendship Motor Rally will enter Bangladesh through Biloniya border in Feni on November 28, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said yesterday.

The rally will make a stopover in Chittagong on the day and start for the capital on November 29. A seminar on the four-nation Motor Vehicle Agreement (MVA) will be held in the city's Sonargaon hotel the next day.

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) Friendship Motor Rally started from Bhubaneswar in India's Orissa state on November 15 as part of the MVA.

The BBIN motor rally will cover 4,223km in 19 days. The rally has already crossed 1,500km. Now it is at Gangtok city of Sikkim in India, Quader said during a press briefing at the Bangladesh Secretariat.

As many as 80 participants of the four nations are participating with 22 SUVs. There are six Bangladeshi delegations

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# DSCC mulling to collect fees from Wasa, BRTA

## Aim is to reduce income, expenditure gap

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) is mulling to collect fees from Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) and Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA).

Though empowered by law in 2009 to do so, DSCC is now considering collecting fees from these organisations in a bid to balance earnings and expenditure.

"The delimitation of DSCC and DNCC was done on the basis of land area, not revenue. Our revenue earning is 35 percent while our expenditure is 65 percent. Therefore, we constantly incur dues," said DSCC Mayor Mohammad Sayeed Khokon, adding that he wants to take the corporation to a place where it would stand on its own economic strength.

To do so, the DSCC mayor yesterday sought support of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives.

DSCC organised a launching ceremony at Nagar Bhaban in the capital marking bringing all wards under the supervision of close circuit television cameras. It also held a views-exchange meeting where Khandker Mosharrar Hossain was present as chief guest.

Khokon said according to the schedule 4 of City Corporation Act 2009, DSCC was empowered to have a share of the revenue of Wasa.

"The corporation is also entitled to impose tax on import and export of goods and services in the city," he said quoting the act.

"We are guardians of roads. We repair roads. Vehicles ply our roads.

But BRTA pockets all the revenue," Khokon said, requesting the minister to take steps as the corporation could have a share of BRTA's earnings.

Almost all councillors of DSCC were present at the programme yesterday.

On their behalf, Humayun Kabir, councillor of ward 23, demanded increasing the honorarium of councillors. Currently, a ward councillor gets Tk 17,500 per month.

Mosharrar said the honorarium was really poor compared to living costs. He urged DSCC to increase the honorarium.

The minister said, "You must think to find a way over how your income could be increased without creating pressure on people." He also asked councillors to form a committee over the issue.

# HC gives ACC commissioners more freedom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday scrapped a provision of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2004, which the court said curtailed the independence of the commissioners.

Section 12(2) states that the commissioners will act under the control and supervision of its chairman, and they will be accountable to the chairman.

This section is illegal because it cuts ACC commissioners' independence, Justice Moeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Md Ashraf Kamal said in the verdict, delivered on a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Md Kamal Hossain.

ACC Chairman M Badiuzzaman's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that following the judgment, the ACC chairman would act as the chief executive of the commission in accordance with Section 12(1).

He, however, said his client would challenge the verdict at the Appellate Division.

Citing the judges, Deputy Attorney General Motaheer Hossain Sazu told The Daily Star that this verdict, however, would not affect the past activities of the chairman.

The petition was filed as a public interest litigation in June.



# Sufia Kamal's 16th death anniversary today

BSS, Dhaka

Today is the 16th death anniversary of poet Sufia Kamal, also founder president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and a pioneer of Bangalee women's emancipation.

She was born on June 20, 1911 at Shayestabad, Barisal.

Marking the day, different social and cultural organisations have taken various programmes.

A platform comprising some 68 women, human rights and development organisations will arrange a memorial discussion at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital.

Besides, Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote leaders will place wreaths at the poet's Azimpurgrave.

Sufia Kamal also fought for restoration of democracy. She was also active in the 1952 Language Movement.

She was involved in the 1969 mass upsurge and the non-cooperation movement of March 1971.

In 1956, she had organised the children's organisation, "Kochi-Kachar Mela".

She edited the women's magazine "Begum" before partition of the subcontinent in 1947. Her "Ekatturer Diary" tells the untold stories of 1971.

She got over 50 awards, including "Ekushey Padak", "Swadhinata Dibash Padak" and "Bangla Academy Padak".

Meanwhile, President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid rich tributes to the memory of Sufia Kamal.



Guests hold copies of a book "Humorously Yours and Counting", written by The Daily Star columnist Naveed Mahub and published by Daily Star Books, at its publication ceremony on the first day of the three-day Dhaka Lit Fest, formerly known as Hay Festival Dhaka, at Bangla Academy yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# Dhaka Lit Fest begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite it being trying times worldwide for free speech and thoughts, the international literary festival formerly known as Hay Festival Dhaka started in the capital yesterday for the fifth time under a new name, Dhaka Lit Fest.

Defying security alerts issued by many countries advising their citizens on travelling to Bangladesh, over 60 experts from different fields including literature, science, journalism and filmmaking joined the three-day festival, produced by Jatirik and hosted by Bangla Academy with the cultural ministry as a special partner.

Different discussion sessions, speeches by Nobel laureate scientist Harold Varmus, cultural and literary performances and events including launching of stand-up comedian and The Daily Star columnist Naveed Mahub's "Humorously Yours and Counting" published by Daily Star Books in the evening marked the first day of the festival.

Following a lively discussion by Naveed and comedian Asif Baul at a session "Comedy: What Can't It Say?", the book, available at The Daily Star Books stall on the festival premises, was formally launched by noted writer Hasan Azizul Haque.

Intolerance, extremism and challenges faced by free thinkers, however, were present in almost all the sessions of the day starting from the keynote speech by Indian author Nayantra Sahgal, who recently returned her literary award to India's premier literary institution protesting the rising religious intolerance in the country.

"When iron curtain comes down to our imagination, then it is time to act," Nayantra said, explaining to the audience why Indian writers and scientists resorted to such actions of returning awards.

"A country has no religion, it is the people who have religion," she said, emphasising the secular characteristic of the neighbouring country that writers felt must be preserved.

Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, at the inaugural ceremony, noted that the holding of the festival proved how Bangladesh too would not bow to religious

e x t r e m i s m

# 4 Daily Star reporters get DRU award

## They are among 27 from different media outlets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four senior reporters of The Daily Star received "DRU Best Reporting Award-2015" in four categories in print media yesterday.

They are Pinaki Roy, Porimol Palma, Helemul Alam and Sohel Parvez.

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu handed over crests, certificates and cheques for Tk 50,000 each to them at a ceremony at Shilpakala Academy in the capital.

Twenty-seven journalists from print, electronic and online news media won the award in 25 categories.

Pinaki won in the energy and mineral resources category for his report, "Bangla lesson for carbon polluters," and Porimol in diplomatic affairs category for his report "Onus was on Malaysia". Helemul was awarded in city problem and potentials category for his 14 parts of a series report "Disappearing Dhaka Parks" while Sohel in agriculture affairs category for his report "Silenced by salinity." From print media, other awardees are Dhaka Tribune Staff

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# MUHIBUR, MUJIBUR, RAZZAK'S WAR CRIMES CASE

# Two more allegations of rape surface

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A prosecution witness yesterday testified that Muhibur Rahman Boromia helped the Pakistani occupation army rape her mother while Muhibur's brother Mujibur Rahman Angur Mia assisted the army rape a woman who was her neighbour in Habiganj during the Liberation War in 1971.

The eighth witness in the war case against Muhibur, Mujibur and Abdur Razzak told International Crimes Tribunal-1 that she was inside the house when two Pakistani army men tortured her mother for about half an hour.

Earlier, the seventh prosecution witness said Muhibur and Majibur assisted the Pakistani army rape his sister.

Yesterday, the 56-year-old witness



from Alipur village in Bahubal upazila of the district said Muhibur, Mujibur and Razzak, along with several Razakars, and 10 to 15 Pakistani army men attacked the houses of MA Rob on October 26, 1971.

They torched and looted houses in nearby Hindu areas, torched the house of Kamla Mia, she said, adding that they torched houses of their neighbour Nuruzzaman.

"Then accused Muhibur Rahman alias Boromia came to our house with two Pakistani army men. Being frightened, I entered my house and hid myself under a quilt with my sick father," she said, adding, "Then, I saw Muhibur Rahman alias Boromia exit our house leaving the two Pakistani army men inside."

"Then, the two Pakistani army men

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