



**BRAWL WITH ADC**  
**Mobile court jails doctor for 3 months**  
 OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A mobile court has sentenced a former acting civil surgeon of Laxmipur to three months in prison for a brawl between him and the district's additional deputy commissioner (general).

Witnesses and officials said ADC Sheikh Murshidul Islam and former acting civil surgeon Salahuddin Sharif engaged in a noisy argument at Kakoli Kindergarten School in the town, where they went to pick up their son and grandson yesterday morning.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen address a joint press conference at the prime minister's office in Phnom Penh yesterday. Hasina arrived at the Southeast Asian country on Sunday on a three-day state visit.

PHOTO: BSS

## RESOLVING ROHINGYA CRISIS

# Hasina seeks support from Cambodia

Dhaka, Phnom Penh sign 10 deals

AGENCIES, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sought support from Cambodia for a durable solution to the Rohingya crisis as it is a threat to regional peace and stability.

"As we continue bilateral negotiations with Myanmar for the Rohingyas' safe return to their homeland, I requested Prime Minister Hun Sen for his support for a durable solution to the crisis," she said.

The PM said this in a joint press statement with her Cambodian counterpart after the official talks between the two countries at the Peace Palace, reports UNB.

Meanwhile, the two nations yesterday signed 10 instruments, including one agreement and nine MoUs, aiming to step up cooperation in the fields of tourism, agriculture, civil aviation, ICT and technical education.

The two PMs witnessed the signing of the documents by ministers and high officials concerned at the same venue.

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## BASIC BANK SCAM

# ACC quizzes ex-chairman Bacchu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission for the first time yesterday grilled former BASIC Bank chairman Sheikh Abdul Hye Bacchu over the loan scams involving about Tk 4,500 crore.

Nine ACC officials, now probing 56 scam cases, interrogated him for about four hours from 10:45am at the commission's Segunbagicha headquarters.

During the quizzing, Bacchu denied his involvement in the scam, said

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## Rahul Gandhi set to become Congress chief

AFP, New Delhi

Rahul Gandhi could be named head of India's opposition Congress Party within hours, a source said, shortly after he filed his candidacy for the role yesterday.

Speculation has been rife for months that the 47-year-old vice-president of the party would soon take over from his mother Sonia, who has led Congress for 19 years.

Elections for the post had been scheduled for December 16, but with hours to go before

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## 4 SENIOR POSITIONS IN BUREAUCRACY

# 10pc can be hired from outside admin

Suggests draft of Public Service Act, 2017 up for discussion today

REJAUL KARIM BYRON, PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and WASIM BIN HABIB

The president will be able to make 10 percent of the appointments to four superior posts of public administration from outside the civil service considering their "special merit, skill, eligibility and essentiality" if a proposed law is approved.

The public administration ministry has prepared a draft of "Public

Service Act, 2017" keeping a provision of allotting 10 percent of the posts of secretary, additional secretary, joint secretary and deputy secretary for such appointments on contractual basis or deputation in the public interest.

The provision has been incorporated in the draft as a "special jurisdiction of the president" under which people can be appointed to the four posts from outside "public

servants eligible for regular appointments".

The draft law, which will be placed today before the secretary-level committee on administrative reforms for discussion, says the president can appoint any retired staff on contractual basis in the public interest.

Ali Imam Majumder, a former cabinet secretary, apprehends that there might be political appointments

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## DNCC MAYORAL BY-POLLS

# AL, BNP to face off

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Following the death of Annisul Huq, the Awami League and its archrival BNP are having intra-party informal discussions to pick their best contender for the post of the Dhaka north mayor.

In a gazette issued yesterday, the local government division said the post has been vacant since December 1.

The Election Commission said it was ready to hold a by-election to the post and it expected that to happen by February next year.

As per the constitution, the by-polls have to take place within 90 days of the post becoming vacant.

Helal Uddin Ahmed, acting secretary to the EC, said, "We will place the gazette before the Election Commission meeting, which will take the final decision in this regard."

Although any formal discussion on the possible candidates has not begun yet, many, while speaking on different forums, expressed interest in getting tickets of the AL and the BNP.

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