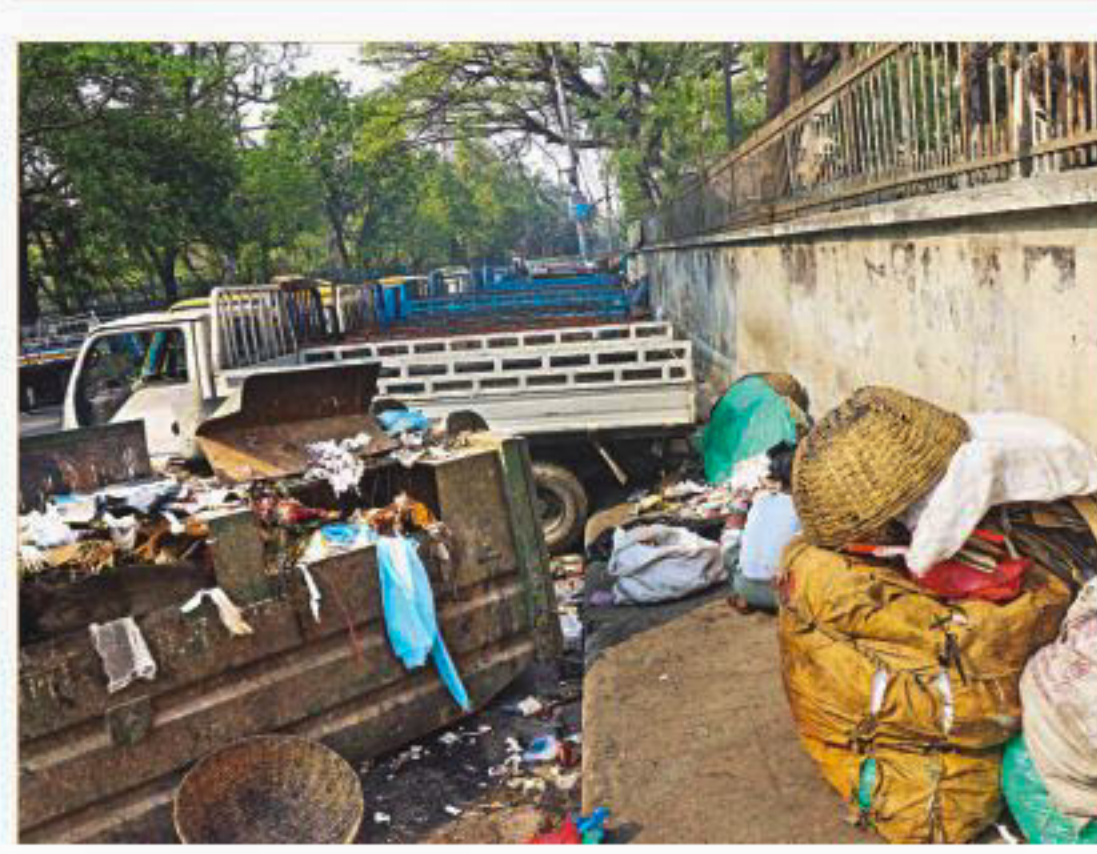




THANK YOU MR. MAYOR



A cleaning staff of Dhaka South City Corporation sweeping a pavement near the western entrance to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, which remained occupied by mini-trucks and sacks of garbage. The DSCC cleared the pavement for public use after The Daily Star yesterday published a photo of the spot, right.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

UP POLLS EC asks SPs to go tough on rules violation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission has asked superintendent of police of all districts to file cases against violators of electoral code of conduct during the upcoming union parishad polls.

The SPs have also been directed to intensify patrol of law enforcers to maintain law and order.

Except for police, the EC has ordered all the returning officers (ROs) to lodge cases against the candidates who have already broken the electoral code after necessary inquiry.

The EC sent two separate letters with the directives to the SPs and the ROs on Monday, EC officials told The Daily Star.

The ROs must beef up activities of "observation and monitoring" team to take action against violation of the electoral law, the EC said in one of its letters.

Elections to 732 union parishads will be held on March 22 in first phase, while around 643 unions on March 31 in the second phase and around 680 UPs in the third phase on April 23.

CASE AGAINST MP

Police on Tuesday filed a case against ruling AL lawmaker for Barguna-2 constituency Shawkat Hasanur Rahman Rimon for violating electoral codes.

Rimon on March 5 joined a public rally at a school playground in Barguna and inaugurated a building of Polli Bidyut. He also introduced some chairman and councillor aspirants for the upcoming UP polls and seek vote for them at the rally.

MPs and ministers are not allowed to join any election campaign, and the inauguration of any development project is prohibited in electoral areas, the electoral code says.

On March 13, the EC sent a letter to Barguna's SP, asking him to file a case against the MP.

Later, Abdul Kuddus, inspector (inquiry) of Betagi Police Station, filed the case with the district judicial magistrate court on Tuesday, and Judicial Magistrate Md Belal Hossain ordered police to investigate the incident.

Anyone breaching the electoral code can be fined Tk 10,000 or imprisoned for six months or both.

BANGLADESH BANK FUND HEIST

Filipino trader claims RCBC manager confessed to him

THE INQUIRER

Filipino businessman William So Go implicated Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC) branch manager Maia Santos-Deguito in the alleged scheme to launder \$81 million, saying she confessed she had done something wrong by opening an account in his name and even apologised for it.

It was an account in Go's name where the \$81 million in questionable funds was consolidated before being transferred to casino accounts. But he has denied owning the account.

Go, appearing before the Senate blue ribbon committee hearing yesterday, narrated his February 22 meeting with Deguito, facilitated by an East West Bank manager he identified as Allan Peñalosa.

It was Peñalosa who first invited him to a meeting and even asked him if he wanted to earn "200 million."

Peñalosa told him he could not explain it fully and then brought him to meet Deguito at Mary Grace restaurant in Serendra at Bonifacio Global City (BGC).

Go said that when he met Deguito, whom he had known when she used to be a manager at an East West Bank



Deguito

branch at BGC, she immediately apologised to him.

"Upon seating, she told me, 'Sir, I'm sorry. I did something wrong to you. I opened an account for you at RCBC,'" he recalled her as saying.

Go was surprised and asked her why she did that when he had no transaction with her and never gave her any directive to open such an account.

She apologised again and then told him a problem had arisen because a big amount entered the account.

"I was shocked," he said.

Deguito then narrated the scheme to him, telling him that the money came from Bangladesh and was transferred to the account that she had opened. The money then went through remittance firm Philrem Service Corp. and was converted to pesos.

He said he could not understand the whole scheme as he found it confusing, but told the RCBC manager to clear his name.

"I told her, I don't care about that, my demand is you clear my name," he said.

Deguito then asked for his help, telling him he would be given "10 million."

But he said he did not bite (the offer). "With the trouble you caused me, whatever damage that is, it's not worth being paid for it, even if it would be hundreds of millions," he recalled saying then.

Go has sought an explanation from RCBC and has asked the help of the National Bureau of Investigation in looking into the bogus RCBC accounts.

He said he just wanted to clear his name, since the controversy was affecting his source of livelihood.

Even his real bank accounts were included in the freeze order, he pointed out.

Sylhet court

FROM PAGE 1

Association, confirmed it to The Daily Star after obtaining a copy of the court order yesterday.

Earlier, three defamation cases were filed against the Star editor in Sylhet.

Meanwhile, a Khagrachhari court granted bail to Anam in a Tk 10 crore libel suit.

Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Rokeya Begum passed the order after Anam appeared before the court and sought bail yesterday.

The court set May 2 for the next hearing.

Advocates Nasir Uddin, Ashutosh Chakma and seven others represented the Star editor.

Khagrachhari Chhatra League President Teko Chakma filed the defamation case on February 15. The court

then asked Anam to appear before it.

It is one of the 79 lawsuits that have been filed against Anam in 53 districts since February 9. The cases include 17 pleas for bringing sedition charges against him. The complaints cite Tk 1,32,811 crore as losses incurred due to "defamation".

The case spree began after the editor at a TV talk show on February 3 made an introspective comment about a lapse in his editorial judgment in publishing some reports, based on information given by the Taskforce Interrogation Cell during the 2007-08 caretaker government rule, without being able to verify those independently.

The cases have drawn condemnation from local and foreign journalists and their unions as well as human rights bodies.

Confusion, panic order of the day

FROM PAGE 1

Quasem, who was the deputy governor-1, came to know about his removal through television news on Tuesday afternoon, but not through official channel.

As of yesterday evening, the BB did not receive any letter regarding his contract termination.

Quasem came to the BB in the morning and was there for two hours. Nazreen Sultana did not come at all.

Later through an internal arrangement, the BB decided that deputy governor-2 Abu Hena Mohammad Razee

ment of the outgoing governor.

Since 1972, eight governors came and went before Atiur took office on May 30, 2009. Every time, save for once in 1998, the new governor took office on the day or the day after his predecessor left office.

But Atiur's successor, Fazle Kabir, chairman of Sonali Bank and a former finance secretary who spent 34 years serving the government, was named on Tuesday. He is in the US now.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith told reporters yesterday that Kabir would return on March 18 and join the BB two

vent the cyber theft from the BB account with the New York Federal Reserve Bank. Hackers stole the money around midnight of February 5 by penetrating the BB system through a malware.

Quasem's tenure was due to end in August and Sultana's in July.

Atiur resigned four months before his scheduled retirement. In his farewell press conference on Tuesday, he said, "The exit could have been much better. If there were a farewell, the pains of the last seven years would have lessened to some extent."

Yesterday, he returned to teaching at the department of development studies of Dhaka University where he was a professor for three years before joining the BB.

CID STARTS PROBE

On the first day of its inquiry, the Criminal Investigation Department yesterday quizzed some central bank officials and collected various information from computers, reports UNB.

Briefing reporters at the CID headquarters, its Special Superintendent (organised crime) Abdullahel Baki said the information gathered from the officials and employees would be scrutinised to ascertain if anyone of them was involved in the heist.

The investigators, however, did not question the BB officials as suspects. They rather interrogated them to gain information that might help crack the case.

Three siblings found dead in B'baria

UNB, Brahmanbaria

Police recovered the bodies of three siblings from the Bemalia River in Nasiragar upazila of Brahmanbaria yesterday, a day after they had gone missing.

The victims were identified as Sultana, 7, Raja, 5, and Badsha, 4.

Contacted, MA Mannan, additional superintendent of police in the district, said they recovered the bodies but could not give further details immediately.

CYBER HEIST: TRAIL OF MONEY

FEB 8:

BB used SWIFT to alert the Fed and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp of the Philippines, Bank of New York Mellon, Citibank, Wells Fargo (New York), Pan Asia Banking Corp of Sri Lanka, when the system was

Five unauthorised SWIFT messages were sent against which \$101m were remitted to the Philippines and Sri Lanka. \$81m was sent to Rizal banking and \$20m was sent to Pan Asia Banking -- all from the Fed in New York.

On request from BB, Pan Asia cancelled the payment of \$20m to its beneficiary and routed the fund back to Bangladesh's account with the Fed in New York.

In Manila, Rizal bank received suspicious funds on Feb 5 and a stop payment order on Feb 8, a banking holiday in the Philippines because of the Chinese New Year celebrations.

FEB 9:

It appears that the bank manager allowed the withdrawal of the bulk of the funds on the morning of Feb 9 apparently without checking the stop order.



Hassan will work as the deputy governor-1. It was also decided that the files of the departments that were overseen by Quasem and Sultana would not reach the deputy governors and rather stay with executive directors of the respective departments.

However, the executive directors under the two deputy governors will not make any important decisions, said a BB official.

The departure of Atiur was also not in line with the BB history. Normally, irrespective of the political parties in power, a governor sees out his tenure even if there is any political changeover. Besides, a successor is named before the retire-

days later. A career bureaucrat, Kabir was appointed for four years, said a circular from the public administration ministry yesterday.

Coming down of sword on the chief of an organisation when something serious goes wrong is not uncommon globally.

But the removal of Quasem and Sultana came as a shock to their colleagues, a number of BB officials said.

Both of them heard the news on TV and had no clue as to what was happening.

The government decided to cancel their contracts for their "failure" to pre-



Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, also chairperson of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), meets Britain's Queen Elizabeth II at the Marlborough House in London on Tuesday. The Speaker apprised the Queen, also head of the Commonwealth, of the CPA activities and future plans.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Pak fireworks humble Tigers

FROM PAGE 1

where Bangladesh were playing for the first time in 26 years.

Bangladesh do have very good batsman like Tamim Iqbal, Soumya Sarkar, Sabbir Rahman, Mushfiqur Rahim, Shakib Al Hasan, Mahmudullah Riyad. Actually, there are many. But unfortunately Bangladesh still does not have the kind of batsman like Afridi, someone who on their day blows away anything and everything that comes in the way.

His innings made sure Pakistan posted a massive 201 for five, their second-best T20I score against Bangladesh. The wicket was an absolute belter and it was no surprise when Afridi won the toss and decided to bat. And Bangladesh, without their injured young pace bowler Mustafizur Rahman who was ruled out at the last moment on fitness grounds, lost the plot even before a ball was bowled.

Taskin Ahmed and Al-Amin Hossain are good bowlers. But they are not the kind of bowlers capable of delivering on a wicket where if you slightly err, you will be hit for four. Not only that, a good-length delivery can also turn into a boundary. So, it was no surprise when the Pakistan opening pair of Sharjeel Khan and Ahmed Shehzad produced 26 runs off 14 deliveries before Sharjeel was bowled by left-arm spinner Afrifat Sunny.

Shehzad and Mohammad Hafeez then added 95 runs for the second wicket before Shehzad was out for a 39-ball 54. But by the time he was out, it laid the foundation for Afridi to launch his attack. The hard-hitting batsman started his assault against his Bangladesh counterpart Mashrafe with two successive boundaries followed by a massive six over square leg. He then muscled Al-Amin over long, hit Shakib for a six and a four before hammering Taskin for two successive boundaries. He was within touching distance of scoring first fifty since his last in 2012 against Sri Lanka but was caught in the deep in the final over. But by that time Pakistan had put up a total that was more than enough for their first win against Bangladesh after five straight defeats in the shorter formats. It was a day on which nothing went right for the Tigers, starting from the toss that Mashrafe lost for a sixth straight time. The only highlight during Bangladesh's fielding was a stupendous catch at mid-wicket by Soumya. He reached high and plucked the ball out of thin air but as the momentum took him out of the boundary rope, he lobbed the ball inside and grabbed it again just on the edge.

It was an outstanding catch but it had little or no bearing on his confidence with the bat. The left-handed opener was out for a second ball duck, he was late in closing the face of the bat

against Mohammad Amir and was clean bowled. Tamim started cautiously and Sabbir looked good at the other end. But both the in-form batsmen perished while chasing that ever-increasing run-rate.

Mahmudullah Riyad tried too many things and it did not work, Mushfiqur Rahim stayed on the wicket for a while and Shakib Al Hasan stayed till the end for an unbeaten 40-ball 50. He got plenty of cheers from the Eden crowd, who actually consider him a hometown boy for his association with IPL franchise Kolkata Knight Riders.

The defeat against Pakistan is a blow for Bangladesh going into their next match against Australia at the Chinnaswami stadium in Bangalore on March 21. It was also heart-breaking for the strong contingent of Bangladesh fans, who travelled to Kolkata in big numbers anticipating a victory. It was disappointing, but when you are on the road, you will have to take it in your stride for a better tomorrow. It was just a game and the better team on the ground won.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN: 201 for 5 in 20 overs (Shehzad 52, Hafeez 64, Afridi 49; Taskin 2-32, Sunny 2-34, Sabbir 1-11) BANGLADESH: 146 for 6 in 20 overs (Tamim 24, Sabbir 25, Shakib 50 not out; Amir 2-27, Afridi 2-27) Result: Pakistan won by 55 runs. Player-of-the-match: Shahid Afridi