



## EC to meet JSD factions

To select one authorised person for issuing nominations  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission will discuss with both factions of the newly split Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal to choose an authorised person who will nominate the party's chairman candidates in the Union Parishad polls. "We have decided to ask both groups to appear before the commission for discussion," Election Commissioner Shah Nawaz told The Daily Star yesterday. The meeting will be held within two or three days, he said.

As per the rule, political parties willing to join the polls must inform the EC of their authorised persons, who will pick party candidates.

In the first and second phase UP polls, held on March 22 and March 31, JSD's then general secretary Sharif Nurul Ambia was the authorised person.

But the party, led by Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu, split into two following a feud over electing the party's general secretary in its national council on March 12.

In one faction, Inu and lawmaker Shirin Akhter are playing the roles of president and general secretary, while the other faction is led by Sharif Nurul Ambia and lawmaker Nazmul Haque Prodhan as president and general secretary.

Following the split, the factions sent the names of Shirin Akhter and Nazmul Haque Prodhan to the EC as authorised persons. Against the backdrop, the EC decided to talk to both factions.

In the first ever partisan UP polls, JSD-nominated chairman aspirants won in five UPs, according to EC's statistics. Election to 621 UPs is slated for April 23 in the third phase.



Bairan River, a tributary of Jamuna, is dying due to encroachment and siltation as influential people are building houses and offices by grabbing lands on its both sides. Now the river stays filled with garbage and water hyacinth. The photo was taken recently from a bridge near the Gopalpur upazila headquarters, once a flourishing trade centre, which is also losing its importance, due to the situation. PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL



## LABOUR LEADER AMINUL MURDER CASE

# His two organisations want re-investigation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Again rejecting the charge-sheet pressed by the criminal investigation department, two garment workers' organisations yesterday demanded re-investigation into murder of their leader Aminul Islam to bring the 'real' killers to book soon.

The Bangladesh Garments and Industrial Workers Federation (BGIWF) and Bangladesh Centre for Workers Solidarity (BCWS) at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity made the demand marking the fourth anniversary of the killing of Aminul.

Aminul, an organiser of BCWS and president of BGIWF for Savar and Ashulia area, went missing after he was taken away from his Ashulia office by his acquaintance Mustafizur Rahman on April 4, 2012. His body was found at Ghatail in Tangail a day later with several torture marks. According to the

autopsy report, the labour leader was beaten to death. Ghatail police and later Tangail detectives investigated the murder case.

Later, Fazlul Kabir, assistant superintendent of CID, pressed the charge-sheet on January 8, 2014 only against Mustafizur who is still on the run.

The speakers at the press conference said the 'real' killers were excluded in the charge sheet.

President of BGIWF Babul Akhter said at least three persons were directly involved in the murder and claimed that Mustafizur was a source of a director of an intelligence agency as well as some officials of DEPZ. So, without arresting these persons for interrogation, the investigation should not be considered as a completed one, said Babul.

Babul alleged that they submitted some allegations to the CID but it did not take it into its account in the investigation.

## Hindus, Muslims to converge at Pana Teertha today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Two events of the two biggest religious communities of the country, Muslims and Hindus, will be held at the same place in Sunamganj's Tahirpur upazila today.

The holy bathing of Baruni Snan and Orosh of sufi saint Pir Shah Arefin take place at Pana Teertha every year.

Pana Teertha is a pilgrimage for the Vaishnava sect of Hindus. According to the locals, every year in the Bengali month of Chaitra, Baruni Snan takes place at Pana Teertha, where Pir Shah Arefin also lived and preached Islam. Muslims gathered there at the saint's shrine.

The locals said the festivals promoted a communal harmony between Hindus, Muslims and people of other faiths.

Officer-in-Charge of Tahirpur Police Station Mohammad Shahidullah said police, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), and Ansar, along with volunteers, were ready to provide security on the occasion.

## JP terms it farcical

Demands re-vote in unions involved in controversy; EC describes some news reports and talk shows as misleading  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Jatiya Party yesterday termed the Union Parishad election farcical, while the Election Commission described some news reports and talk shows about the commission as misleading.

"The first and second phases of the Union Parishad elections were not free, fair and impartial, as voters' hopes and desires were not reflected in the election results," JP Co-Chairman GM Quader told a press conference at the party chief's Banani office.

The party demanded re-votes in the UPs in question. Asked whether JP will contest in the rest of the UP polls, Quader said the party would decide it after the end of the third phase UP elections scheduled for April 23.

He said around 10 JP men won in the UP chairman post in the first two phases, when election to 1,354 UPs was held. JP contested in around 350 UPs.

Quader said massive irregularities, violence and rigging had led to the party's bad results in the election.

Meanwhile, JP Secretary General Ruhul Amin Hwlader informed the media that the party's national council would be held on May 14 instead of April 14.

In the briefing, Quader said JP could not nominate its candidates in all UPs, as JP men expressed their unwillingness to contest, fearing reprisal by the Awami League men.

Besides, Quader said, JP chairman hopefuls in many UPs could not win due to the ruling party men's intimidation and muscle power. He added that JP's elected chairmen and leaders and activists came under attack in the post-election period.

On Monday, GM Quader told the media that it was better if the UP chairmen's names were published in a gazette instead of holding such a "farcical election". "People will lose their interest in the country's electoral system because of the way the local government elections are being held," he added.

EC'S CLAIM  
In a statement, the EC said, "It has been noticed that misleading discussions over the Election Commission are going on in some newspapers and TV talk shows."

The EC came up with the statement when it is facing huge criticism from media, civil society, political parties, election experts, and a cross-section of people for widespread irregularities and violence in the recent UP polls.

Newspapers and television channels reported the irregularities, while TV talk shows discussed those.

Election to 725 UPs was held on March 22 in the first phase and 639 UPs on March 31 in the second phase.

Widespread violence and irregularities marked both phases, killing at least 33 people and injuring over a thousand, according to media reports. The EC, however, claimed in its statement that it had taken all necessary measures to hold free and fair polls. It also sought cooperation from all to hold the next phases of UP polls in a "more acceptable" manner. It said the commission had suspended 11 cops and transferred three Upazila Nirbahi Officers and four officers-in-charge for negligence in duties in the last two phases of polls.

Mobile courts also jailed 12 persons and fined 130 persons over Tk 4 lakh for violation of the electoral code. Besides, a lawmaker was sued for violating electoral law.

Voting to 102 polling stations was suspended for irregularities and violence, the EC claimed. Election to 621 UPs is slated for April 23 in the third phase, 743 UPs on May 7 in the fourth phase and around 1,400 more UPs in two other phases till June.



Members of Bangladesh National Mahila Congress form a human chain in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday, demanding immediate arrest of Tonu's killers. PHOTO: STAR

## BCL men foil exam at CU

Demand permission for suspended co-activist to take it  
CU CORRESPONDENT

A 2nd year finals exam of Chittagong University's fine arts institute was postponed yesterday after two exam rooms were locked allegedly by some 30 Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists demanding that a suspended fellow be allowed to sit.

Mofazzal Haydar Mofa was suspended for one year on December 1, 2015 for his involvement in a BCL factional clash on

November 2, 2015, said a teacher of the institute, Pranab Mitra.

"Mofa and his fellows locked rooms 203 and 206," said Pranab, also an assistant proctor, adding that a written complaint would be filed with the proctor's office.

Mohammad Alamgir Tipu, president of the CU unit BCL, which has been dissolved recently, admitted that Mofazzal and his fellows had indeed locked the rooms. Mofazzal could not be contacted for comment.

## Obituary

BSS, Dhaka

Achinta Dasgupta, a development researcher, died due to respiratory complications at Bangladesh Medical College Hospital in the capital on Sunday. He was 66. He was cremated on Sunday night at Sabujbagh crematorium.

He also worked in Daily Ganokantha and the Daily People as a journalist. Later, he joined Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies.

## Section of

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times when they got bail from the court in other cases.

Physical conditions of Shawkat and Mahmudur have become very bad, as they have been suffering from various diseases and languishing in jail for a long period, they added.

The CJ's PS Anisur Rahman told The Daily Star yesterday afternoon that he will place the memorandum before the chief justice soon.

## Stick to April 10 deadline

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sewage to the CETP, he added.

Sobhan said for the CETP to be functional, it required waste, which could not form if the firms did not start production.

Prof Delowar Hossain, designer and consultant of the CETP, said out of the three Effluent Waste Pumping Stations, one was complete, through which 8,000 cubic metres of sewage could be collected.

"The equipment needed for the electricity connection is at the site. All that is needed now is installation of the switchboard," he said.

Tipu Sultan, managing director of Bengal Leather Complex and former chairman of Bangladesh Finished Leather, Leathergoods & Footwear Exporters' Association

(BFLLEA), said the assessment of gas supply required for the industrial units was going on.

"Many new factories are not getting gas, but the government promised to give us gas. We are doing the assessment and it would take about a month to get everything ready," he said, adding that shifting by April 10 was not realistic.

He referred to the "incomplete" CETP as one of the reasons for the delay in shifting.

Ironically, tanners do not use a CETP in Hazaribagh now.

When asked if the production of tanneries depends on CETP, Sultan said no. "But if we relocate there and dump the waste in the Dhaleshwari River, locals will attack us by blaming us for polluting Dhaleshwari after Buriganga."

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