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# A gala feast indeed!

Joypurhat AL man feeds 30,000 to keep 'UP polls pledge'; four schools were shut for 3 days

KONGKON KARMAKER, from Dinajpur

More than 30,000 people had a feast yesterday in Akkelpur upazila of Joypurhat held by a local leader of the ruling Awami League.

The host, Ziaul Haque Zia, convenor of Akkelpur upazila Krishak League, said he had organised the programme to keep his promise made last year when he aspired to contest Rukindipur union parishad chairman post. He, however, could not join the race as he failed to get party ticket.

Politicians of the AL and other parties, government and non government officials, journalists of Joypurhat and traders were among the invitees, said Zia, who was a member of Rukindipur UP.

People of Akkelpur upazila said Monjurul Haque, elder brother of Zia and an audit officer of the education ministry, provided the fund.

"He [Monjurul] either wants to help his brother make a political ground or he himself plans to step into politics," said a party man of Akkelpur upazila.

When the organisers were gearing up for the feast on 30 acres of land, four adjacent primary schools -- Awalgari Government Primary School, Paschim Awalgari Government Primary School, Roar Government Primary School and Bhandaripara Government Primary School -- remained shut from Sunday. They have nearly 1,300 students.

Cooking for the feast began at Roar village in Akkelpur upazila on Monday afternoon.

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A local ruling party leader hosts a feast for more than 30,000 people on 30 acres in Akkelpur of Joypurhat yesterday. Preparations were elaborate. Cooks had been brought in from as far as Bogra and thousands of fish, left, bought. Four nearby primary schools had to be closed for three days as preparations for the feast started almost a week ago.



PHOTO: STAR

## GAIBANDHA ATTACK HC accepts probe report

Sets Feb 7 for passing order

STAR REPORT

The High Court yesterday accepted a probe report prepared by the chief judicial magistrate of Gaibandha over the incident of setting fire to Santal houses during an eviction drive in Gobindaganj upazila on November 6 last year.

The HC bench of Justice Obaidul Hassan and Justice Krishna Devnath fixed February 7 for passing an order on the report that found some police personnel and locals guilty of torching houses of indigenous people.

The court also asked the officials concerned of the HC to supply a copy of the investigation report to the writ petitioner who sought necessary order over the incident.

Chief Judicial Magistrate of Gaibandha Mohammad Shahidullah submitted the report to the Supreme Court's registrar office on Sunday.

Deputy Attorney General Motahar

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## DEAD IN THE DOCK ICT asks IGP, SP to explain 'negligence'

The two must answer by February 16

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday asked the IGP and SP of Mymensingh to explain police's "blatant inefficiency and negligence" in communicating timely the death of a fugitive war crimes accused, which led to his indictment after death.

Mymensingh Superintendent of Police Syed Nurul Islam was summoned before the tribunal on February 16 with a written explanation on his negligence and inaction regarding the matter.

The inspector general of police was asked to explain in writing the cause of delay and negligence found in executing a warrant issued by the tribunal for the arrest of the accused.

Justice Md Shahinur Islam and Justice Md Shohrwardi passed the orders following a plea moved by prosecutors Rana Dasgupta and Hrishikesh Saha.

Fugitive accused Wazuddin, of Mymensingh's Phulbaria upazila, died of "old-age complications" on May 7 last year.

But police didn't inform the tribunal of the matter until January 12 after a media report brought the matter to the fore.

The "unusual delay and negligence on part of the superintendent of police" in informing the tribunal of Wazuddin's death led it to frame charges against him in absentia since the prosecution, on the basis of an earlier police report, pressed formal charges identifying him as a fugitive.

On January 11 this year, a private TV channel ran a report that more than

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## Abbas flies in today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas arrives in Dhaka today on a three-day visit aiming to further strengthen bilateral relations through more diverse and meaningful engagements, particularly in the field of trade and commerce.



He is coming to Bangladesh at the invitation of President Abdul Hamid, according to an official announcement of the foreign ministry issued yesterday.

This is the first official visit of the Palestine president to Bangladesh. Earlier, he made a brief stopover in Dhaka in February last year on his way to Japan from Jordan.

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## Hawks on a plane! Saudi prince buys tickets for his 80 birds of prey

MAIL ONLINE



It's difficult to even contemplate transporting 80 birds of prey on a plane - unless you're a Saudi prince and can hire the vehicle out.

It appears one has done just that after a picture emerged online of dozens of 'hawks' perched among passengers on a jet.

The image was posted on reddit by user 'lensoo', who said it had been 'sent to them by a captain friend'.

The user said 80 'hawks' had been brought onto the plane with their wings tied so they could not fly around.

The birds are believed to be on a Qatar Airways

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## Saraswati Puja today

UNB, Dhaka

Saraswati Puja, one of the main religious festivals of the Hindu community, is being celebrated in the country today.

Every year, the puja is celebrated on the fifth day of the bright fortnight of the month of Magh as Goddess Saraswati was born on this day. The day is called

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**PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 1**  
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5-30 12-45 4-15 5-52 7-15  
JAMAAT 6-05 1-15 4-30 5-56 7-45  
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Book stalls are being built and CCTV cameras, inset, are being installed in and around the Bangla Academy yesterday where the month-long Amar Ekushey Book Mela is set to begin today.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Beware of 'hurting religious sentiment'

DMP boss warns writers, publishers over titles to be sold at Ekushey book fair beginning today

STAR REPORT

Police yesterday set off panic among writers and publishers by warning of legal action for selling books that could "hurt religious sentiment, incite communal violence and civic rights".

"Plainclothes police officials will monitor if any such books are displayed. Actions will be taken against the authors and publishers if such books are found," Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia said.

The month-long Ekushey book fair begins on Bangla Academy premises and

Suhrawardy Udyan today.

Asaduzzaman said it was primarily the responsibility of the authors and the publishers to review whether their books contained any such elements. Later, Bangla Academy, the organising authority of the fair, will scrutinise the books.

Asked if this is an attack on free-thinking, the DMP chief said, "We are not against free-thinking. But if someone hurts anyone's religious sentiment and instigates communal violence, that does not fall in the category of free-thinking. We will take action for any offence in line with the law."

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**বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

বিমান বন্দরের সার্বিক নিরাপত্তার স্বার্থে যাত্রী সাধারণের জ্ঞাতার্থে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, সম্মানিত যাত্রীগণকে বিমান বন্দরে প্রবেশকালে কোন প্রকার আসল (Real) ছুরি, কাঁচি, দা, বটি, তরবারী এবং এ ধরনের ধারালো দ্রব্যাদি লাগেজে বহন করিতে নিষেধ করা হইল। বিমান বন্দরে কর্মরত কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারীদের জন্য ইহা প্রযোজ্য হইবে।

সিএবি/পিআর-১৫৬/২০১৭/৫৯  
তারিখঃ ৩০/০১/২০১৭খ্রিঃ

আদেশক্রমে  
বাংলাদেশ বেসামরিক বিমান চলাচল কর্তৃপক্ষ

জিডি-২৫৫