



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addresses the flag-raising ceremony of nine units under 17 Infantry Division of Bangladesh Army at Jalalabad Cantonment in Sylhet yesterday.



PHOTO: BSS

MEET ON DIST COUNCIL POLLS AL should support honest aspirants

Urge Governance Advocacy Forum, Manusher Jonno Foundation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League (AL) should support efficient and honest chairman aspirants in the upcoming District Council elections to make the local government body more effective and dynamic, said rights activists and election experts yesterday.

As BNP and Jatiya Party have already announced to stay away, the polls have gone under the absolute control of AL. So, the party should back such candidates, who have both political and administrative leadership qualities to coordinate overall development activities, they said.

They were speaking at a views-exchange meeting titled "District Council Elections and Relevant Issues", organised by the Governance Advocacy Forum (GAF) with support from Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) in the capital's Cirdap auditorium.

The first-ever District Council elections will be held on December 28 in 61 districts.

Presenting a keynote paper, eminent local government expert Dr Tofail Ahmed said a District Council has to interact with 43 government bodies in discharging duties. Besides, the chairman has to coordinate with ministers, MPs, civil administration and other stakeholders, he said.

So, the chairman should have the leadership quality to maintain and meet all the duties and responsibilities properly, Tofail said.

Properties and lands of many District Councils are now illegally occupied by vested quarters. So, it will be one of the major challenges for the future chairmen to recover those properties, he said.

"We hope the District Council elections will introduce a

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

Stay alert to threats

PM asks army while addressing the force's event at Jalalabad Cantonment

UNB, Sylhet

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked Bangladesh Army to always remain ready to face any threat both from internal or external sources to protect the sacred constitution and sovereignty of the motherland.

The premier was addressing the flag-raising ceremony of nine units, including the newly-established headquarters of 11 Infantry Brigade, under 17 Infantry Division of the Bangladesh Army at Jalalabad Cantonment.

She raised the flags of the nine units under the 17 Infantry Division.

Hasina expressed her firm belief that each and every member of this newly formed brigade and units will work shoulder to shoulder to boost the strength of this division imbued with patriotism.

"Considering the overall security of the country, formation of a special force at brigade level is under the active consideration of the government," she said.

Hasina termed Bangladesh Army the asset of the country as well as a symbol of confidence and trust of people.

She asked the army personnel to perform their duties sincerely keeping the confidence in higher leadership, mutual trust, empathy, brotherhood, dutifulness, responsibility and above all maintaining discipline.

The prime minister said in the current tenure of the government, the training, arms, equipment and manpower of

Bangladesh Army has been upgraded in an unprecedented manner.

She said state of the art modern tanks, cannons, missile systems, anti-tank missiles as well as fighter planes and helicopters in army aviation have added new dimension to the army.

Besides, Hasina said, huge changes have been brought in the organisational structure of the army. A composite brigade has been formed for the construction of related infrastructure of the Padma bridge and its security, she added.

Hasina mentioned that work has started to constitute a riverine brigade in Mithamoin and said the government has given approval in principle to formation of an infantry division at Lebukhali Cantonment near the Payra river between Barisal and Patuakhali districts.

She said the government has constructed messes for the accommodation of soldiers of all ranks as well as built SM Barrack for them.

Earlier, the prime minister took salute from a smartly turned out contingent of the 17 Infantry Division of the army.

After the parade, she laid the foundation stones of eight projects, including division headquarters, at Sylhet Cantonment.

Earlier on her arrival at the venue, the prime minister was received by Army Chief General Abu Belal Mohammad Shafiul Huq and GOC of the 17 Infantry Division and area commander of Sylhet Area Maj Gen Anowarul Momen.

Hold credible NCC polls

President asks EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Abdul Hamid yesterday asked Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad to take all necessary measures for holding the upcoming Narayanganj City Corporation (NCC) and District Council elections in a fair and peaceful manner.

The president also instructed to maintain the law and order situation and ensure security for all the voters and candidates.

The directives came when the CEC paid a courtesy call at Bangabhaban, Joyal Abedin, press secretary to the president, told The Daily Star.

The NCC polls will be held on December 22 while the first-ever district council elections December 28.

Apart from discussing election issues, the CEC also invited the president to inaugurate the newly constructed Election Commission Secretariat in the capital's Agargaon at the end of December, said Joyal.

Male domestic help found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A male domestic help was found dead at the Bailey Road residence of the state minister for youth and sports in the capital yesterday morning.

Milon Tikadar's body, hanging from a ceiling fan, was first seen by another domestic help who shared a room with him, said Ramna Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Moshir Rahman.

The OC said the body had been brought down by the time police arrived around 7:00am to send it to the Dhaka Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

The 20-year-old's father Bijon Tikadar is a rickshaw-van puller in Poragachi village of Magura, said Sagor Saikat, a resident of the village who later took the body to Magura.

The state minister could not be reached for comment despite repeated attempts.

Bijon told a correspondent that Milon had been taken to doctors in the past for suicidal tendencies.

He said his son was a sentimental man who loved to cross-dress and had been working at the state minister's house for three years.

AIUB VC joins IAU confce

CITY DESK

American International University, Bangladesh (AIUB) Vice-Chancellor Dr Carmen Z Lamagna has joined the four-day 15th International Association of Universities (IAU) general conference recently in Chulalongkorn University in Thailand, says a press release.

Khamkheyali Sabha to begin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khamkheyali Sabha, a regular programme of Biswa Sahitya Kendra, will soon start a one-year study course on Rabindranath Tagore.



Language Movement veteran and Rabindra researcher Ahmad Rafique will be the adviser of the course, says a press release.

Mahmud Hashim, convener of Khamkheyali Sabha, will conduct the course.

Ahmad Rafique, Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam, Prof Shafi Ahmed, Dr Biswajit Ghosh, Dr Masuduzzaman, Jayanto Chattopadhyay, Rezwana Choudhury Bannya, Saadi Mohammad, Dr Israfil Shahin, Dr Abhra Bose from Visva Bharati in India, Dr Shoaib Jibrin, Dr Mohammad Azam, Kamaluddin Kabir and Azizur Rahman Tuhin will be the course teachers.

Forms for enrolling in the course can be collected and submitted at the Khamkheyali Sabha office at 20/B Gaus Nagar, New Eskaton every day from 4:00pm to 8:00pm till December 9.

Interested persons can contact over 01811459052 and 01921074207.



A large old tree with a hollow core puts passers-by at risk as its branches may break off at any moment. The photo was taken in the capital's Eskaton Garden recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



present

Bengal Classical Music Festival 2016

On the first Day
Come join the sojourn within

Dedicated to
Syed Shamsul Haq



Bengal Foundation

Supported by



BRAC BANK



Helpline +880 1616 111 888

24-28 November 2016, Army Stadium . Dhaka

Matters related to the event are subject to change without prior notice

Broadcast partner:  Media partner:  Medical partner:  Hospitality partner:  Strategic partner:  Event management:  In association with:      www.bengalclassicalmusicfest.com

BIJOY rakeen CITY

Country's First International Standard Gated Community



25th - 27th November, 2016
10:00am - 6:00pm
@ Bijoy Rakeen City
Plot: 1/2, Block: D, Sec: 15, Mirpur

01977 799100, 01977 799200, 01977 799300

Rakeen Development Company (BD) Ltd.
Dhaka Office: Bijoy Rakeen City, Plot: 1/2, Section: 15, Block: D, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216
Chittagong Office: C & F Tower (6th Floor), 1712 (New) Sk. Mujib Road, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong

Rakeen Home fest 2016

SPECIAL OFFER
Awaits You

www.rakeenbd.com
[facebook.com/rakeenbd](https://www.facebook.com/rakeenbd)