

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court

asked the returning officer concerned to allow Awami League's rebel mayor candidate Ahsan Habib Pranjol to contest in the Kachua municipality election in Chandpur.

Justice Md Imman Ali passed a "no order" on a petition filed by Nazmul Alam, the AL nominated mayor candidate, challenging the HC order.

Ahsan's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan and Nazmul's lawyer Abdul Baset Majumder told The Daily Star that now there was no legal bar to Ahsan contesting in the polls. Khurshid said the

returning officer of Chandpur cancelled Ahsan's nomination over concealing information about the number of cases filed against him. Ahsan in the affidavit

submitted to the returning officer mentioned that he



Projonmo '71, an organisation of the children of martyred intellectuals, demands passing of a "Liberation War Denial Act", from a human chain at the capital's Central Shaheed Minar yesterday, in the wake of BNP chief Khaleda Zia and party leader Goyeshwar Chandra Roy's comments about the martyrs of 1971.

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Rising violence creates doubt about fairness

SHUJAN says in pre-poll press conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the rise of violence ahead of tomorrow's municipality election, civil society organisation SHUJAN yesterday expressed doubts about whether the vote would be free, fair and transparent.

"Our Election Commission, which has huge power to take action against the people involved in violence, remains inactive. Their silence has had an impact on the rise of violence and created fear about a fair election,"

reads a statement of the Citizens for Good Governance (SHUJAN):

At a press conference at the capital's Mukti Bhaban, it said at least 50 incidents of violence occurred between December 7 and 26 while at least three persons were allegedly killed and 271 were injured in the incidents.

The statement said violence used to occur in the Election Day centring on the victory or defeat of contestants in the past but this time violence started in advance.

Apart of the constitution, the

Supreme Court has also given immense power to the EC; the commission can cancel any election if it deems it necessary, the statement

"But violence is increasing with the approach of the Election Day. In the last two days (December 26 and 27), at least 11 incidents of violence occurred. But we did not hear that the Election Commission took any strict action against anybody," it said.

Referring to the ruling party men's

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CHALLENGING LIBERATION WAR FACTS Martyrs' children also for

making it criminal offence Call for charging Khaleda, Goyeshwar with sedition

DU CORRESPONDENT

Condemning the outrageous remarks of BNP leader Goyeshwar Chandra Roy about martyred intellectuals and BNP chief Khaleda Zia's questioning of the number of martyrs in the Liberation War, Projonmo '71 demanded a "Liberation War Denial Act" immediately.

Projonmo '71, an organisation of martyrs' children, made the demand at a human chain at the Central Shaheed Minar, and also urged the government to file sedition cases against those who commented against the Liberation War and denied historical truths. They also urged the people to boycott Khaleda and her followers politically and

The BNP chief said on Monday, "There are controversies over how many people

were martyred in the Liberation War.

Chandra Roy described the 1971 martyred intellectuals as "anti-liberation elements" who "died like fools" and drew salaries from Pakistan till the war ended. Supporting Khaleda, he said, "As far as I know, there is a list of 2.76 lakh families of the martyred in the Liberation War affairs ministry. Then where did the remaining 27 lakh come from?*

Criticising the BNP chief, theatre personality Nasiruddin Yousuff said Khaleda should count the number of assassinated Pakistani army soldiers instead of the freedom fighters.

Martyred filmmaker Zahir Raihan's son Anol Raihan said Khaleda was trying to please Pakistan to go to power by making such comments. 'We have to boycott them in the national and local polls," he said. Asif Munier, son of Munier Chowdhury,

said, "They actually insulted a sovereign, independent country. The state must file a sedition case against them immediately."



The Buily Star

Verdict on Thursday

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Verdict of the blogger

Ahmed Rajib Haider murder case against the chief of militant group Ansarullah Bangla Team and seven former students of a private university will be delivered on Thursday. After completion of the

arguments from the prosecution and the defence, Judge Md Sayeed Ahmed of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-3 of Dhaka yesterday set the date for delivering the judg-During the yesterday's

hearing, the prosecution sought highest punishment for the accused for the killing while the defence sought acquittal of the accused. Earlier, the court recorded the statements of

35 prosecution witnesses, including Rajib's father, complainant of the case. Rajib, an activist of the Shahbagh movement demanding death penalty

for war criminals, was hacked to death in the capital's Pallabi on February 15, Earlier on March 18 this year, a Dhaka court framed charges against Ansarullah

Bangla Team Chief Mufti

Jasimuddin Rahmani and seven former students of the university. The seven are Redwanul Azad Rana, Md Faisal Bin Nayem alias Dweep. Maksudul Hasan alias Anik Md Ehsan Reza alias Rumman, Nayem Sikdar

alias Iraj, Nafis Imtiaz and Sadman Yasir Mahmud. Of them, Rana is on the run and the charge was framed against him in his absence. In the charge sheet, Rana was shown as the mastermind of the murder.

Earlier a gazette notification, issued by the law department of the home ministry on May 5 ordered the authorities concerned to send the Rajib murder case to the Speedy Trial Tribunal-3 of Dhaka for its quick

Govt college teachers can now apply for transfers online

UNB, Dhaha

Teachers of government colleges can apply online for transfers from next month, said Education Secretary M Sohrab Hossain, adding that the applications must be submitted within the fifth of every month.

A special committee will dispose of the applications on a rolling month basis.

The Directorate of the Secondary and Higher Education is the authority to transfer lecturers and assistant professors while the education ministry to transfer teachers of higher ranks.

Five Jamalpur war crime accused killed at least 17

Testify two prosecution witnesses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two prosecution witnesses in a case against eight alleged Jamalpur AL-Badr men over crimes against humanity yesterday testified hearing that five of them were involved in the killing of at least 17 people during the 1971 Liberation War.

The 15th and 16th witnesses, Malek Newaz and Mokhlesur Rahman, told International Crimes Tribunal-1 that they heard it from Mokhlesur's brother Saidur Rahman alias Sadhu Chairman who managed to escape and passed away last year.

Ashraf Hossain, Prof Sharif Ahammed, Abdul Mannan, Abdul Bari, Harun, Abul Hashem, Shamsul Haque and SM Yusuf Ali face five specific charges. The two witnesses implicated Ashraf, Sharif, Mannan, Bari and Yusuf.

Al-Badr men along with the Pakistani

occupation army entered Jamalpur's Moisha Bhaduria village on the night of July 7 and caught Malek's father Abdul Hamid, Shamsul Alam and Madhu and Sadhu and Hamid Khan of Baushi village, said the witnesses.

On the way to an Al-Badr training camp in Jamalpur Town, Shamsul and Madhu

were released, they said. One subedar of the camp released Abdul Hamid but Ashraf, Mannan, Sharif and Bari caught him from one Hazrat's house in Amlapara, shot him dead and threw the body in a river, said the two.

Mokhlesur's mother and sister-in-law went begged Yusuf to release Sadhu but to no avail, they said.

On July 22, the Pakistani army and Al-Badr members took around 16-17 people including Sadhu and Hamid Khan to a crematorium near the bank of the Brahmaputra



From left, Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman, Finance Minister AMA Muhith, and writer Syed Shamsul Haque with the copies of the book, "Jaleshwarir Jadukar", a compilation of writings on Haque's life and works, during its publication ceremony at Bangla Academy yesterday. The release of the book marks the 80th birth anniversary of the poet, novelist and playwright.

Jahangirnagar Univ burns

A bush set on fire near the Water Research Centre on Jahangirnagar University campus last week, in an attempt to clean the place.

IU CORRESPONDENT Disregarding the local ecology, at least

four bushy areas have been burnt on the Jahangimagar University campus in the last few days to keep places around roads and buildings clean.

The practice has been going on for a long time, but the administration denied they did it. A professor of environmental sci-

ence of the university, Khabir Uddin, said, "It will not only affect trees and animals but also damage land permanently, as micro-bacteria and other micro- components in the soil, which are must for land fertility, get

away animals like squirrel, bird, mon-

find their homes in the bushes.

shrubs hurting environ

The professor demanded immediate measures to stop such burning.

The bushes in front of AFM Kamal Uddin hall, north of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Hall, behind Al Biruni Hall, near the Water Research Centre, and the chemistry department were set on fire recently.

A university gardener was caught by some students while he set fire to a bush near the chemistry department

Hasan Al Mahmud, a second-year anthropology student, quoted the gardener as saying that officials asked him to set fire to the bush. He declined to name anyone.

them to do so.

friendly components have already been affected by the burning. Md Nurul Amin, acting officer of the estate office, denied its staff burnt those places even when he was told that a gardener said officials had asked

Prof Monawar Hossain, chairman

of the zoology department, said, "I

have personally met the estate office

officials expressing concern over the

issue, and it seems that the authorities

are not playing their due role to protect

butterfly fair on the campus, he said,

Butterflies, birds and other eco-

Also an organiser of the annual

its environment.

SM NAJMUS SAKIB

He said the burning would drive goose, lizard, and water monitor that

The JU campus is frequented by people for its rich biodiversity, which also attracts flocks of migratory birds

JU Registrar Abu Bakr Siddique said, "Prompt action must be taken after knowing who set the fire."