

## HC stays Gafargaon Pourasava polls for three months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed the process of Gafargaon Pourasava election, which is scheduled for December 30, for next three months due to complexity in demarcating the area of the municipality.

Responding to a writ petition filed by some voters of Mymensingh's Gafargaon union including Mohammad Ali, the court ordered the authorities concerned of the Election Commission and the government to immediately take steps to include the whole Gafargaon union in Gafargaon municipality.

It also issued a rule asking the authorities to explain in four weeks why the election schedule should not be declared illegal.

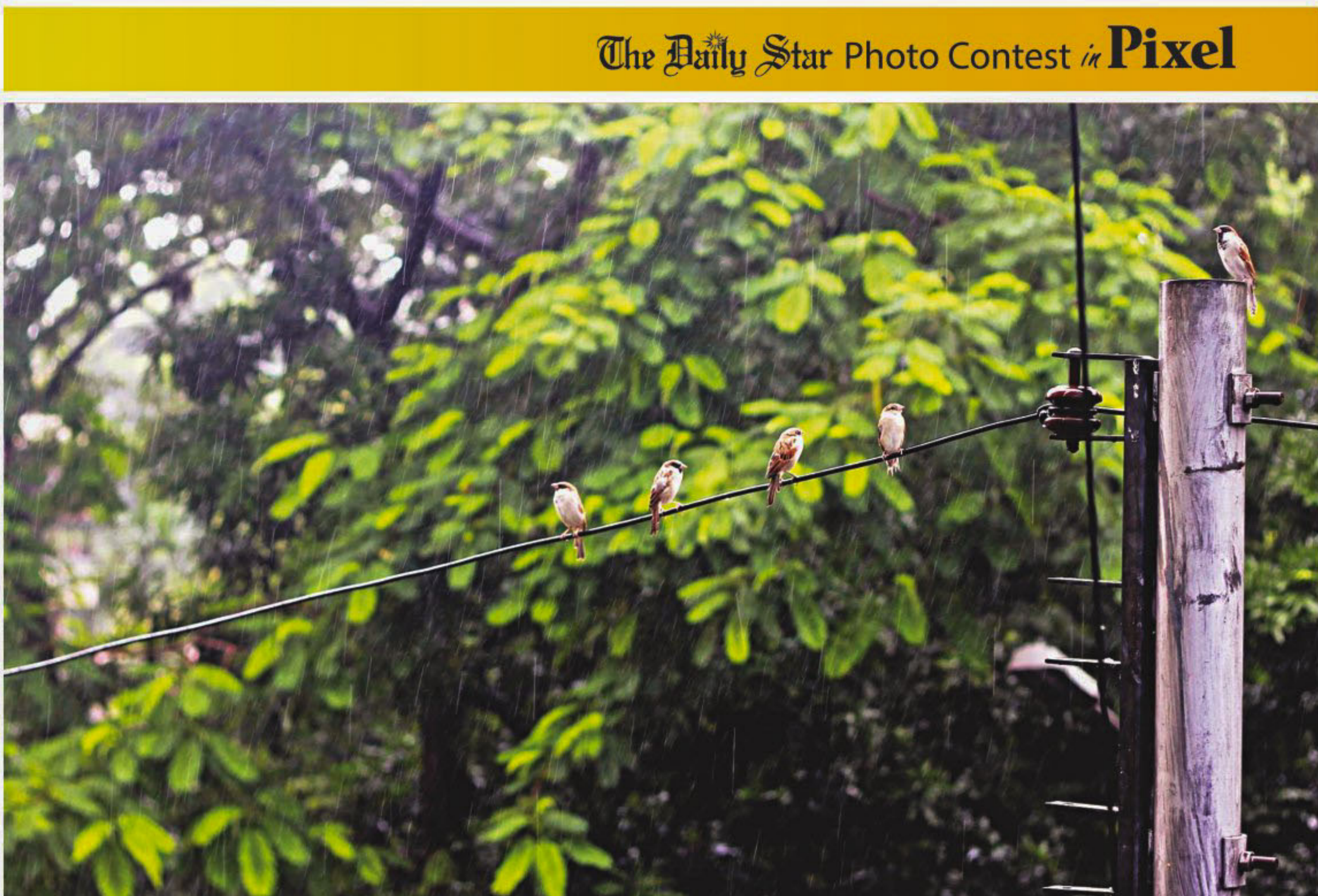
The writ petitioners earlier applied to the authorities concerned of the EC and the government to include the major part of the union which was excluded during demarcation of Gafargaon municipality, but they did not respond, said petitioners' lawyer Yusuf Hossain Humayun.

The petitioners prayed to the HC to stay the election and to order the authorities to include the names of voters of Gafargaon union for the municipality polls.

Yesterday, chamber judge of the Appellate Division Justice M Imman Ali stayed for six weeks an HC order that ordered the EC to allow BNP's mayoral candidate Sarwarul Abedin to contest the election to Changarchar Pourasava in Chandpur.

Following the stay order, Awami League's candidate Rafiqul Alam will be declared elected uncontested, said Sarwarul's lawyer Khandker Mahbub Hossain.

In another order, the HC yesterday ordered the EC to allow independent mayoral candidate Altaf Hossain to contest Betagi Pourasava in Borguna.



Natural cleansing. Sparrows take a shower in the pouring monsoon. This photo, taken this July in the capital's Dhanmondi, is one of the 10 shortlisted entries of The Daily Star's photo contest inPixel under the category "Rain".

PHOTO: MIRZA NAYEEM AHMED

## Teaching boys to respect females can resist child marriages

Prothom Alo-Brac roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Boys should be addressed and taught in schools as well as at family levels to treat women with respect, and that will be a fruitful measure to resist child marriages, said speakers at a roundtable in the capital yesterday.

The issue of addressing boys came up as inadequate social security had been cited by parents as one of the main reasons for marrying off their daughters before they reach 18, they said at the roundtable on "Safe Environment to Resist Child Marriage" organised by Brac and the daily Prothom Alo at the latter's Karwan Bazar office.

"When a boy grows up seeing his father beating his mother, he fails to act positively towards a female child," said Farzana Brownia, chairman and CEO of Swamokishori Network Foundation, a platform of empowered girls.

Abul Bashar Md Fakhruzzaman, upazila nirbahi officer of Keraniganj, mentioned how fami-

lies' firm stance in favour of child marriage often makes it difficult for them to resist such practices. "A lot of unregistered marriages take place in villages and unfortunately local representatives still issue false birth certificates," he said.

Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid, Bangladesh, stressed the need for parents' counseling and career counseling of young children.

Rasheda K Choudhury, executive director of Campaign for Popular Education, and Tania Nusrat Zaman, deputy chief of party, Plan International Bangladesh, both suggested scaling up of awareness programmes by the government and non-government bodies. "We should also stop aggression of harmful foreign culture in our media which do not teach us how to respect women," Rasheda said pointing to Hindi serials.

Sarah Hossain, honorary executive director of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, and Prof Sadeka Halim, who recently

assessed Brac's programme Meyeder Jonno Nirapod Nagorikotto (safe citizenship for girls) being implemented in 405 secondary schools of 13 districts, also spoke.

According to a study titled "Effectiveness of Social Protection Programme in Preventing Child Marriage" by Disaster Management Watch for Save the Children Bangladesh, parents consider the insecure social environment as the main rationale for child marriage. The research findings, disseminated at Cirdap building yesterday, showed that social safety net programmes, such as school stipend, have largely failed to create incentives among parents to delay marriage of their daughters.

Stipend covers less than 10 percent of the education cost of a child and the cash provided is inadequate and irregular, showed the research conducted in a union in Bhola in September 2015, on 224 households, where marriages took place between October 2014 and September 2015.

## Hajj agencies guilty of trafficking will not get chance next year

Says Religious Affairs Minister Motior Rahaman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hajj agencies found guilty of trafficking Bangladeshis in the name of Umrah will not be allowed to send pilgrims to Saudi Arabia next year, said Religious Affairs Minister Motior Rahaman yesterday.

He made the remark at a press briefing held at the secretariat in the capital after the Saudi government's announcement on Sunday to resume issuing Umrah visas for Bangladeshis ending a nine-month suspension on allegation of human trafficking.

Meanwhile, the ministry published in its website yesterday a list of 70 approved agencies for conducting Umrah in 2016.

Saudi Arabia stopped issuing Umrah visas for Bangladeshis on March 22 on charge human trafficking in the name of performing the holy ritual.

Later, the religious affairs ministry brought charges against 104 agencies and imposed different types of punishment, including cancelling licenses for trafficking 11,485 people.

## NEWS IN brief

### Death row convict OC dies at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Motijheel police officer-in-charge AKM Rafiqul Islam, who got capital punishment for killing a student, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital last night, aged 65.

Police could not identify the cause behind the death immediately. Sentu Chandra Das, assistant sub-inspector of DMCH police camp, said doctors declared him dead half an hour after he had been taken to the hospital following him feeling sick.

On July 20, 2011, a Dhaka court sentenced him and two others to death for killing Kamrul Islam Momin, a student of Dhaka Commerce College, over land dispute on September 13, 2005.

### Many child labourers involved in hazardous works in Savar: Survey

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Over half of the child labourers in the municipal and three unions of Savar upazila are involved in hazardous works, said a survey of Child Protection Monitoring Committee, and Village Education Resource Centre yesterday.

At a press conference at Savar Press Club, Md Abdul Halim, executive director of VERC, said a half of the 6,500 child labourers are working in cotton or packaging factories, automobile repair workshops, bakeries, and brick fields in Savar municipality, and Pathalia, Tetuljhora and Dhamsona unions.

### CU residential female students protest curfew

CU CORRESPONDENT

Some 200 resident students of Desnetri Begum Khaeda Zia Hall of Chittagong University yesterday staged a sit-in before the hall provost's room demanding cancellation of the university rule that does not allow the resident students entry to the female dormitory after 7:00pm.

They alleged that students who enter the hall after 7:00pm have to write their names in an exercise book, and the provost, Prof Jorina Akhter, insult them, sometimes also punish them. She also sent letters to the department heads of the late students. Prof Jorina could not be contacted despite several attempts.

### 4 law ministry officials promoted, another transferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The law ministry yesterday brought a change in the posts of its five high officials through promotion and posting.

The ministry has promoted Joint Secretary Mostafizur Rahman to the post of additional secretary and elevated its Deputy Secretaries Bikash Kumar Saha, Golam Sarwar and Umme Kulsum to the posts of joint secretary.

It also posted Additional District Judge Mahbubar Rahman Sarker to the post of deputy secretary, ministry sources said.

### Abdullah Shibli's book publication ceremony today

CITY DESK

Two books by columnist Dr Abdullah Shibli will be launched at a programme at Dhaka Ladies Club in Eskaton Gardens in the capital today at 6:00pm, said a press release.

The books are, "A Chance Encounter" -- a collection of short stories -- (Palok Publishers) and "Economics is Fun: Short Essays for the Masses" -- a collection of essays on International Economics, Environment, and Economic Development -- from The Daily Star (Jonantik). Finance Minister AMA Muhith is scheduled to be present.

### British High Commission, DFID closed Dec 24-27, US Embassy Dec 24

CITY DESK

The British High Commission in Dhaka, its office in Sylhet, and DFID Bangladesh will remain closed from December 24 to 27 for Christmas, said a press release.

Meanwhile, the US Embassy will be closed on December 24 in observance of Christmas, an American holiday, said another press release.

### Photojournalist robbed in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers snatched away valuables from a photojournalist of a national daily in the capital's Segunbagicha yesterday morning.

Sony Ramany of the New Age, who was on a rickshaw, was intercepted by around four armed muggers.

They looted a camera, a mobile phone, a memory card, and some other valuables worth around Tk 3.85 lakh from him, according to the statement of a case filed with Ramna Police Station.

### Army officers of Benin tragedy remembered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A meeting, commemorating the members of UN peace keeping mission of Bangladesh Army who died in an air crash in Benin 12 years ago, was held in the capital yesterday.

Coalition of Local NGOs Bangladesh held the programme, marking the 12th anniversary of the tragedy, at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

On December 24, 2003, 15 Bangladesh Army officers, who were on UN peacekeeping mission in Sierra Leone and Liberia, were killed in the air crash.

### Correction

The national judicial conference will be held in the capital on Saturday, December 26, 2015, aiming to reduce backlog of cases through digitisation, effective court administration and case management. The daylong conference will take place at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre. In a report published in The Daily Star yesterday, it was mistakenly written that the conference is scheduled for Sunday.



### Chittagong University of Engineering & Technology

Department of Disaster and Environmental Engineering

Postgraduate Admission 2015-16

for

### Master of Science in Disaster & Environmental Engineering

Applications are hereby invited from eligible candidates in prescribed form for admission into full time Master of Science in Disaster and Environmental Engineering Degree program at the Department of Disaster and Environmental Engineering, Chittagong University of Engineering & Technology (CUET) for Session 2015-2016 (6th Batch) subject to the following qualifications and conditions that all candidates

1. Must have at least one first class/first division (CGPA 3.0 out of 4.0) in any public examination.
2. Should have minimum CGPA 2.50 out of 4.0 or its equivalent in BSc Engineering in the relevant branch.
3. Must not have third division/class in any public examination.
4. Should submit a written research proposal.
5. Must have obtained a BSc Engineering Degree in Civil Engineering/ Civil and Environmental Engineering or in any relevant branch or an equivalent degree from any recognized University/Institution. The Equivalence Committee shall examine the equivalence and suitability of a candidate for admission.

Admission brochure and application form can be collected from the office of the Registrar, CUET during office hour or can be downloaded from the website [www.cuet.ac.bd](http://www.cuet.ac.bd) or [www.cuet.ac.bd/dee](http://www.cuet.ac.bd/dee) and the filled in application form is to be submitted in the same office directly/by post along with a Bank Draft/Pay Order of BDT 500 in favor of Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology, Sonali Bank, CUET Branch, Chittagong. Attested copies of certificates of all educational qualifications and transcripts, character certificate from the head of educational institute last attended, two (2) copies of attested passport size photographs along with filled in application form are to be submitted. Candidates in service must have to apply through the proper channel.

#### Important Dates

Application Deadline: January 07, 2016

Interview Date: January 21, 2016

Results for Eligible Candidates: January 26, 2016

Registrar (Additional Charge)  
CUET



The muck dug up from the gutter of the capital's Rokeya Sarani has remained on the road for two days and the piles are going back to the same place as those are yet to be removed by the city corporation. The photo was taken near IDB Bhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

### Rajuk starts giving approval for buildings online

FROM PAGE 3

Rajuk has eight zones covering a 1,528 sq km area.

Officials said people could apply for land use clearance, construction permits, and occupancy certificates. The applicants will be informed at every stage of the approval process with text messages on the mobile phone and email, and they will be able to appeal online if denied approval, said officials.

Mohammad Moinuddin Abdullah, secretary to the housing and public works ministry, asked Rajuk, "Ease the public service process instead of causing unnecessary hassles."

He called upon the officials to create a service-oriented environment, in which their next generation will get the same service without hassles.

"We have to create an environment, which would help us get the same service after we go on retirement," said the secretary.

Housing and Public Works Minister Mosharraf Hossain said many powerful people illegally were using residential buildings for commercial purposes.

"We have instructions from the top level for removal of such establishments," he said, adding, "Most of these violators are newspaper owners."