

'Juktir Aloy Dekhi' begins Apr 21

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The visually-impaired students are equally capable like others, and can also flourish their talents if they get the opportunity, said Hassan Ahmed Chowdhury Kiron, chairperson of Debate for Democracy (DFD), yesterday.

With that in mind, Debate for Democracy (DFD) is going to hold a debate competition titled, "Juktir Aloy Dekhi", for the visually-impaired students in the capital. The competition will start from April 21.

The event will focus on various issues faced by the persons with disabilities and the responsibilities of society, family and the state towards them, said the DFD chairperson. He was speaking at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club.

A total of eight teams, consisting five members each, have been selected to take part in the competition so far. The teams are from Dhaka, Jahangirnagar, Chittagong and Rajshahi universities.

Each team will participate in seven rounds, representing a shadow parliament in the upcoming competition.

Lamenting that the existing education system for the visually-impaired is not adequate enough, the DFD chairperson said, "Even if there is a Braille system for them till the tenth grade, there is no such option at the university level."

Regarding the debate competition, he said such a platform would give them an opportunity to talk about their problems.

DFD Director Dr Tajul Islam Chowdhury Tuhin called upon the affluent section of the society to come forward and help the visually-impaired students.

While receiving the rules of the debate competition in Braille version, Amzad Hossain, a participant from Dhaka University, said, "With this initiative, we will be able to express our thoughts to the society. It will also help us become more aware of our rights."



Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad addressing a rally in Chittagong city yesterday. Sammilito Jatiya Jote, a newly formed platform of 58 political parties including Jatiya Party and Bangladesh Islami Front, organised it at Laldighi Maidan.

PHOTO: STAR

Govt globally recognised as autocratic Ershad tells Ctg rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CTG

The incumbent government has been recognised as an autocratic one internationally, claimed Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad at a rally in Chittagong yesterday.

"You termed me an autocrat. But now it is proven that I was not an autocrat rather you are internationally recognised as one," he said, pointing to the ruling party. "How do you show your face... have you no shame?"

The JP chief was speaking at a rally organised by Sammilito Jatiya Jote, a newly formed platform of 58 political parties including Jatiya Party and Bangladesh Islami Front, at Laldighi Maidan.

"You came to power with a pledge to provide job for members of every household and provide rice at Tk 10 per kg. But 4.86 crore people are unemployed according to a government record and the price of rice is Tk 60 per kg," he claimed. "How can a rickshaw-

puller or a day-labourer maintain their families?"

Regarding polls, he said, "Elections are no longer fair... these days it's all about vote-rigging and ballot-stuffing... we have to stop this."

"Bangladesh has become number one in child marriage... Because, parents marry off their daughters feeling insecure..." he said. "One person is running the government and everything happens as per that person's will..."

"The situation of the country has become such that no one but Allah knows who would disappear and when," he said.

Ershad also urged the government to take punitive actions against perpetrators involved in looting the banks' money. "Bangladesh is the only country where the money of the central bank has been looted... Tk 800 crore has been looted, but they have not disclosed the names of the perpetrators... Why? Because, they are also

involved... we know who they are."

"Why do you not publish the names...?" he asked. "The country is not on a highway towards development [as the government has termed], rather it is on the highway towards corruption."

He also pledged that he would introduce a provincial government system if voted to power.

Ershad also alleged that the country's education system has been "destroyed". "Earlier it was tough to pass the examinations, now it has become tough to fail... Many of the GPA-5 achievers cannot even write their names in English... what is the point of this GPA-5?" he said.

"The education minister in parliament advised taking bribes at a lower rate... how can he say such a thing? Surprisingly, he is still in the cabinet... if I was [the prime minister], I would have sacked him at once," Ershad said.

Bangladesh Islami Front Chairman MA Mannan chaired the rally.

GAZIPUR, KHULNA CITY POLLS 17 AL men seek mayoral candidacy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ten mayoral aspirants from Awami League submitted their nomination forms for Gazipur City Corporation election while seven AL leaders did the same for Khulna city polls till the deadline, yesterday.

The elections are scheduled to be held on May 15.

To select two mayoral aspirants, the AL Local Government Nomination Board is scheduled to hold a meeting at Gono Bhaban today with Prime Minister and AL President Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

Although Khulna city AL proposed five names keeping its President Talukder Abdul Khaleque as their first choice, he did not collect the party nomination form.

AL sources said as the party considers Khaleque, also former mayor of Khulna City Corporation and incumbent lawmaker of Bagerhat-3, as most "popular and acceptable" candidate, he was asked to meet party chief Hasina at today's meeting.

During the recent Khulna city AL extended meeting, Khaleque announced that he was not interested in contesting the election.

NEWS IN brief

JS goes into 20th session today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad goes into 20th session this afternoon after a 38-day recess.

To fix the duration and businesses of the session, the Business Advisory Committee of parliament will sit in a meeting at 4:00pm with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair.

The House is scheduled to start at 5:00pm, according to the JS secretariat.

Officials of the parliament secretariat told The Daily Star that duration of the 20th session is likely to be a brief one ahead of the budget session likely to start in June.

Session on US immigration visa held in capital

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh embassy in Washington and US embassy in Dhaka jointly hosted a session on "Demystifying the Immigration Visa Process" to enable the applicants to apply for immigration visas flawlessly fulfilling all the requirements prescribed by US immigration laws.

Sharon Ann Weber, consul general, US embassy, Dhaka, made a presentation on various aspects of immigration visa as well as requirements for an applicant like applicant's sponsorship, joint sponsorship, latest police verification, medical test, and education etc.

Bangladesh Ambassador to the USA Mohammad Ziauddin and US Ambassador to Bangladesh Marcia Stephen Bloom Bernicat spoke at the session held in the embassy building in the capital on Thursday evening, read a press release received yesterday.

Stone worker killed in Sylhet landslide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A stone worker has been killed in a landslide at a stone pit under Companiganj upazila in Sylhet yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Joban Ali, 45, of the same upazila.

Shafiqur Rahman Khan, officer-in-charge of Companiganj Police Station, said stone workers were extracting stones illegally when a chunk of earth fell over Joban, killing him on the spot.

The body has been sent to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital for an autopsy, the OC said, adding that no case has been filed yet.

With this, the death toll of stone workers at different stone pits in Sylhet districts has risen to 26 this year.



Orchard Park

Park Facing Exclusive Apartments At Uttara

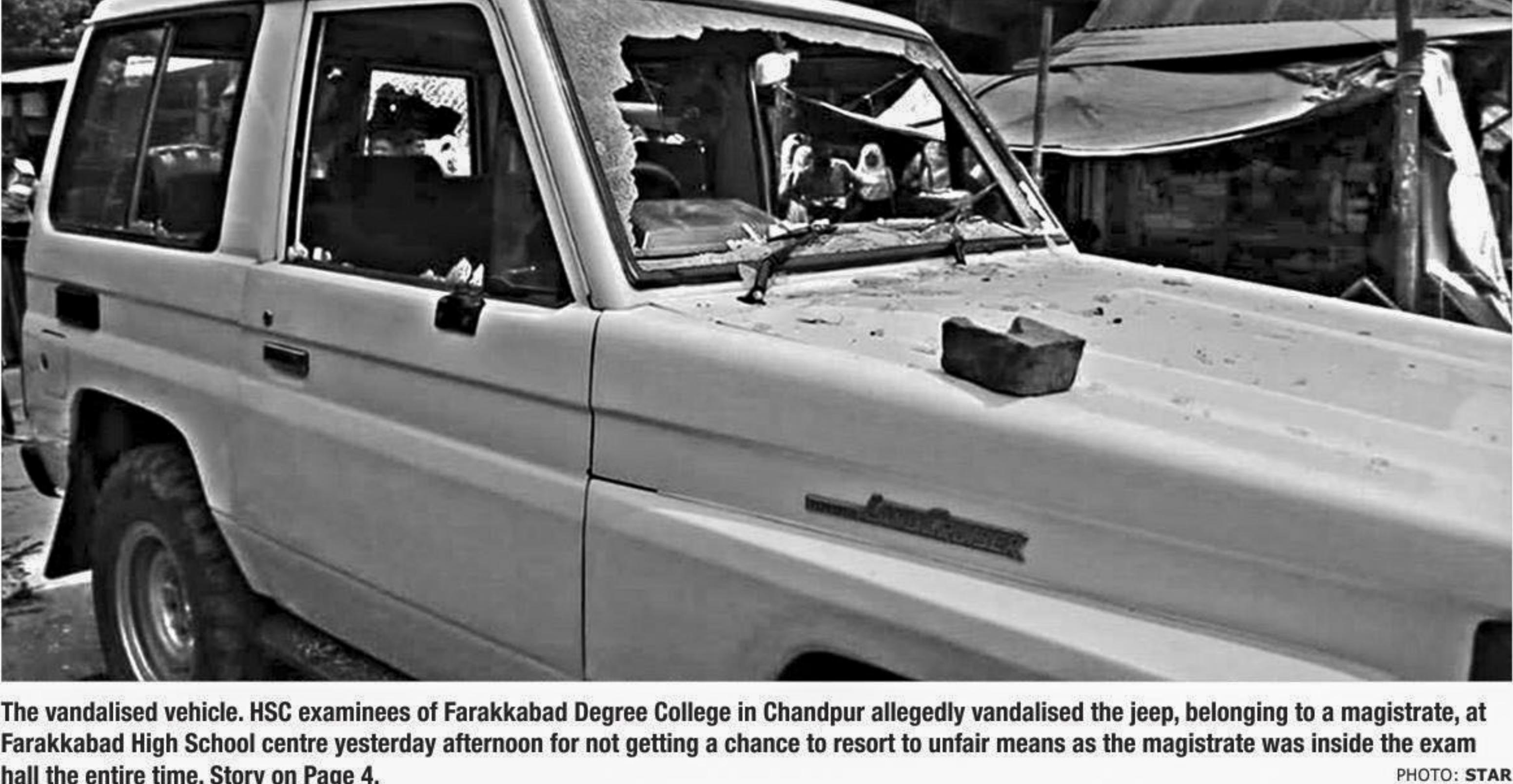
By **Asset**
DEVELOPMENTS

Sale Enquiries

Tel: (+8802) 55068001-5

01713 018407, 01714 039846, 01714 016717

ASTD/080418



The vandalised vehicle. HSC examinees of Farakkabad Degree College in Chandpur allegedly vandalised the jeep, belonging to a magistrate, at Farakkabad High School centre yesterday afternoon for not getting a chance to resort to unfair means as the magistrate was inside the exam hall the entire time. Story on Page 4.

PHOTO: STAR

Ananya honours 10 women

FROM PAGE 4

After being abandoned by her husband for dowry, Swapna took the job of an auto-rickshaw driver in Kurigram town. It helped her raise her sixth-grader daughter and second-grader son.

Earlier, she passed her days in much hardship at her father's house in Bhabaipur village of Nageswari upazila. She worked as a day labourer.

In 2015, she learnt about a government project and took the opportunity as a beneficiary for the maintenance of rural roads.

Later, with the assistance of the local Union Parishad chairman she got a battery-run auto-rickshaw.

Maria Manda, an under-15 national woman footballer, helped Bangladesh win AFC U-14 Regional Championship and SAFAU-15 Women's Championship.

Born in a poor family in Mymensingh, Maria lost her father during her childhood. She said she had to work with her mother at a neighbour's house to make living.

Another awardee Nazia published over 60 braille books under her organisation "Sparsho" during the last 10 years.

Anannya Editor Tasmima Hossain, former foreign minister Dipu Moni, and Jahangirnagar University Vice Chancellor Prof Farzana Islam were present during the ceremony.

Fulfil pledge to ensure

FROM PAGE 3

"The profession you have engaged in is very crucial, and you have lots of responsibilities," he said.

The minister assured that the government would provide Tk 40 crore to the benevolent fund of the lawyers, and construct a 15-storey building for the bar council office at its present location.

He thanked the bar council for organising such a programme, giving the newly sworn-in advocates a chance to learn.

Abdul Matin Khasru, chairman of executive committee of the bar council; and Abdul Baset Majumder, vice-chairman of the bar council; also spoke at the programme.

"We hope that the registration process would be completed by April 10," said Anisur Rahman.

FROM PAGE 3
government management and 1,20,000 under government-approved private hajj tour operators.

The final registration under the government management started on March 1 and the process under private management began on March 6. The ministry so far extended the registration deadline for four times.

"We hope that the registration process would be completed by April 10," said Anisur Rahman.

6,000 hajj aspirants fail

FROM PAGE 3

government management and 1,20,000 under government-approved private hajj tour operators.

The final registration under the government management started on March 1 and the process under private management began on March 6. The ministry so far extended the registration deadline for four times.

"We hope that the registration process would be completed by April 10," said Anisur Rahman.

FROM PAGE 3
government management and 1,20,000 under government-approved private hajj tour operators.

The final registration under the government management started on March 1 and the process under private management began on March 6. The ministry so far extended the registration deadline for four times.

"We hope that the registration process would be completed by April 10," said Anisur Rahman.

FROM PAGE 3
government management and 1,20,000 under government-approved private hajj tour operators.

The final registration under the government management started on March 1 and the process under private management began on March 6. The ministry so far extended the registration deadline for four times.

"We hope that the registration process would be completed by April 10," said Anisur Rahman.

FROM PAGE 3
government management and 1,20,000 under government-approved private hajj tour operators.

The final registration under the government management started on March 1 and the process under private management began on March 6. The ministry so far extended the registration deadline for four times.

"We hope that the registration process would be completed by April 10," said Anisur Rahman.

FROM PAGE 3
government management and 1,20,000 under government-approved private hajj tour operators.

The final registration under the government management started on March 1 and the process under private management began on March 6. The ministry so far extended the registration deadline for four times.

"We hope that the registration process would be completed by April 10," said Anisur Rahman.

FROM PAGE 3
government management and 1,20,000 under government-approved private hajj tour operators.

The final registration under the government management started on March 1 and the process under private management began on March 6. The ministry so far extended the registration deadline for four times.

"We hope that the registration process would be completed by April 10," said Anisur Rahman.

FROM PAGE 3
government management and 1,20,000 under government-approved private hajj tour operators.

The final registration under the government management started on March 1 and the process under private management began on March 6. The ministry so far extended the registration deadline for four times.

"We hope that the registration process would be completed by April 10," said Anisur Rahman.

FROM PAGE 3
government management and 1,20,000 under government-approved private hajj tour operators.

The final registration under the government management started on March 1 and the process under private management began on March 6. The ministry so far extended the registration deadline for four times.

"We hope that the registration process would be completed by April 10," said Anisur Rahman.

FROM PAGE 3
government management and 1,20,000 under government-approved private hajj tour operators.

The final registration under the government management started on March 1 and the process under private management began on March 6. The ministry so far extended the registration deadline for four times.

"We hope that the registration process would be completed by April 10," said Anisur Rahman.

FROM PAGE 3
government management and 1,20,000 under government-approved private hajj tour operators.

The final registration under the government management started on March 1 and the process under private management began on March 6. The ministry so far extended the registration deadline for four times.

"We hope that the registration process would be completed by April 10," said Anisur Rahman.

FROM PAGE 3
government management and 1,20,000 under government-approved private hajj tour operators.

The final registration under the government management started on March 1 and the process under private management began on March 6. The ministry so far extended the registration deadline for four times.

"We hope that the registration process would be completed by April 10," said Anisur Rahman.