

Gazipur mayor to resume office: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The High Court yesterday cleared the way for BNP-backed Gazipur City Corporation Mayor MA Mannan to resume discharging his duties. The court stayed for six months a government order suspending Mannan from his position and also issued a rule asking the government to explain in four weeks why its order should not be declared illegal. The HC came up with the order and rule after hearing a writ petition filed by GCC Mannan challenging the suspension order. Mannan's lawyer Advocate M Masud Rana told The Daily Star that there is no legal bar for his client to take the charge of GCC mayor following the HC order. The LGRD ministry on April 18 last year for the second time suspended Mannan after a Gazipur court accepted a charge sheet against him in a

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FF FARUK MURDER Lawmaker Rana gets bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The High Court yesterday granted bail to Tangail's Awami League lawmaker Amanur Rahman Khan Rana in freedom fighter Faruk Ahmed murder case, clearing the way for his release. Earlier, the court had denied him bail in the same case for four times on different reasons. Yesterday, the HC granted ad-interim bail to Rana and also issued a rule asking the government to explain why Rana should not be granted regular bail in this case. Rana's lawyer Advocate Rusho Mostafa told The Daily Star that there is no legal bar to his client's release from jail following the HC order. Meanwhile, Deputy Attorney General Shaikh AKM Moniruzzmana Kabir told this correspondent that the government will move an appeal before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court for staying the HC order. The bullet-hit body of freedom fighter Faruk, also a district AL leader of Tangail, was found on January 18, 2013. Later, a murder case was filed.



Cultural organisation Bangladesh Udichi Shilpigosthi forms a human chain in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday, protesting fundamentalists' campaign against Pahela Baishakh, the largest Bangalee festival.



RAUDHA'S DEATH Case transferred to CID

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi
The murder case of Maldivian medical student and model Raudha Athif was transferred to the Criminal Investigation Department yesterday. Tanveer Haider Chowdhury, deputy commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police, said police headquarters in Dhaka faxed the order in the afternoon. Raudha, 21, a second-year student of Islami Bank Medical College in Rajshahi, was found dead in her dormitory room on March 29. On the same day, Rajshahi police filed an unnatural death case with Shah Makhdam Police Station and later, assigned Inspector Rashidul Islam of the Detective Branch to investigate the case. Police inquest and autopsy reports ruled that Raudha "committed suicide". But, her father Mohamed Athif rejected the reports and filed the murder case with a Rajshahi court against one of her classmates on Monday. Inspector Anwar Ali Tuhin of the police station, who began investigating into the murder case, met

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BDR CARNAGE CASE HC verdict any day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The High Court will deliver a verdict any day on the death reference and appeals in BDR carnage case, as it yesterday concluded hearings. A three-member special bench of Justice Md Shawkat Hossain, Justice Md Abu Zafor Siddique and Justice Nazrul Islam Talukder also rejected three appeals filed by the government on April 2 seeking tougher punishment for a total of 589 people, who were either acquitted or given imprisonment in different terms by the lower court. Deputy Attorney General AKM Zahid Sarwar Kazal told The Daily Star that the HC rejected the appeals as those were filed long after the lower court judgement. Seventy-four people, including 57 army officials, were massacred during the BDR mutiny on February 25-26 in 2009 at the Pikhana headquarters of the paramilitary force, later renamed Border Guard Bangladesh.

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Dakkhinkhan lacks all civic amenities

Inhabitants tell discussion on DAP
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Residents of Dakkhinkhan union, located on the north eastern fringes of the capital, urged city planners to include all basic amenities including modern drainage and sewer system and wider roads for the area in the upcoming detailed area plan (DAP) of Dhaka. Chairman and councillors representing 5.5 lakh inhabitants of the union said this yesterday at a public discussion on the proposed new DAP. Rajdhani Unnyan Karttripkha (Rajuk) organised the programme at Dakkhinkhan Union Parishad. There is no public playground or any solid waste management facility in 22 square kilometres of area under four wards in the union, said SM Tofazzal Hossain, chairman of the union. Under the new DAP, the main four thoroughfares of the union should be widened to 80 feet while the internal roads, nearly 400 in total, to 35 feet, he said, adding that once the main roads are widened, all utility services and an underground storm drainage system can easily be accommodated. With khas lands and private lands still unoccupied by permanent structures, there is a scope of including at least one playground, park, kitchen market, graveyard and community centre in each ward under the DAP, Tofazzal said. Ashraful Islam, project director of DAP, said they have been organising the public discussions in order to involve locals so their ideas in development works can be adopted while, at the same time, official development plans can be conveyed to the locals. With the current DAP expiring its 15-year term in 2015 without having implemented most of its key recommendations on conservation of wetlands and flood flow zones, Rajuk embarked on adopting yet another 20-year detailed plan in March 2015 for the period 2016-2035. The new DAP might be completed by December of 2018, Ashraful said.

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RAMNA BLAST CASE HC yet to end death reference hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The High Court has yet to conclude hearing on the death reference and appeals in the sensational Ramna Batamul carnage case, though it started the hearing on January 8. The court on February 22 adjourned the hearing, as it was set to hear concluding arguments from Attorney General Mahbubey Alam on the matter, since placing arguments by both the state and defence counsels have already been finished. The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Shahidul Karim postponed the attorney general's hearing arguments as more time has been sought on behalf of him in this regard. A Dhaka court on June 23, 2014 handed down death penalty to eight militants of Harkat-ul-Jihad (Hujji), including its chief Mufti Abdul Hannan, for killing 10 people in the attack on the Chhayanaut function during Pahela Baishakh celebrations at Ramna Batamul in 2001.

House help run over by DSCC truck

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A woman was killed as a Dhaka South City Corporation truck hit her while she was crossing a road in the capital's Sutrapur area yesterday. The deceased, Smrity, 30, used to work as a house help in the area, police said. Around 2:00pm, the truck hit her on Patla Khan Lane, leaving her critically injured, said OC KM Ashraf of Sutrapur Police Station. She was rushed to DMCH where doctors declared her dead. Ataur Rahman, executive officer (zone-4) of DSCC, said they demolished several illegal structures in Ward-43 yesterday. The day labourers who took part in the drive were returning on the vehicle that hit the woman.

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