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AL NOMINATIONS IN UP POLLS MPs to have no role this time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League has decided to drop its lawmakers from the selection boards tasked with picking candidates for the forthcoming union parishad (UP) polls.

A meeting at the Gono Bhaban, with party president Sheikh Hasina in the chair, took the decision yesterday considering that some AL MPs had meddled in party's mayoral aspirants' selection in the just concluded municipality elections.

"We have brought a little change in the selection board for the union parishad polls. No local lawmaker will be there this time," AL Joint General Secretary Mahbul Alam Hanif told reporters after the meeting of party's selection board for local government polls.

Party's lone chairman candidate for a UP would first be selected by a committee comprising presidents and general secretaries of the AL committees in the respective district, upazila and UP, said meeting sources.

Later, the grassroots units would send the names to the central committee for the party president to give her final nod. In case the units fail to select any one, the central body itself will decide, added the sources.

Responding to a query, Hanif said this time there would be no scope for anyone to violate the party decision. All will have to work for the party-nominated candidates, he warned.

Another meeting participant, wishing not to be named, said, "During the recent municipality polls, the party had a bitter experience because of the role of some MPs. That's why we have decided to keep the lawmakers out of the selection process."

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



A Rajuk bulldozer removes an illegally-built ramp at the entrance to a house on Road# 3/2 in the capital's Gulshan-1 yesterday. Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha was out on a drive to clear roads and pavements of unauthorised structures there.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Drive goes on to stop misuse of parking lot

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajuk on the second day of a fortnight-long eviction drive yesterday recovered basement parking spaces of a dozen buildings and dismantled scores of access ramps built occupying footpaths and roads in Dhanmondi, Uttara, and Gulshan in the capital.

A mobile court fined super store Swapno on Green Road in Dhanmondi Tk 5 lakh for occupying basement car parking space for commercial use, said Rajuk Executive Magistrate Nasir Uddin, who led the drive in Dhanmondi.

It also sealed off Rasana Bilash restaurant for occupying footpath, he added.

In Uttara sector-1 and -3, a Rajuk eviction team carried out eviction drives at around 15 establishments, including Maple Leaf Hotel, Latif Imperial Shopping

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



Humans at risk of lethal 'own goal'

Says Hawking
BBC ONLINE

Humanity is at risk from a series of dangers of our own making, according to Prof Stephen Hawking.

Nuclear war, global warming and genetically-engineered viruses are among the scenarios which he singles out.

And he says that further progress in science and technology will create "new ways things can go wrong".

Prof Hawking is giving

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Iran supreme leader hails sanctions lift

Warns of US 'deceit'; freed Americans reunite with families after prisoner swap

AGENCIES

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei yesterday welcomed the lifting of international sanctions against Iran, but warned that Tehran should remain wary of its old enemy the United States.

State television reported that Khamenei wrote to President Hassan Rouhani to congratulate him on implementing the nuclear deal, which resulted in US, European Union and United Nations sanctions being lifted over the weekend.

In his first comments since the deal took effect, Iran's highest authority made clear that Washington should still be treated with suspicion. He made no mention of a surprise prisoner exchange that also took place this weekend.

"I reiterate the need to be vigilant about the deceit and treachery of arrogant countries, especially the United States, in this (nuclear) issue and other issues," Khamenei said.

"Be careful that the other side fully meets its commitments. The comments made by some American politicians in last two, three days are suspicious," he added.

Meanwhile, Americans freed by Iran over the weekend reunited with their families Monday at a US military base in Germany, but relatives of another hostage expressed serious disappointment he had not been released.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



'Plant backpack' to fight air pollution

AFP, The Hague

Five Dutch students have hit on a unique idea to replace face masks used against air pollution, and are developing a "plant backpack" to give wearers instant fresh air.

"The bag allows fine particles to be filtered out and cleans the air," said Marnix de Kroon, the leader of the team.

"The Plant Bag" is fitted with a filter which takes in the outside air and sifts it through the roots of a

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Writing judgment after retirement unconstitutional

Says chief justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some judges make unusual delays to write verdicts while others continue to write it even long after their retirement, which goes against the law and the constitution, Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha said yesterday.

He made the comment in a message on the occasion of the first anniversary of his taking office as the 21st chief justice of the country.

Supreme Court judges take oath of upholding laws and the constitution. But after retirement, a judge is not under oath anymore and is a common citizen then, the CJ noted.

Court documents are public documents. A judge after his retirement loses the rights to keep court documents in his possession, and prepare, review or sign verdicts, he said in the message available on the SC website.

He added he hoped judges would refrain from doing such unlawful activities, showing some respect for the law.

Sinha became chief justice on January 17 last year.

The Appellate Division of the SC disposed of 9,356 cases till November 30 since his appointment, he said.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

Refusal to allow search led to Rabbi incident: IG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque yesterday claimed that the refusal of the Bangladesh Bank official to be frisked and his involvement in an altercation with police led to the January 9 incident.

Speaking at a community policing event at Aminbazar on the outskirts of the capital, the IGP said preventing police from discharging their duties is a criminal offence, and a case could be lodged against the offender.

The police chief's statement came at a time when another police officer was closed yesterday over allegations that he asked for bribe from an NGO official and

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



LONGER IN TIME, COSTLIER TO BUILD: The Moghbazar-Mouchak Flyover will take one and half years more to complete and cost more now. The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council yesterday hiked the project cost by Tk 446 crore. The new finishing time is June 2017 from December 2015. Commuters will continue to endure the perennial gridlock in the area. The photo was taken in the city's New Eskaton Road yesterday. **PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN**

Pak suicide bombing kills 10

Five cops among the dead; Taliban claims responsibility

REUTERS, Peshawar

A suicide bomber blew himself up close to a police checkpoint in north-western Pakistan yesterday, killing at least 10 people and wounding more than 20, officials said.

The bomber rammed his motorcycle into a police vehicle next to the roadside checkpoint in the Jamrud area on the

edge of Pakistan's volatile Federally Administered Tribal Areas, local government official Munir Khan said.

"He was riding an explosives-laden motorcycle and hit the checkpoint and the vehicle of the line officer," Khan said.

Among the dead were at least five police officers including the line officer whose vehicle was targeted by the bomber, as well as a child and a local

journalist, officials said. TV footage showed the burnt-out remains of cars as rescue workers rushed to evacuate the wounded.

The Pakistani Taliban senior commander Maqbool Dawar claimed responsibility for the attack. He told Reuters it was revenge for what he alleged were the recent deaths of

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Reward for remitters

10 NRBs get CIP status
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday recognised 10 non-resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) as commercially important persons (CIPs) for their outstanding contribution to the economy by sending home remittances in 2014.

Nurul Islam, expatriates' welfare minister, handed over CIP cards along with certificates to the expatriates at a function in the city's Probashi Kalyan Bhaban.

The NRBs are Mohammed Mahtabur Rahman (Nasir), Mohammed Waliur Rahman and Abul Kalam, who live in the UAE;

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



PRAYER TIMING
JANUARY 20

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN	5-30	12-45	4-15	5-43	7-15
JAMAAT	6-05	1-15	4-30	5-47	7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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- The Last Date For Submission : 04.02.2016

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