

HC verdict on Kader Siddique's candidacy Feb 4

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday fixed February 4 for delivering verdict on a writ petition filed by Krishak Sramik Janata League President Abdul Kader Siddique challenging the legality of cancellation of his candidacy for Tangail-4 by-polls on charge of loan defaults. The HC bench of Justice Md Ashfaul Islam and Justice Zafar Ahmed set the date after hearing the petition.

The Election Commission (EC) on September 16 last year issued a notification fixing November 10 for the by-polls to the constituency that fell vacant following the resignation Awami League lawmaker Abdul Latif Siddique from parliament, and asked aspirants to submit nomination papers by October 11. On October 13, the returning officer cancelled Kader Siddique's nomination on loan default charges.

He filed an appeal with the EC against the decision, but the commission on October 18 rejected his appeal. He later filed the writ petition with the HC against the EC's decision.

On October 21, following his petition, the HC directed EC to accept his candidacy and also asked it and the government to explain why cancellation of his candidacy should not be declared illegal.

Following a government petition against the HC order, the Appellate Division on October 27 stayed the election till November 2.

The apex court on November 2 extended its stay order until the HC disposes of the rule and also asked the HC to dispose of it by January 31 this year.

Mirza Abbas denied bail again in arson cases

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again rejected bail of BNP standing committee member Mirza Abbas in two arson cases.

Of the case, one was filed with Paltan police on December 29, 2014 and another with Motijheel police on January 4 last year on charges of vandalising and setting fire to vehicles.

Judge Md kamrul Hossain Mollah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order after Abbas' lawyer move the petitions.

Earlier on January 6, Abbas was sent to jail after being denied bail following his surrender before two Dhaka courts, seeking bail in three separate cases.

Meanwhile, Judge Md Aminul Haque of the Special Judge Court-4 of Dhaka fixed February 22 for hearing on charge framing against Abbas and four others in a graft case filed by Anti Corruption Commission.

Children's

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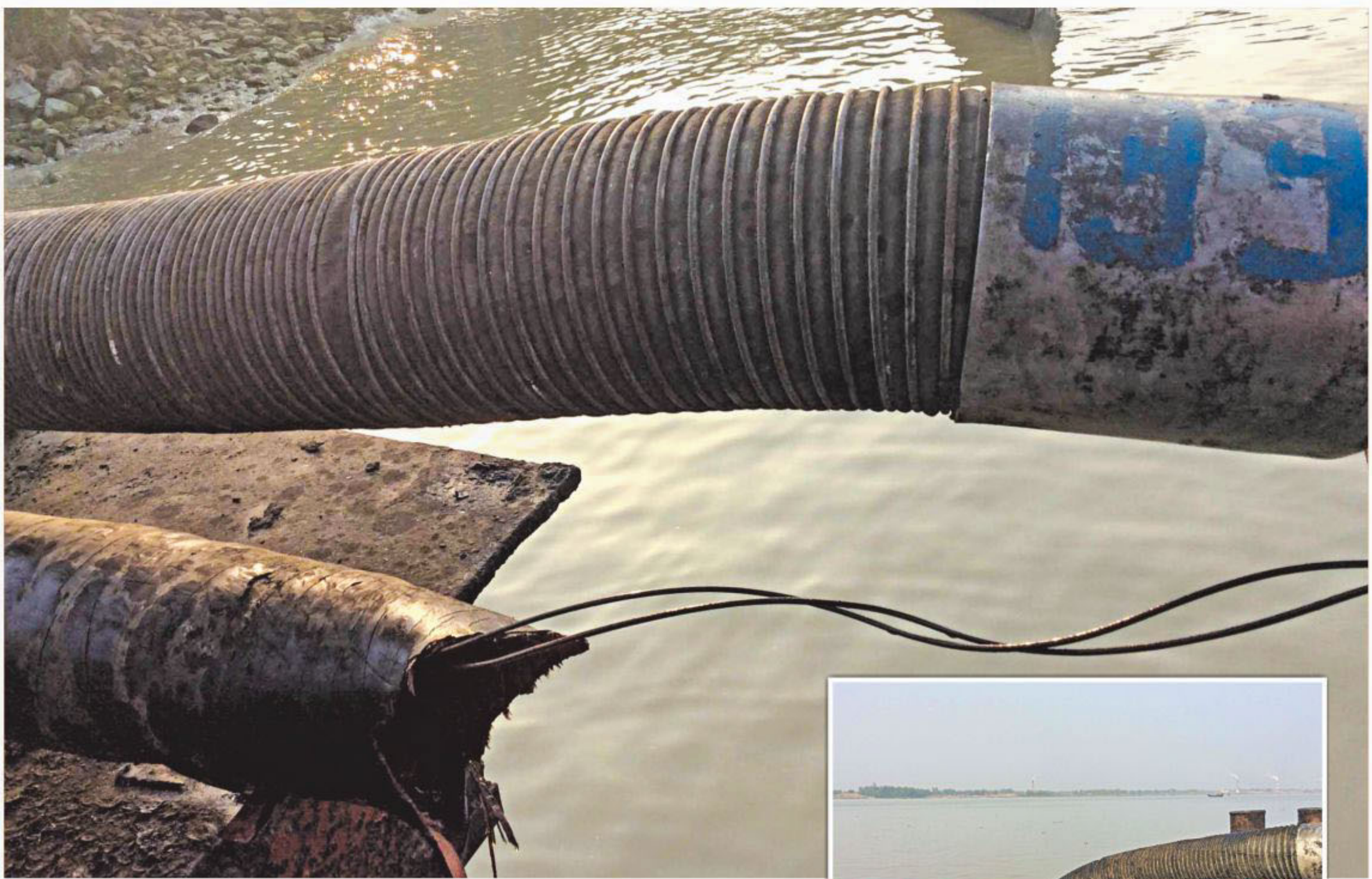
to parents, brothers, sisters and children, added Jalal.

The project's lead researcher, Associate Prof Syeda Rozana Rashid of DU's international relations (IR) department, said spending remittance on youths could ensure its sustainable use.

Amidst a lack of skill development opportunities, youths are not motivated by their career aspirations, she said.

Highlighting career goals through specific policies for youths at home and abroad was important, otherwise they cannot be motivated into taking up skill development training, she observed.

RMMRU founder chair Prof Tasneem Siddique, Prof Rashed Uz Zaman of DU's IR department and Senior Advisor for Strategic Planning at ULAB Prof Brian Shoemsmith also spoke.



An oil pipe snapped in the middle after a moving ship's anchor got entangled with a moored tanker's rope in Chittagong Port area yesterday, causing an oil spillage in the Karnaphuli river. Another discharge pipe, inset, was also broken in the incident.

PHOTO: MINHAJ UDDIN



GRAFT CASE HC order on Tarique's mother-in-law's pleas tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court will pass its order tomorrow on a writ petition praying for scraping the proceedings of a graft case against BNP leader Tarique Rahman's mother-in-law Syeda Iqbalmand Banu.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Amir Hossain yesterday fixed the date for passing order after hearing the petition filed by Banu.

The Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the case against Banu on January 30, 2014, for not submitting her wealth statements to it.

On January 26, Banu filed the petition with the HC praying to this court to quash the proceedings of the case and direct the ACC to issue a fresh notice asking her to submit her wealth statements, ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star.

Banu did not reply to ACC's notice of October 10, 2011, for submitting her wealth statements, saying that she had not received it, Khurshid added.

Unknown amount of palm oil spilled in Karnaphuli

During transfer from tanker to onshore tank due to snapping of pipes from an accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An undetermined amount of palm oil spilled into the Karnaphuli river yesterday after a moving tanker's anchor became entangled with a berthed one's mooring ropes, rocking the latter and ripping apart pipes through which the oil was being pumped from the latter into a tank on shore at Chittagong Port.

Banglar Shourabh of Bangladesh Shipping Corporation was being berthed at River Mooring 7 when its anchor got snagged around 2:45pm with the mooring ropes of Feng Hai 15 which were attached to buoys, said the port's radio control sources.

From the adjacent River Mooring 8, the Chinese-flagged tanker was being

unloaded of around 7,481 tonnes of palm oil brought from Indonesia, as per Qazi Abu Nayeem, general manager of the vessel's agent, Mohammadi Trading Company Limited (MTCL).

The duration of the discharge from the pipes, made of metal and rubber, remains to be known. A jetty was also damaged.

Requesting anonymity, an MTCL executive said 1,019 tonnes of palm oil was found in the tank on shore and they were yet to ascertain how much oil was left in the tanker.

Contacted over phone around 6:40pm, Chittagong Port Authority Board Member Jafar Alam said he had heard about the incident but could not provide details.

Cop robbed by doping gang

He was travelling to Dhaka from Gazipur by bus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A constable of Special Branch (SB) of police was robbed of gold rings, cash and two cellphones by a doping gang (Agyan Party) on a bus while he was travelling from Gazipur to Malibagh in the capital yesterday afternoon, police and family sources said.

Faruq Azam, 57, is posted in Gazipur, said Inspector Mozammel Haque, in-charge of Dhaka Medical College Hospital police camp.

The victim's son Al-Amin, who was along with his father, said they hailed from Kapasia in Gazipur.

As the bus was crowded he was standing in front of his father, who was sitting on a seat, but was pushed by a crowd to the other side on the bus, he said.

When they reached Moghbazar Wireless Gate area, he came to his father and found him reclining against the seat. Al-Amin asked, in vain, his father to get down, he said.

Some passengers told him that minutes ago his father drank coconut water offered by some passengers, he added.

Later, Al-Amin took his father to DMCH, where his stomach was washed. Faruq, however, did not regain consciousness till last evening.

Four held over killing of two Dhamrai schoolboys

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Detectives yesterday arrested four persons in the capital's Dhamrai in connection with the murder of two schoolboys after abduction.

They were being quizzed at Tangail DB office, said its officer-in-charge Mahfeez Rehman Gulam.

On Friday, the slit-throat bodies of Shakil Miah and Imran Hossain of Dhamrai Upazila were found at Moyur Bhanga village in Mirzapur upazila of Tangail, two days after their abduction.

The two boys went missing after they had gone to nearby Haria High School in Tangail to watch annual sports there. The abductors later demanded Tk 1 lakh to each of their families over the phone as ransom.

Govt resets target as prevalence still high

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In December last year, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) met in Colombo to finalise the Regional Action Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of All Forms of Child Labour in South Asia and set 2021 as the new target year.

The government has revised the national target accordingly, he said. "We need child friendly society to eliminate child labour and child marriage."

He also emphasised public awareness in this regard.

Tariq-Ul-Islam, secretary at Ministry of Social Welfare, recommended bringing families of child labourers under social safety nets to address the problem.

Cultural personality Dr Enamul Haque

underscored the need for self-reliance and activeness of individuals to stop hiring children for domestic work.

"We need to be modern and shed misconception. Some people see having child labourers at home as a status symbol," he said.

Speakers at the discussion urged the government to prepare rules of the Child Act 2013, and demanded a child desk and a child friendly police officer at every police station.

Country Director of Shapla Neer Yukiko Fujisaki, National Project Coordinator of ILO Syeda Munira Sultana, Advocacy Director of World Vision Chandan J Gomez, Executive Director of CSID Khandaker Jahurul Alam, and Advocacy Coordinator of World Vision Bangladesh Sabira Sultana also spoke.

SC upholds HC injunction on eviction of dwellers

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concerned to maintain status quo on eviction of the slum dwellers.

The HC also issued a rule asking the authorities to explain why the attempts for the eviction should not be declared illegal, he said, adding that subsequently, the HC in January 2007 stayed a government move to evict the residents from the slum until disposal of the rule.

Kamal Hossain said the authorities did not reply to the HC rule, but Mirpur police on January 19 this year picked up five residents and confined them till night and

asked them to leave the slum. On January 20, some residents were evicted from the slum violating the HC order, he added.

During hearing on the government petition yesterday, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told the SC that only 16 dwellers were now illegally staying in the slum as most of them were already evicted.

According to the writ petitioners, there are around 20,000 people in Kalyanpur Pora slum and many of them are women, children, garment workers and some freedom fighters.

NEWS IN brief

Rony admitted to DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Charge-sheeted accused Bakhtiar Alam Rony, son of ruling party lawmaker Pinu Khan, and accused of killing two people, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday noon with pains in back, confirms Jahangir Kabir, senior jail super of Dhaka Central Jail.

Rony was shifted to Dhaka Central Jail from Kashimpur Central Jail a week earlier due to illness. Rony allegedly shot from his licensed pistol from a black Toyota Prado, killing CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver Yakub Ali and rickshaw-puller Abdul Hakim on April 14 last year in the capital's Iskaton.

10-year-old girl 'raped' in Ashulia, 'rapist' arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A 10-year-old girl was allegedly raped in Aukpara Adorsho Gram of Ashulia, outside the capital, on Saturday night.

The victim was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital's One Stop Crisis Centre yesterday.

Police said the girl was raped at an abandoned house by Md Sujon of the area while she was returning home from her relative's house in nearby village.

Later, on information from the victim locals beat up the alleged rapist and handed him over to police. A case was filed.

Savar abducted boy rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Police rescued a boy yesterday from Jomita village of Singair in Manikganj 16 hours after his abduction from Savar.

Family members said Sabbir Ahmed, 7, son of Saudi Arabia expatriate Shihab Hosen was abducted from near his house at Vagolpur on Saturday evening. At night the abductors demanded Tk 10 lakh as ransom over the phone.

Following a general dairy police detained three of Sabbir's relatives including his uncles Alom Miah, and Kholil Miah, said police.

Later, Sabbir was rescued after locals saw him tied with rope inside a shallow machine house in Manikganj and informed police. The abductors fled earlier following police drives in the area, police added.

6 novels by Farzana Mitu published

CITY DESK

The publication ceremony of six novels by Farzana Mitu was held at the Public Library in the capital on Saturday, said a press release yesterday.

Eminent child litterateur and former Director General of Bangladesh Television Ali Imam unveiled the books as chief guest.

Vice-Chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) Prof Kamrul Hasan Khan and author and publisher Moynul Ahsan Saber were present there as special guests.

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