

Jhantu's annual income highest
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Sharfuddin Ahmed Jhantu, the Awami League-nominated mayoral contender of Rangpur City Corporation (RCC) polls, has the highest annual income among the seven candidates, according to the affidavits submitted to the Election Commission. He mentioned that his annual income is Tk 46 lakh.

Besides, annual income of BNP-nominated Kawsar Zaman Babla is Tk 15.54 lakh, independent candidates AKM Abdur Rouf Manik and Hossain Mokbul Shahriar Asif Tk 14 lakh and Tk 7 lakh respectively, and JP-nominated Mostafizar Rahman Mostafa Tk 3.64 lakh. Jhantu, Babla, Mostafa and Manik are graduates while Asif, a nephew of HM Ershad, completed HSC.

In the affidavits, Jhantu mentioned that he has a bank loan of Tk 9 lakh, Mostafa Tk 15 lakh, Babla Tk 50 crore, Manik Tk 8 lakh and Asif Tk 10 lakh. Jhantu was elected the first-ever mayor of RCC in 2012 elections. According to the affidavit submitted in 2012, Jhantu possessed wealth worth about Tk 45 lakh, which now stands at around Tk 1.3 crore.

He has a bank deposit of Tk 3.24 lakh and his wife Tk 4.50 lakh. Also, he has around Tk 34 lakh as postal savings and stock investment.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina pays tributes at the memorial of Cambodia's late King Norodom Sihanouk in Phnom Penh after reaching the Cambodian capital on a three-day state visit yesterday.

PHOTO: BSS

Case backlog a matter of concern

Justice Wahhab tells National Judicial Conference inauguration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Observing that the backlog of a large number of pending cases is a great challenge, Justice Md Abdul Wahhab Miah, who is performing the functions of the chief justice, has urged the judges at all tiers to carry out their judicial responsibilities with sympathy to the justice-seekers. "In order to reduce the case backlog and to maintain people's confidence, the judges will have to work harder," he said, while presiding over the inauguration of National Judicial Conference 2017 at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in

Dhaka on Saturday. President Abdul Hamid inaugurated the daylong judicial conference as the chief guest. Judges of both the Appellate and High Court divisions of the Supreme Court and the subordinate courts attended the programme. Justice Wahhab Miah said backlog of cases and procrastination in case disposal are hindering people's access to justice. "... The burden of unsettled cases may make the court management ineffective and increase the expense of the cases. We must get rid of the incurable disease of case backlog. For this, you (judges) have to shun the

culture of granting unnecessary time...", he said. He said existing laws, legal framework and institutions need to be made dynamic through reformation. Realistic plans have to be taken to ease the dispute settlement system, he said. Justice Wahhab Miah said to make the reform process effective, the legal and the judicial system has to be made more pro-people. "Justice to the women, children and disadvantaged people has to be given priority. The legal rights of the poor have to be protected," he said. A dynamic legal system has to be innovated avoiding the tendency of

dilly-dallying, he said, adding that firm steps had to be taken for settling disputes through compromise and arbitration. Justice Wahhab Miah said the judges would have to keep in mind that people's trust is the inherent source of power of an independent judiciary. "This depends on the people's unwavering confidence in the judges' honesty, efficiency and impartiality. For gaining trust of common people, the judges would have to possess high moral values... and on the other hand, they would have to be aware of

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NEWS IN brief

Why not include Gram Police in pay scale, HC asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the government to explain in four weeks as to why it should not be directed to include Gram Police Bahini (village police force) in the pay scale as class IV government employees as per its 2008 decision. In the rule, the court also asked the authorities concerned of the government to show causes why their inaction in absorbing 55 members of the police in revenue set up upon regularising their jobs with all relevant benefits should not be declared illegal. The rule came following a writ-petition filed by the 55 members seeking its order in this regard. There are 46,000 members of Gram Police Bahini in the country.

BPA urges govt to start building Physiotherapy College soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Bangladesh Physical Therapy Association (BPA) has urged the government to immediately start the construction of Physiotherapy College on its allocated site in the capital's Mohakhali. At a programme held to celebrate the golden jubilee of physiotherapy as profession and National Council 2017 of BPA, its President Dr Dolilur Rahman said the government allocated 22.27 acres of land for the 10-storey college building in phases nine years ago. In 2009, the government also allocated Tk 11 crore for the construction up to the first floor of the building and Tk 55 lakh for its boundary wall, he said. "Due to unknown reasons, the construction is yet to be started," Dolilur told The Daily Star, adding many slums have now been erected on the land.

Anil Kumar Das passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Anil Kumar Das, a noted businessman of Patuakhali, died of old age complications at his residence on Saturday at the age of 79. He left behind his two sons, a host of well-wishers and relatives to mourn his death.



Prof Rehman Sobhan receives the "Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah Gold Medal-2016" award from Prof Emeritus Anisuzzaman at Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology in the capital's Tejgaon on Saturday. Dhaka Ahsania Mission selected Prof Rehman for the award for his outstanding contributions to the country's economy and education.

TRIBUTE TO ANNISUL DNCC cleaners work extra hour

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) cleaners yesterday worked an hour extra as a tribute to Mayor Annisul Huq. Cleaners usually work from 5:00am to 11:00am, said Commodore Md Abdur Razzak, chief waste management officer of DNCC. Yesterday, they voluntarily worked for an additional hour, showing respect to the departed soul of the mayor. "Around 3,000 cleaners are working with the DNCC and Annisul Huq has done a lot for them including increasing their wages and other benefits," Razzak said. Apart from this, Annisul has approved a project with the consent of the prime minister for ensuring the cleaners' residential facilities. Meanwhile, head office and all sub-offices across the DNCC remained closed for half a day yesterday, showing respect to the late mayor. Besides, Nagar Bhaban and its five zonal offices were kept closed since 2:00pm, said a DSCC official.

EC ready to conduct DNCC mayor

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(City Corporation) laws, election must be held within 90 days of the seat falling vacant. "The DNCC mayoral election will be held within 90 days of gazette publication announcing the post vacant. The Election Commission will start working in this regard after the local government ministry publishes the gazette," Helal Uddin Ahmed, acting secretary to EC, told journalists. "The polls have to be held within 90 days from November 30, which means by February 28, 2018. The commission may

announce the schedule at least 45 days ahead of the by-election," EC Assistant Secretary Rajib Ahsan said. According to the laws, terms of the elected representatives of city corporations expire five years after their first official meeting. "The next mayor, to be elected through the by-election, will serve for the remaining term," said Ahsan. The DNCC election was held on April 28, 2015 in which Awami League candidate Annisul Huq won. He died on November 30 at a hospital in London where he was undergoing treatment.

Minority

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Commission Act 2001 were amended over a year ago. "Although there is a CHT Land Commission, it does not have sufficient manpower and funding," He said. Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon said it is not possible for the government to resolve the CHT issue alone. "It's a national issue and it needs to be addressed collectively." Former chairman of National Human Rights Commission Dr Mizanur Rahman said if the land issue in the CHT is resolved, it will solve most of the problems. Mujahidul Islam Selim, general secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB); Dhaka University professors Robaet Ferdous and Mesbah Kamal; columnist Syed Abul Maksud, and Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, also spoke.

Union digital centres lack capacity

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charges and profit sharing as well as preparing a guideline for appointing entrepreneurs to operate the centers, it suggested further. The findings were revealed at a press conference in TIB office in the capital.

TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said if the government takes an appropriate initiative soon, the centres will provide better services which will help the rural people get access to information and benefits of modern technologies.

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DNCC, SEEDS

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The best photographs will be exhibited in Japan next year. The competition is divided into three categories -- students, amateurs and professionals. Photographs will cover DRR in themes such as gender, children, environment, preparedness, science and technology, school and home. With captions of maximum 100 words, competitors can send their photographs at photo.seedsasia@gmail.com or can drop CDs at the DNCC office at Gulshan Centre point in Gulshan-2.

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