

Journalist Razu released on bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Ahmed Razu, a journalist of an online news portal, who was arrested by police on Sunday, was released on bail yesterday. In the afternoon, Razu, executive editor of Natunsomoy.com, was released on bail by Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Mahmudul Hasan and Raihanul Islam. TM Abdullah Al Fuad, assistant director of Walton Group's law wing, filed a case on April 29 with Ramna Police Station under Section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act. The company alleged that Razu and two others, including the news portal's editor Shaghat Hossain Bablu, published two news reports against its mobile division for tarnishing the image of the company. Later, another official of Walton Group filed an extortion case against Razu and the news portal's editor with Paltan Police Station. Razu was placed on a one-day remand each in both the cases. Talking to The Daily Star, Razu said, "The company filed the cases on purpose. Their intention was to harass me, and their allegations were false and fabricated." About publishing news against the company, he said, "The reports published on the news portal were evidence-based, where Walton mobile users' opinion was incorporated." He also said marketing division of the news portal used to ask different companies for advertisements, and the Walton Group was approached the same way, which cannot be termed extortion. After the arrest of Razu under Section-57 of ICT Act, leaders of different journalist forums expressed deep condemnation, and demanded his immediate release and abolition of the section.

UNDERAGE MARRIAGE UNDER 'SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES' Youths fear misuse of law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT The special provision of Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017, which allows underage marriage under "special circumstances", might be misused and therefore it should be scrapped, said youths at a roundtable yesterday. They said parents in rural areas have a tendency to marry their daughters off at early ages with fake birth certificates or reissuing a new one with false information. Even the marriage registrars administer marriages with these certificates without any verification. The roundtable was organised by two youth platforms, Young Change Makers Coalition (YCMC) in Bangladesh and Youth for Change (Y4C), at The Daily Star Centre in the capital. The youths demanded that the government ensure their participation while preparing rules for the



Participants at the roundtable.

"But why should girls be married off in such situation? Don't we have other options? The special provision should be scrapped for the betterment of the girls," she said. Speaking as chief guest, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque said the scope of misusing the act's special provision was increased when it allowed guardians, in absence of parents, to marry off their girls. He urged the government to specify the age limit of marriage under the special provision. Sheepa Hafiza, executive director of Ain o Salish Kendra; Tania Nusrat Zaman, head of child rights and protection at Plan International Bangladesh; Sharmeela Rasool, chief technical advisor of UNDP; Aisha Akter Keya, national panel member of Y4C; and youth activists of different districts also spoke.

act, which was passed by the government in the parliament on February 27. Amid protests from rights groups at home and abroad, the government kept the controversial special provision intact, allowing parents or guardians to marry off girls or boys before they reach the minimum marriageable age, 18 and 21 respectively, with permission from the court. Renaissance Alam, a YCMC member from Sirajganj, said according to the draft rules of the act, child marriage will be allowed through the special provision if a girl does not have parents or guardians left.

Free speech increasingly

FROM PAGE 3 Commenting on the report, Tahmina Rahman, director of ARTICLE 19 for Bangladesh and South Asia, said the state must take steps to "create a safe and enabling environment for journalists and activists to carry out their work, and take measures to ensure their security and protection in line with Bangladesh's obligations under UN Human Rights Council Resolution..." She urged the government to ensure prompt and effective investigations into all violations against journalists to bring an end to impunity; repeal section 57 of the ICT Act to bring it in line with international standards; and drop all cases against journalists and online activists under this provision. REPEAL SECTION 57 Meanwhile, a group of senior journalists yesterday demanded repealing of section 57 of ICT Act in order to stop its misuse. "There may be different opinions over a report of a journalist, but arresting him or taking him to court directly, is not acceptable in a democratic society," said Farida Yasmin, general secretary of Jatiya Press

Club at a seminar at Jatiya Press Club. Jatiya Press Club in association with MRDI and FOJO: Media Institute organised the seminar, marking Press Freedom Day. Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, president of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, said when the government formulated the act incorporating section 57, it assured that the section would not be misused. But now the section is being misused. Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu, however, said the instigators and the ones that provide distorted or false information are now under pressure, not the media or journalists. Editor of the daily Samakal Golam Sarwar urged the government to bring all cases related to killing of journalists under Speedy Trial Act. Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, information adviser to the prime minister; Matiur Rahman, editor and publisher of the daily Prothom Alo; Shyamal Dutta, editor of the daily Bhorer Kagaj, also spoke at the programme that was presided over by Muhammad Shafiqur Rahman, president of Jatiya Press Club.

Flood-hit haor farmers to get fresh loans

Muhith tells JS STAFF CORRESPONDENT The government is taking steps to disburse fresh loans among farmers affected by flashfloods in Haor areas, Finance Minister AMA Muhith told parliament yesterday. In reply to lawmakers' queries, he said, different steps, including rescheduling of farmer loans, disbursement of fresh agriculture loans and disposal of certificate cases SEE PAGE 5 COL 6

NEWS IN brief

100 bullets found in Ctg pond STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg Detectives recovered around 100 bullets of .22 bore pistol from a pond known as Ranir Dighi in Kotwali area of Chittagong city yesterday afternoon. Some local boys first found the bullets in a plastic packet while bathing there. A general diary would be Man dies as train hits him in Jessore OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole A brick trader died as a train ran him over when he was talking on the mobile phone and walking on rail tracks at Santala in Sadar upazila of Jessore yesterday morning. The body of Jalal Dafader, 45, son of Mohar Dafader of Churamon Khathi village, was sent to Jessore Medical

Muggers kill auto-rickshaw driver

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj Muggers stabbed a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver to death and injured a passenger in Narayanganj's Arahazar upazila early yesterday. The deceased was Dalim Mia, 30, of the upazila. Shah Ali, 30, a fish trader, was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Muggers waylaid the Dhaka-bound auto-rickshaw in Jhaugora area and made the attack,

Comilla mayor seeks

FROM PAGE 3 against the mayor and his wife on January 7, 2008, for their alleged involvement in amassing Tk 4.57 crore illegally and concealing wealth statement of Tk 1.12 crore. Later, they got bail from the HC on different dates. A Dhaka court on April 18 this year accepted the charge sheet in the corruption case filed against Shakoo and also issued the arrest warrant against him in connection with the case.

Proposed digital security act HC releases

FROM PAGE 3 The law minister said he and the US envoy had discussed over separate issues including ensuring global security and issues relating to strengthening ties between the two countries. Replying to a question, Anisul Huq said the government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina would ensure the freedom of expression, and would never stop the free flow of information. The cabinet in August last year approved a draft law titled "Digital Security Act 2016" proposing punishment of up to life imprisonment for spreading negative propaganda through digital devices against the Liberation War of 1971 and the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. An offender could also face a fine of Tk 1 crore, in place of life imprisonment, or both for committing the offence and the punish-

ment would be the same for anyone patronising the offender, according to the proposed law. The draft law, however, doesn't clarify which acts would be considered as propaganda against the Liberation War and Bangabandhu. Yesterday, the law minister said those who had been implicated under the Section 57 of the ICT Act would get justice. Replying to another question involving the Global Financial Integrity (GFI) report that said Bangladesh has lost between \$6 billion and \$9 billion to illicit money outflows in 2014, Anisul Huq said those who are involved in laundering money can be brought into trial under the money laundering prevention act. The law minister refused to make any comment about the chief justice's recent statement over the independence of judiciary and rule of law.

Rupali Bank Ltd. Head Office, ICT Systems Division 34 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000 Tel: 9556966, 9551574. Fax: 88-02-9564148 E-mail: it@rupalibank.org, Website: www.rupalibank.org Ref. No: HO/ICTSYS/2017/361 Dated: 03.05.2017 e-Tender is invited by Rupali Bank Ltd e-Tender System web portal: http://114.130.43.565 or www.rupalibank.org/tender for procurement of following goods: Tender No., Lot No., Name of work, Last Date & Time for Tender/Proposal Security Submission, Tender/Proposal Closing Time. This is online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted with related documents from the Tenderer/Bidder. Tenderer/Bidder are required to register first through bidders link of Rupali Bank Ltd e-Tender System web portal: http://114.130.43.565 or www.rupalibank.org/tender and then submit the Proposed offer within 28/05/2017 up to 3:30PM. Md. Ahsan Ullah Deputy-General Manager Rupali Bank Limited, ICT Systems Division (9th floor), Head Office: 34-Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000, Phone-9556966,

Call for Individual Consultant JICA Bangladesh Office seeks Individual Consultant (Disaster Management Specialist) for supporting Revising SOD (Standing Orders on Disaster) working with JICA Advisor(s) and Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief. All interested consultant may collect the detail Terms of Reference and related documents from bd_oso_rep@jica.go.jp by a formal request from 4th to 7th May 2017 (By 4:00pm). Interested consultants are requested to submit CV with necessary documents in sealed envelop marked with "CV for Disaster Management Specialist" to JICA Bangladesh Office, Bay's Galleria (3rd floor) 57 Gulshan Avenue (CWS-A19) Gulshan Circle 1, Dhaka-1212 by 10th May 2017 (By 4.00 PM).

JOBS IN AFGHANISTAN Bakhtar Bank in Afghanistan (proposed name: Islamic Bank of Afghanistan) is looking for a qualified Chief Operations Officer. Minimum of 20 years banking experience in senior level operations is required, out of which at least 10 years should be in Islamic banking operations. Only Master degree holders can apply. Salary and other benefits are negotiable. Please feel free to contact via mobile # 0093792 99 00 44 or email address i.e. hrd@bakhtarbank.af D-213

বাংলাদেশ লোক-প্রশাসন প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র সাভার, ঢাকা-১৩৪৩ Website: www.bpatc.org.bd তারিখঃ ০৩/০৫/২০১৭ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি ১। সংস্থার নাম : বাংলাদেশ লোক- প্রশাসন প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র, সাভার, ঢাকা-১৩৪৩ ২। দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং : ১১/২০১৬-১৭ ৩। মালামাল/কাজের নাম ও বিবরণ : ক্রমিক ১৫ এর তালিকা অনুযায়ী ৪। দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য : টা ৫। দরপত্র সিকিউরিটি : টা ৬। কার্য সম্পাদনের সময় : টা ৭। দরপত্রদাতা/ঠিকাদারের যোগ্যতা : কেবল সরকারি বাজেট ৮। বাজেট এবং অর্ধের উৎস : সহকারী পরিচালক (ক্রম ও ভাভার), বিপিএটিসি, সাভার, ঢাকা ৯। দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের স্থান : অত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রক্রিয়াকরণ প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে আগামী ২১/০৫/২০১৭ তারিখ (অফিস চলাকালীন) পর্যন্ত ১১। দরপত্র দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময় : ২২/০৫/২০১৭ তারিখ বেলা ১২:০০ টা পর্যন্ত (সাপ্তাহিক ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত) ১২। দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান : পরিচালক (প্রশাসন) সন্মেলন কক্ষ (দোলনাচাঁপা), বিপিএটিসি, সাভার, ঢাকা ১৩। দরপত্র খোলার স্থান তারিখ ও সময় : পরিচালক (প্রশাসন) সন্মেলন কক্ষ (দোলনাচাঁপা), বিপিএটিসি, সাভার, ঢাকা ২২/০৫/২০১৭ বিকাল ০৩:০০ টা ১৪। Pre-Tender Meeting এর স্থান, তারিখ ও সময় : পরিচালক (প্রশাসন) সন্মেলন কক্ষ (দোলনাচাঁপা), বিপিএটিসি, সাভার, ঢাকা ১১/০৫/২০১৭ তারিখ বিকাল ০৩:০০ টা ১৫। দরপত্র প্যাকেজ/আইটেমের নাম : ১৬। দরপত্রদাতার অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা ও দরপত্র দাখিলের শর্তাবলী টেন্ডার সিডিউলে বর্ণিত থাকবে। ১৭। কেন্দ্রের ওয়েবসাইট www.bpatc.org.bd এ উল্লিখিত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি পাওয়া যাবে। ১৮। কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কেন্দ্র কর্তৃপক্ষ সকল দরপত্র/দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি সংশোধন/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। ১৯। ক্রমিকের সকল পর্যায়ে পিপিএ-২০০৬ ও পিপিআর-২০০৮ এর সর্বশেষ নির্দেশনা অনুসরণ করা হবে। ২০। নির্দিষ্ট সময়ের মধ্যে ডাকযোগে পরিচালক (প্রশাসন), বিপিএটিসি, সাভার, ঢাকা বরাবরে প্রেরিত দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে।

UNICEF Vacancy Announcement The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is seeking applications from Bangladeshi Nationals to fill the following consultancy positions. For detailed Job Descriptions, please visit our website and use the following link to apply for the positions: Consultant (Public Finance Expert)-NOB level; https://www.unicef.org/about/employ/?job=504430 National Consultant(SPEAR), NOC level; https://www.unicef.org/about/employ/?job=504433 Application Closing Date: 18 May 2017 Please note that no applications by email or post will be accepted. You must log on and create your profile with UNICEF global website and register for application. UNICEF is committed to diversity and inclusion within its workforce, and encourages qualified female and male candidates from all national, religious and ethnic backgrounds, including persons living with disabilities, to apply to become a part of our organisation. UNICEF is a non-smoking working environment www.unicef.org.bd unicef for every child

"শেখ হাসিনার উদ্যোগ-ঘরে ঘরে বিদ্যুৎ" বাড়ী ভাড়া বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাংলাদেশ পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ডের নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, প্রকল্প বিভাগ, কুষ্টিয়া এর অফিস হিসাবে ব্যবহারের জন্য কুষ্টিয়া শহরে বন্যামুক্ত এলাকায় প্রাপ্ত পাকা রাস্তা সলঙ্গা গাড়ী পার্কিং, গ্যারেজ, পানি, বিদ্যুৎ ও যথাযথ নিরাপত্তা সুবিধাদিসহ কমপক্ষে ১৮০০ বর্গফুট ফ্লোর এরিয়া সম্পন্ন একটি বাড়ী আগামী ০১-০৬-২০১৭খ্রিঃ তারিখ হতে কার্যকর সাপেক্ষে পরবর্তী ০২ (দুই) বছর মেয়াদের জন্য চুক্তি স্বাক্ষরের মাধ্যমে ইজারা গ্রহণ করা হবে। ইজারা চুক্তির শর্তাদির মনুমা নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দস্তর অথবা নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, প্রকল্প বিভাগ, বাপবিবো, কুষ্টিয়া এর দস্তর হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। বাড়ী ভাড়া প্রদানে অগ্রাধী ও বাড়ীর প্রকৃত মালিকপক্ষে বাড়ীর মালিকানা, অনুমোদিত ফ্লোর প্রানের নকশা ও ফ্লোর এরিয়া সংক্রান্ত দলিলাদি সংযুক্ত করতঃ সরকারী বিধি মোতাবেক ভাটা ও ট্যাক্সসহ প্রাপ্ত মাসিক বাড়ী ভাড়া (বিদ্যুৎ বিল ব্যতিত) উল্লেখ পূর্বক আগামী ১৮-০৫-২০১৭খ্রিঃ তারিখে বেলা-১২:০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলীর দস্তর, খুলনা জোন, বাপবিবোর্ড, টাটা, যশোর এর দস্তরে সীলমোহকৃত আবেদনপত্র দাখিল এর জন্য অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে। নির্ধারিত তারিখ বা সময়ের পরে প্রাপ্ত আবেদনপত্র না খুলিয়াই আবেদনকারীর বরাবরে ফেরত প্রদান করা হবে। আবেদনপত্র সমূহ আগামী ১৮-০৫-২০১৭খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ১২:০০ ঘটিকার নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দস্তরে আবেদন কারীরাগের সমুহে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হবে। কোন কারণ প্রদর্শন ব্যতিরেকেই যে কোন/সকল আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিলের ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।