



Ex-bureaucrat may head EC

Search panel to suggest 10 names, including two for CEC; names likely to be finalised on Monday

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA and PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The six-member search committee is likely to propose the names of two former bureaucrats for the post of chief election commissioner of the next Election Commission.

For the four posts of commissioners, the search panel would recommend eight names of persons with different professional backgrounds. Some of them may come from the civil administration, the judiciary and defence services, one of the panel members told The Daily Star yesterday on condition of anonymity.

"In any polls, election officials need to have control over field-level administration. Bureaucrats have experience needed to do the job of election officials because they work at upazila, district and division levels," said the panel member.

In 2012, two ex-bureaucrats -- Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed, former parliament secretary, and Ali Imam Majumder, former cabinet secretary -- were recommended for the post of CEC by the then search panel.

The then president Zillur Rahman later formed a five-member EC headed by Rakibuddin.

This time, almost all major political parties have proposed names of former bureaucrats for the post of CEC, according to unverified sources.

According to an official, the panel is likely to finalise the 10 names on Monday and present those to the president the following day.

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Kids have fun while browsing books at an Ekushey Boi Mela stall on Bangla Academy premises during "Shishu Prahar" yesterday. "Shishu Prahar" is part of the day, from 11:00am to 1:00pm, dedicated to children.

PHOTO: STAR

SIRAJGANJ AL CLASH Journos dies from bullet wounds

Mayor's shotgun seized; victim's grandmother dies from shock

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A journalist, who was hit by stray bullets during a ruling Awami League infighting in Shahzadpur upazila of Sirajganj on Thursday, died yesterday.

Abdul Hakim Shimul, 40, Shahzadpur correspondent of the Daily Samakal, died on his way to Dhaka around 1:00pm, said Miraz Uddin Ahmed, superintendent of police in Sirajganj.

Shimul was being shifted from Shahid Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital in Bogra. However, his condition deteriorated on his way. He was rushed to Sirajganj's Sakhat Memorial Hospital where doctors declared him dead, said the SP.

The journalist's 90-year-old grandmother, Rokeya Begum, could not bear the shocking news and had a heart attack, said the family members.

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8 killed as truck rams crowd

Tragedy strikes at Khagrachhari funeral gathering; driver's assistant was at wheel

STAR REPORT

At least eight people were killed and as many injured as a truck helper, filling in for the driver, lost control over the wheel and ploughed through a crowd in Alutila of Khagrachhari yesterday.

The accident occurred around 10:30am near Alutila tourist spot on Chittagong-Khagrachhari road where thousands gathered to attend a funeral of a Buddhist monk, said witnesses and police.

Police arrested the helper, Mohammad Sumon, and seized the stone-laden truck, said Tareq Mohammad Abdul Hanan, officer-in-charge of Khagrachhari Police Station.

The dead are Naimra Marma, her daughter Tuntuni Marma, Uchinu Marma, Satoai Pru Marma, Ucraching Marma, Pulu Marma, Bobby Marma and Angkyaching Marma.

Uchinu and Angkyaching were candidates for the ongoing SSC examinations.

The helper during primary interrogation told police that the truck was heading for Khagrachhari from Sylhet carrying the stone with the driver, Polash, riding the vehicle all the way until Jaliapara, 20km from Khagrachhari town, said OC Tareq.

But Polash got down there to go home, and Sumon then took the wheel, he said.

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Khulna Jubo League leader killed in bomb, gun attack

A CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A union level Jubo League leader was killed in a bomb and gun attack in Khulna's Phultala upazila last night.

Deceased Jony Mollah, 30, was the vice-president of Sadar Union Jubo League, a pro-Awami League youth organisation, in the upazila.

Asaduzzaman, officer-in-charge of Phultala Police Station, said Jony was chatting to his friends in front of Tarun Sangha Club near his Dhakuria village home around 7:30pm.

Suddenly, some criminals attacked him with bombs and firing shots, leaving him injured, the OC told The Daily Star.

Jony was rushed to the upazila health complex

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UN accuses Myanmar of ethnic cleansing

Says forces committed mass killings, systematic gang rapes of Rohingyas which probably amounts to crimes against humanity

REUTERS, Geneva

Myanmar's security forces have committed mass killings and gang rapes of Rohingya Muslims and burned their villages since October in a campaign that probably amounts to crimes against humanity and possibly "ethnic cleansing", the UN human rights office said on Friday.

Witnesses had testified to "the killing of babies, toddlers, children, women and elderly; opening fire at people fleeing; burning of entire villages; massive detention; massive and systematic rape and sexual violence; deliberate destruction of food and sources of food", the report said.

One woman told UN investigators how her eight-month baby boy had had his throat slit. Another was raped by soldiers and saw her five-year-old daughter killed as she tried to stop them.

"The devastating cruelty to which these Rohingya children have been subjected is

unbearable," UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad al Hussein said in a statement.

Around 66,000 people have fled from the Muslim-majority northern part of Rakhine State to Bangladesh since Myanmar's military launched a security operation in response to attacks on police border posts on Oct 9, the UN report said. The UN humanitarian office has recently put the figure at 69,000.

"The 'area clearance operations' have likely resulted in hundreds of deaths," some of them through helicopters shooting at villages and dropping grenades on them, the UN report said.

Four UN investigators gathered testimony last month from 220 Rohingya victims and witnesses who fled the "lockdown area" in Maungdaw in Rakhine for the Cox's Bazar district in Bangladesh.

Nearly half reported a family member had been killed or disappeared while 101 women reported having been raped or subjected to sexual violence, it said.

The investigators took evidence including

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TOP QUOTE

"The Government of Myanmar must immediately halt these grave human rights violations against its own people, instead of continuing to deny they have occurred."

UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ZEID BIN RA'AD AL-HUSSEIN ABOUT ROHINGYA PERSECUTION IN MYANMAR



Police and people gather near a truck which ploughed through a crowd losing control at Alutila in Khagrachhari yesterday morning. The accident left eight people dead. Inset, one of the injured receives treatment at Khagrachhari District Hospital.

PHOTO: STAR

Walking on Students Chandpur AL leader suspended

STAR REPORT

The Chandpur Awami League leader, who drew widespread criticism for walking on a "human bridge" made by school-children, has been suspended from the party.

The AL has also issued a show-cause notice to Nur Hossain Patwary asking why he would not be expelled from the party permanently.

AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader said this while talking to reporters after inaugurating a bridge in Munshiganj yesterday.

He said administrative actions would be taken against those involved in the incident, no matter how influential they are. Besides, the party would also take action.

"It was an immediate directive and action from Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina," said Obaidul, the road transport and bridges minister.

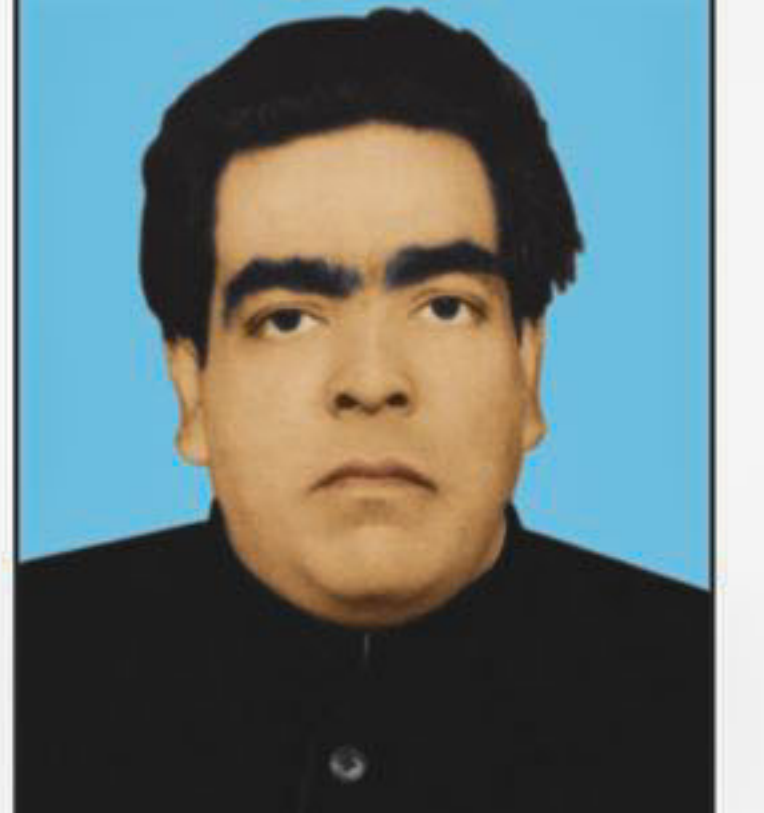
A picture of the Haimchar upazila chairman walking over a "human bridge" formed by students of Nilkomal Osmania High School during the annual sports

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39th Death Anniversary

(Abul Company) The founder of Abul Khair Group noted industrialist and social worker

Late Janab ABUL KHAIR



Death: 4th February, 1978

In accordance with the will of Almighty Allah the Beneficent, you left this mundane world, leaving us and many of your relations overwhelmed by grief. In our everyday life your bright ideals serve as beacon. You are immortal in your death. We pray to Almighty Allah for the salvation of your departed soul.

May Allah the Beneficent bless you with the eternal bliss of paradise. Ameen.

Your loving Sons, Daughters and Relatives.