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## Bacchu, 27 bankers behind loan scam

56 organisations also involved, Muhith tells JS on BASIC Bank

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-seven bank officials, 56 organisations and eight surveyor firms were involved in the BASIC Bank loan scam, Finance Minister AMA Muhith told parliament yesterday.

Replying to lawmakers' queries, he said external audit firms appointed by Bangladesh Bank and BASIC Bank found involvement of Abdul Hye Bacchu, a former chairman of the state-owned bank, in granting irregular loans, recruitment and promotion.

The minister informed the House in details about the swindling of around Tk 4,500 crore in the bank.

Other officials involved in the scam are former BASIC Bank managing directors AKM Sajedur Rahman and Kazi Faqurul Islam, former additional managing director Sheikh Monjur Morshed, deputy managing directors Fazlus Sobhan and Kanak Kumar Purakayastha, suspended deputy managing director A Monayem Khan, deputy managing director M Selim, general managers Joynul Abedin Chowdhury, M Mozammel Hossain, M

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Children fetch water from the Wasa pump near Goran Chapra Mosque in the city yesterday. Residents of Goran, Mugda, Basabo and Madartek complain of stinky water supply for around two years. Many queue up at Wasa pumps for usable water early in the morning daily. The Wasa says leaks in supply lines due to illegal connections pollute the water. **Bottom left**, a girl, with bottles dangling from her shoulder, heading for the pump to fetch her day's supply. **A woman, right**, returns home with the precious commodity.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ



## Two 'Shibir men' held, 55 bombs seized

Police file case against the duo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday detained two alleged Shibir men and recovered 55 crude bombs and bomb-making materials from a flat at Mirpur in the capital.

The detainees are Shafi Uddin, 22, and Abdur Rahim, 20, said Shafiqur Rahman, inspector of Mirpur Police Station.

They are leaders of Dhaka College unit Shibir, he claimed.

Four hundred Jihadi books and explosive materials were also recovered from the flat in Dakkhin Pirebagh area around 7:30pm, the police official said.

Liton Sharif, an assistant sub-inspector of the station, said they raided the flat on a four-storey building on information and detained the two.

During primary interrogation, they said they came to the flat, owned by one Ali Hossain, to attend a meeting of Islami Chhatra Shibir, the officer said.

Other members of the pro-Jamaat student body left the flat before police reached there, he added.

Police filed a case against the two in this connection.

## Investigate further Court asks PBI on Pahela Baishakh sexual harassment

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) to further investigate the case filed in connection with sexual harassment of some women during the Pahela Baishakh celebrations on the Dhaka University campus last year.

Judge Jayasri Samaddar of the Third Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression passed the order, directing the PBI to submit a report by March 23.

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## BNP questions EC fairness in UP polls

25 AL candidates set to be elected chairman unopposed; no BNP candidate in 70 unions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday alleged that the government and the Election Commission are "working together" to hold the upcoming Union Parishad polls as per their will.

The party alleged that some 100 of its chairman aspirants faced obstruction from ruling Awami League men while filing their candidacy on Monday, but the EC did not take any action.

In response, Election Commissioner Zayed Ali said, "It is painful if anyone created obstruction for others in submitting nomination papers."

Some 25 AL-nominated chairman aspi-

licants are meanwhile set to be elected unopposed.

In the first phase, polls to 738 UPs would be held on March 22. The deadline for filing application expired on Monday.

For the first time in Bangladesh, elections to the post of chairman will be held in partisan lines and 16 political parties, out of 40, are contesting the polls.

Addressing a press briefing yesterday, BNP Joint Secretary General Rizvi Ahmed alleged that at least 100 of its chairman aspirants faced obstructions from AL men while filing nominations in different districts, including Bagerhat, Jhalakathi,

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## GATCO GRAFT CASE Khaleda asked to appear in court on April 13

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to appear before it on April 13 in connection with the Gatco graft case.

Judge Abu Ahmed Jomadar of Special Judge Court-3 passed the order after receiving copy of the High Court's February 15 verdict that had rejected two petitions filed by Khaleda challenging the legality of trial proceedings in the corruption case.

The HC had also

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## First food waste supermarket



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A charity has opened Denmark's first ever food surplus supermarket.

The store in capital city Copenhagen called WeFood will sell produce at prices 30 to 50 percent cheaper than normal supermarkets.

Per Bjerre from the NGO behind the market, Folkekirkens Nødhjælp, said: "WeFood is the first

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## PRIEST KILLING 3 suspects remanded

STAR REPORT

A Panchagarh court yesterday placed three suspects on remand in connection with two cases filed for the killing of a priest at Sri Sri Sonto Gaurio temple in Debiganj upazila.

Judge Marzia Khatun of the Cognisance Court-2 put the trio on 10-day remand each in the murder case. They were also remanded

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**PRAYER TIMING**  
FEBRUARY 24

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5-20 12-45 4-30 6-03 7-30  
JAMAAT 5-55 1-15 4-45 6-07 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Students of ASA University block part of Mirpur Road in front of their Shyamoli campus in the city yesterday protesting the death of a fellow student Riazuddin Tapu. The 26-year-old was killed Monday afternoon when a police vehicle going the wrong way ran him over on his motorcycle in Kakoli area of the city. The blockade snarled up traffic in the area for about two hours.

PHOTO: STAR

## 'Coming home'

Topu told his wife by phone minutes before being hit and killed by police vehicle plying wrong side of road

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The youth was quite popular among his peers.

His life was cut short after a police vehicle going the wrong way ran him over on his motorcycle in the city's Kakoli area on Monday.

The father of a four-month-old boy, Riazuddin Topu secured a job at a mobile phone company only two weeks ago.

The 26-year-old was returning to his Purbo Tejturibazar home after attending a company event at Radisson Blu Hotel, said his cousin Afsana Afroz.

"Topu called his wife around 3:00pm to inform her that he was on his way home," she added.

After hearing about the incident around 3:45pm, some family members rushed to Kurmitola General Hospital, only to find Topu dead.

The pillion passenger, a colleague of Topu, was also injured in the crash. Police had sent the two bikers to the hospital.

Meanwhile, protesting the death of Topu, a final year BBA student at ASA University, several hundred students of the institution blocked part of Mirpur Road in front of their Shyamoli campus yesterday. The demonstration obstructed traffic in the area for about two hours.

The agitating students demanded the government ensure exemplary punishment for those responsible for the



Riazuddin Topu