

# Chapainawabganj

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Local lawmaker Abdul Wadud was reportedly present as the chief guest at the programme.

Yesterday, the HC bench of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque and Justice Mohammad Ullah in a suo moto rule questioned the legality of the SP's comment.

In the rule, the court asked the respondents to explain within a week as to why legal action should not be taken against SP Mujahidul for provoking people to take the law into their own hands and to kill offenders without any trial.

Cabinet secretary, home secretary, law secretary, inspector general of police, deputy inspector general of police of Rajshahi range, deputy commissioner of Chapainawabganj and SP Mujahidul have been made respondents to the rule, Deputy Attorney General Tapas Kumar Biswas told The Daily Star.

He said the HC also asked the IGP to submit a report before the court after conducting an enquiry into the incident.

# 5-star banquet

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Lopburi has been laying on an annual feast -- part merit-making tradition and part unabashed tourist attraction -- for its monkeys since the late 1980s.

This year's feast featured a smorgasbord of fruit that was quickly demolished by the hungry guests who squawked and tussled as they gulped down their feast, much to the delight of a horde of distantly related human onlookers armed with cameras.

While Thailand is an overwhelmingly Buddhist nation, it has long assimilated Hindu traditions and lore from its pre-Buddhist era.

As a result monkeys are afforded a special place in Thai hearts thanks to the heroic Hindu monkey god Hanuman, who helped Rama rescue his beloved wife Sita from the clutches of an evil demon king.

But the inhabitants of Lopburi take their love for monkeys to a whole new level.

The festival takes place on the ruins of Phra Prang Sam Yot, an 800-year-old Khmer-era Hindu temple and one of the town's most striking landmarks.

"It's pretty awesome to see so many wild monkeys just roaming around the streets," said Amanda, a tourist from the United States.

"They were eating over there and lots of food to choose from and they were attacking each other and running around and jumping on people," she told AFP.

The regular feeding has left Lopburi's monkey population notoriously unafraid of humans.

"The monkeys are crazy," said Fang Xi, a 36-year-old sales manager from China.

"One of the monkeys wants to steal my hair clip and doesn't want to get off my shoulder. Two other girls were afraid and ran away."

# Reign of rhythms

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Pandit Samsi, who has performed as an accompanist more than any other artiste, showed his prowess as Pandit Banerjee, a fine tabla player in his own rights, matched him in finesse and clarity at breathtaking speeds.

Eminent Bangladeshi dancer Munmun Ahmed and her students of the Rewaz Performers' School opened the evening's proceedings with a thoroughly enthralling display of Kathak. The group displayed grace and speed as Munmun demonstrated various technicalities of the dance form in an engaging style. The performance included a *parmelu* or rhythm "bol" derived from natural sounds, demonstration of *pakhawaj bols* by dance, producing sounds of a train, various chakras on tehai, a solo piece set to a thumri "Mori Gagariya Kahe Ko Phodi", a *dru-talayaparan* and a *jugalbandi* between Munmun and her daughter Aporajita.

Tabla artiste Nilesh Ranadive then performed various *peshkar*, *chakra* and *rela*. He was followed by a vocal *khayal* performance by acclaimed singer Jayateerth Mevundi, who sang *khayal* in Raga *Shudh Kalyan* and finished on a Bhajan "Baaje Muraliya Baaje".

Acclaimed sisters Ranjani and Gayatri began a *Carnatic vocal jugalbandi* performance on Raga *Saraswati* as this report was being filed at half past midnight, with *sarod* by the accomplished Pandit Tejendra Narayan Majumdar and *khayal* by Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty, regarded as one of the greatest living Hindustani classical vocalists, were still to follow.

The five-day festival, presented by Square and supported by Brac Bank, with event management by Blues Communication, ends tonight.

More coverage of the festival on Arts & Entertainment page (Page 9).

# Khaleda

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She called upon the Myanmar government to stop the genocide immediately and take steps so that Rohingyas are not subjected to killing, eviction and persecution any more.

# Top tiers of admin

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secretaries have been promoted to the posts of joint secretary.

Besides, 205 senior assistant secretaries have been made deputy secretaries.

The public administration ministry issued separate gazette notifications to this effect.

Ministry sources said the names of another 33 officials would be published through gazettes later, as they are either abroad or on lien. The number of promoted officials would then stand at 569.

In May this year, 217 officials were promoted to the ranks of additional, joint and deputy secretaries. Earlier in June last year, the government promoted 873 officials to the three categories.

With the latest promotions, the number of additional secretaries is now 550 against 120 approved posts, that of joint secretaries 613 against 350 posts and that of deputy secretaries 1,480 against 830 posts.

The civil administration will see a further rise in the number of in-situ officials, and most of them would continue to do the same work but would enjoy additional perks.

An in-situ official is one who holds the same office and performs the same duties even after getting promoted.

Former secretary ASM Ali Kabir told The Daily Star that large-scale promotions would create indiscipline in the administration, as officials two to three times the approved number of posts are holding these positions.

"The government will have to spend extra money for them, but it won't get the desired output," he said.

Kabir noted that if the number of officials exceeds that of approved posts, it results in chaos in the administration.

"Officials become frustrated and fail to perform well, as they have to work in the same position despite having a higher rank."

Kabir suggested increasing the number of posts in upper tiers, elevating the positions of deputy commissioner and divisional commissioner to joint secretary and secretary, and limiting recruitment at the entry level.

Sources at the secretariat said the promotions have been given to ease commotion among the "deprived" officials, who were denied promotions several times.

Lobbying, recommendations by

powerful officials as well as political and personal consideration were the key factors behind picking the names for promotion, added the sources.

However, several officials told this correspondent that they were again "deprived" of promotion as in the past.

Many of those who got promoted yesterday expressed satisfaction. Some of them said their promotions were long overdue, and that they deserved it.

Talking to reporters, State Minister for Public Administration Ismat Ara Sadique said promotions were given to those who deserved. It would take time to give new postings to all the promoted officials.

Secretariat sources said officers of three batches were given preference for promotion. Most of those made additional secretaries are from the 1986 batch.

Similarly, the 11th and 21st batches of Bangladesh Civil Service got preference for getting promoted to the posts of joint and deputy secretaries.

Superior Selection Board (SSB), which deals with promotion of public servants, prepared a list of 1,886 officials for promotion -- 587 for the post of additional secretary, 570 for that of joint secretary and 729 for that of deputy secretary, added the sources.

### MORE PROMOTION IN THE OFFING

The SSB is reviewing a list of 270 officials of the 22nd batch, who are six months junior to the officials of 21st batch.

The officials of the 22nd batch are likely to be promoted within three months, said the sources.

Some of the officials told this correspondent that they have been lobbying with the public administration ministry for promotion overdue for three years.

**CHANGES IN PMO**  
Public Administration Senior Secretary Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury has been made principal secretary to the Prime Minister. Naser will replace Abul Kalam Azad whose appointment will end on December 1, reports UNB.

Azad has been made principal coordinator of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the Prime Minister's Office on a contractual basis for the next three years.

The public administration ministry yesterday issued circulars in this regard.

# Game shows

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The game will have total 21 episodes to be periodically released by Massive Star till 2021. All phases of the war will be covered by the time the last episode is brought out.

In the first episode, players will be able to play the roles of eight heroes in eight areas in 51 game levels.

The episode will cover the March-April period of the war, said Mahabub Alam, CEO of Massive Star.

People know the history of the war. But this game takes it to the next level by giving the players a feeling that he is participating in the war, he added.

"We developed this game for our next generation so that they get to know the real history of our liberation war," Mahabub pointed out.

The game does not boast of any impressive graphics, because of financial and human resource constraints. But it does put out scenes like Bangabandhu's March 7 speech delivered before the war broke out.

Mahabub said one cannot compare this game to popular PC games like Call of Duty with a budget of like \$250 million.

"But this is the beginning. As we are developing this game and will roll out new episodes, we believe we will be able to provide world-class graphics."

With a team of 10 programmers and extra graphic artists, the game company spent around two and a half years researching into the 1971 war and learning stories from freedom fighters to create the game.

"By 2021 when we will have rolled out all episodes, Massive Juddho 71 would become the world's biggest history-based game," Mahabub said.

The game will be released on website www.war71.com or www.juddho71.com. The demo version is now available on the website.

# Judgmen

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Mizanur Rahman and his wife Sheuli Rahman are currently on bail while the other three are still at large.

Judge M Atoar Rahman of Dhaka Drug Court will deliver the judgment at around 11:30am, court sources said.

During the trial, the court recorded statements of five prosecution witnesses including that of the complainant of the case.

From June to August 2009, 28 children died across the country of renal failures caused by the intake of paracetamol syrup and suspension manufactured by Rid Pharma.

On August 10 the same year, Shafiqul Islam, then superintendent of drug administration, filed the case against the accused with Dhaka Drug Court.

Four more cases were filed against them in Brahmanbaria, Comilla, Narayanganj and Sylhet.

# WhatsApp

FROM PAGE 1

ministry office yesterday.

These communication apps would continue operation as usual, she added.

On Friday, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission Chairman Shahjahan Mahmood said the communication apps were responsible for the decline in international call termination via the legal channel.

He also said the BTRC was going to develop guidelines for using these apps by two or three months.

Two years ago, the volume of daily incoming international voice calls was around 123 million minutes which currently came down to 70 to 80 million minutes, said the BTRC chief.

Not only illegal call termination through VoIP, but the extensive use of OTT [over-the-top] apps was also responsible for the decline in international call termination via the legal channel, he added.

Currently, there are six crore mobile internet users in the country and most of them use WhatsApp, Viber, WeChat and Imo for chatting, voice and video calls.

# Other countries

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"We have not closed the borders. We have certainly given shelter to some. But there are other countries which should also come forward and give shelter to the refugees. I have seen Rohingyas are getting shelter in China, India, Malaysia and in other countries," Ali said on the sidelines of screening of a documentary based on the atrocities perpetrated on Bangladeshis during its freedom struggle.

He said the Rohingya problem arose because Myanmar consistently calls them as Bangladeshis.

"So, the more you give shelter to them, the more difficult it becomes to repatriate them," Ali said.

Northern Rakhine, which is home to the mostly Bengali speaking Muslim Rohingya minority and borders Bangladesh, has been under military lockdown ever since surprise raids on border posts left nine police dead last month.

Human rights groups accuse the Myanmar army of abuses against the Rohingya minority, including killings, rapes and burning of homes.

# Govt urged to repeal

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Ranjan Karmakar, executive director of STEPS, a non-government organisation, said the provision was already in the Marriage Registration Act, and that there was no necessity for incorporating it in the proposed Child Marriage Restraint Act.

He suggested that the government eliminates the provision.

Praising the government's success in reducing maternal and infant mortality rate, UNFPA Representative in Bangladesh Argentina Matavel Piccin said those were possible because of the government's strong political will and leadership.

Possibly in five years, violence against women could be significantly reduced if there is strong political will, she noted.

Actor Jeetu Ahsan emphasised the need for ensuring speedy trial. "People want to see what happens to the criminal. If an example can be set, incidents of violence will decrease," he said.

Sheepa Hafiza, director of Brac's gender justice and diversity programme, gave the keynote presentation.

Quoting data from Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), she said about 80 percent women face violence from their husbands.

Sharmin Akter Shakila, a student, said teachers should play a more effective role in imparting social, ethical and moral lessons to male students. This could help eradicate the root cause of rising harassment and violence against girl children.

"Unfortunately, our education system fails to make us learn how to tackle issues of abuses by male students. So, it is very urgent to introduce teachings of ethics," she observed.

Muntaka Khan, another student, alleged that when girls are stalked, they hesitate to go to law enforcers as the police do not take the issue seriously.

Advocate Nina Goswami, senior deputy director (Legal Aid unit) of Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), said the government in the last two years had several meetings with rights organisations over keeping the special provision in the proposed act. But each time the organisations expressed worries over the provision's inclusion.

"We are concerned about possible dangers in the society if the government doesn't cancel the special provision in the proposed Child Marriage Restraint Act. Many guardians might take advantages of the provision ...," she observed.

Disagreeing with a recent survey report "The difficult path to equality for women police in Bangladesh" published by Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), Additional Superintendent of Police Rawshan Sadia Afroze said the findings of the report that 10 percent female police face sexual harassment were not substantiated.

# Osman family

FROM PAGE 1

Osmans for their role after the 2013 murder of Tanvir Mohammad Tawki, son of Narayanganj Gonojagoron Mancha Convener Rafiur Rabbi.

Local politicians and people say if the Osmans do not work for Ivy, the family members might face trouble in the coming days.

In the 2011 mayoral polls, Ivy defeated AL-backed Shamim by one lakh vote though the city was known to be the stronghold of the Osman brothers, whose grandfather Khan Shaheb Osman Ali was a founding member of the AL.

Mayor Ivy, daughter of reputed AL leader Ali Ahmed Chunka, has initiated some measures -- especially those against crime and corruption -- which led to a rise in her popularity, locals say.

This mayoral election, scheduled for December 22, will be held under party banners and it is likely to see major politicking out in the open as well as behind the scene.

Shamim had successfully manipulated local unit of the AL not to include Ivy's name in a three-member panel.

All the three were pro-Osmans. The panel was submitted to the party high command. But the AL Parliamentary Board led by Hasina picked Ivy, who will now contest the polls with the party's electoral symbol "boat".

On November 20, a member of the Osman family said they were likely to submit nomination paper for the mayoral race.

"Either Parvin Osman [wife of late Jatiya Party MP Nasim Osman] or I might file nomination paper to fight for the mayoral post," Salim Osman, a Jatiya Party lawmaker from Narayanganj-5, told The Daily Star on November 20.

But none from the family filed the paper.

"Osman family's vote bank will not be a factor for Ivy. She has become the leader of the masses of Narayanganj and people expect democratic behaviour from Shamim Osman," Abdur Rahaman, general secretary of Narayanganj Nagorik Committee, told this newspaper.

### WHAT WAS URGED

- Scarp provision for underage girls getting married
- Ensure strong vigilance of law enforcement agencies
- Ensure strong vigilance of local administration
- Strong political leadership to eradicate gender-based violence
- Withdrawal of reservation on articles 2 and 16 from CEDAW
- Social movement to eradicate violence against women
- More effective role of the media
- Inclusion of religious clerics in raising awareness

"Every month, we organise awareness meetings with female police members on the harassment issue. We are doing better," Rawshan, also deputy director (academic) at Police Staff College, said.

Farida Yeasmin, deputy police commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Woman Support and Investigation Division, said victims of different forms of violence face severe problems in the society and many of them suffer from psychological trauma.

"Trial processes take long time due to medical and police reports ... We need to stand against all forms of violence," she added.

Lawmaker Quazi Rosy and The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam, among others, spoke at the programme moderated by Salehuddin Ahmed, adjunct professor of Brac University.

# Ctg cop held

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under by supervision," said Mansoor. Our Cox's Bazar correspondent adds: Border Guard Bangladesh yesterday seized five lakh yaba pills, worth around Tk 15 crore, from a trawler in the Naf river of Teknaf upazila.

Abu Russell Siddiqui, additional director of 2 BGB Battalion in Teknaf, said a BGB team took position in Alugolla Project area, acting on a tip-off that a trawler with yaba tablets from neighbouring Myanmar would be heading towards Bangladesh early in the morning.

Sensing presence of the BGB members around 4:00am, the yaba traders opened fire. The BGB members then returned fire. At one stage, the traders fled, leaving the trawler.

The BGB members then searched the trawler and found the pills.

Rahaman also said the Osman family's political defeat was already sealed after the murder of seven people, including Narayanganj city panel mayor Nazrul Islam and senior lawyer Chandan Sarkar, and the killing of Tanvir Mohammad Tawki.

Besides, Shyamal Kanti Bhakta, headmaster of Piyar Sattar Latif High School in Bandar area, was beaten up by a mob and made to squat holding his earlobes in the presence of Salim Osman, Shamim's elder brother.

Sunil Kumar Saha, a small entrepreneur in the city, said, "Ivy is ahead in the election race and it does not really matter what Osman family will do for her.

"But as Sheikh Hasina asked the Osman family to work for Ivy, they have to follow the order. Otherwise, the Osmans will face trouble next time in getting the party blessing."

On Saturday, asked whether he will work for Ivy, Shamim said, "We will work for the party symbol despite my limitations as a lawmaker."

Ivy said Awami League has a vote bank in Narayanganj and she hoped that all the party leaders will work together for the party's win.

Abdul Hai, president of Narayanganj district AL, said the Osman family has some influence here, but following the prime minister's instruction, all will work together for "boat".

Meanwhile, Ivy held a meeting with the AL central leaders at the party president's Dhanmondi office yesterday noon.

In the meeting, Ivy said she would go to local lawmaker Shamim Osman to seek his support in the upcoming Narayanganj City Corporation election, said meeting sources.

"My visit may be helpful or not...but I will go," an AL leader quoted Ivy as saying.

AL central leaders told Ivy that they would remain active during the polls campaign to ensure that Shamim Osman works for Ivy.

"The Awami League candidate must win the polls if we are united in the party," an AL leader told The Daily Star.