

## EC being run by an official

**Fakhrul alleges**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday alleged that the Election Commission was being run by a top EC official who maintains a close contact with a certain political party.

The official stays at his office till 4:00pm and then goes to the political party's office, Fakhrul said at a programme at the Jatiya Press Club.

According to the BNP leader, the party office is used as a place for preparing its electoral policy under the leadership of HT Imam, political adviser to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Claiming that Imam used to meet the EC before every election, Fakhrul said this very person held a meeting with EC officials before the Gazipur city polls on June 26.

Imam recently admitted that he had done the same before the January 5, 2014, general elections, he added.

Fakhrul blasted the EC for its total failure in holding all the elections in a free, fair and impartial manner.

He also criticised Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof Akhtaruzzaman for imposing ban on outsiders' movement on the campus. He said the DU authorities have hurt the image of the famous educational institution.

About freeing BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia from jail, he said people would bring her out of the jail through waging a movement at an appropriate time.

The student leaders of 1990s organised the programme demanding immediate release of Khaleda and her proper treatment.

## French youngsters

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It all started with a burst of speed from Mbappe, who galloped down the left-flank before releasing a neat cut-back. However, an onrushing Oliver Giroud was late to meet the ball.

It was then Belgium's turn to create an opening in the sixth minute. Eden Hazard made a darting run down the line and provided a perfect low cross which was cleared for a corner by ever-alert young French defender Samuel Umtiti.

Six minute later Paul Pogba sent an intelligent lob that Mbappe failed to control on the turn in the box, much to the relief of Belgian fans. The Pogba-Mbappe combination broke the back of the Belgium defence in the 13th minute, only to be rescued by athletic goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois.

It was a half where Belgium tried to keep possession as long as possible instead showing the urgency to create something. However, Hazard had the first crack at the goal in the 15th minute, but his left-footer from an acute angle zipped past Lloris's left-hand post.

Two minutes later Blaise Matuidi, the French midfielder who returned from a one-match suspension to replace Tolisso, came up with blazing left-foot volley. Unfortunately for the Les Bleus it went straight to Courtois.

Lloris then made some double saves including an absolute blinder from overlapping Belgium defender Toby Alderweireld, who swiveled before unleashing a left-footer that the Tottenham goalkeeper fisted for a corner.

France, who were more direct and lethal when they had the ball, were unlucky not to open their account in the last 23 odd minutes. Giroud's low header missed the near post while Griezmann's shot from top of the box flew over the bar.

Giroud wasted another golden opportunity in the 35th minute. Griezmann, who pulled all the strings from deep, curled in a beautiful ball from mid-pitch to Mbappe, who squared the pass first-time to Giroud. Unfortunately, the misfiring striker's feeble shot from eight yards harmlessly crossed the line.

Right-back Benjamin Pavard, one of the best young player in the tournament, then played a couple of one twos with Mbappe before releasing a low right footer that Courtois spectacularly fisted away.

## Britain accuses Russia after first Novichok death

AFP, Salisbury

Britain's defence minister said Monday that the death of a homeless British woman from exposure to the nerve agent Novichok was down to Russia.

Dawn Sturgess, a 44-year-old mother of three, died on Sunday from contact with the same military-grade toxin that nearly killed a former Russian spy and his daughter in an attack that Britain blamed on Moscow.

Sturgess and Charlie Rowley, 45, fell ill last weekend in the town of Amesbury, near Salisbury, the city where former double agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia were attacked with Novichok in March. They have since recovered.

## All 13 rescued

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due to come out of the cave, the unit said.

Officials did not comment on the rescue mission as it took place, so details of the final day of the rescue and the condition of the last five to be brought out were not immediately known.

The eight boys brought out on Sunday and Monday were in good health overall and some asked for chocolate bread for breakfast, officials said earlier.

Two of the boys had suspected lung infections but the four boys from the first group rescued were all walking around in hospital.

Volunteers from as far away as Australia and the United States helped with the effort to rescue the boys. US military personnel also helped.

US President Donald Trump hailed

the rescue.

"On behalf of the United States, congratulations to the Thai Navy SEALs and all on the successful rescue of the 12 boys and their coach from the treacherous cave in Thailand," Trump said on Twitter.

"Such a beautiful moment - all freed, great job!"

Authorities did not reveal the identity of the boys as they were brought out, one by one. Parents of the four boys rescued on Sunday were allowed to see them through a glass window at the hospital, public health officials said yesterday, but they will be quarantined for the time being.

The boys were still being quarantined from their parents because of the risk of infection and would likely be kept in hospital for a week for tests, officials said earlier.

### THAI CAVE RESCUE: THE 18-DAY MISSION

FROM PAGE 1

#### SUNDAY, JUNE 24

Park officials and police find handprints and footprints believed to belong to the boys. Relatives start to keep vigil outside the cave.

#### MONDAY, JUNE 25

Thai Navy SEAL divers enter the cave searching for the boys. Makeshift shrines are set up for parents to pray and make offerings as heavy rains continue.

#### TUESDAY, JUNE 26

Divers are forced out of the cave by rushing floodwaters as they try to reach an air pocket called "Pattaya Beach", where the boys are believed to have retreated.

#### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27

A team of more than 30 American military personnel from the US Pacific Command arrive and are joined by three British diving experts who start to probe the cave.

#### THURSDAY, JUNE 28

Downpours create fast-moving floods inside the cave forcing a suspension of the rescue. Water pumps start draining rising, murky floodwaters.

#### FRIDAY, JUNE 29

Thailand's junta leader Prayut Chan-O-Cha visits the site and urges relatives not to give up hope.

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 30

A break in the rain allows divers to reach further inside the cave but they are still a long distance from where the boys are believed to be.

#### SUNDAY, JULY 1

Divers inch further in, as an operating base is set up inside 'Chamber Three' and hundreds of air tanks and other supplies are pulleyed in.

#### MONDAY, JULY 2

Finally, a miracle: the 12 boys and their coach are found alive late Monday evening about 400 metres beyond Pattaya Beach by the British cave diving team. Crowds at the teeming rescue site cheer the good news, but attention soon turns to the difficult task of getting the boys out safely.

#### TUESDAY, JULY 3

Much-needed food and medical sup-

plies -- including high-calorie gels and paracetamol -- reach the boys as rescuers prepare for the possibility that they may remain in the cave for some time.

#### WEDNESDAY, JULY 4

Officials say the group are being taught how to use diving masks and breathing apparatuses. Teams pump out water around the clock to help clear the path for divers.

#### THURSDAY, JULY 5

Authorities say expected rains may force a complex rescue quicker than first thought.

#### FRIDAY, JULY 6

Tragedy strikes: a diver helping to establish an air line to the boys dies after passing out while returning from the chamber, raising serious doubts over the safety of attempting a rescue. Thailand's Navy SEAL commander says oxygen levels inside have dropped. He warns the window of opportunity to free the youngsters is "limited".

#### SATURDAY, JULY 7

Rescue operations chief Narongsak Osottanakorn says the boys are not ready to dive to safety.

A scrawled message emerges from the team's coach, offering his "apologies" to their parents, while in other touching notes the boys tell their relatives not to worry.

#### SUNDAY, JULY 8

Divers lead four of the boys out of the cave as night falls, sending them to the hospital.

Narongsak says late in the evening that the rescue mission will not start again for at least another 10 hours to allow oxygen and other supplies to be replenished.

#### MONDAY, JULY 9

As dusk falls four more boys are rescued. The Thai Navy SEALs greet another seemingly successful day with a social media post saying "Hooyah".

#### TUESDAY, JULY 10

The final five members of the team were rescued from the cave. "All 12 'Wild Boars' and coach have been extracted from the cave," the SEALs said in a Facebook post.

SOURCE: AFP

## Bangladesh FM

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completed," the foreign secretary said, adding, "Though the process of return of the Rohingya refugees is complex, Bangladesh is carrying forward it very fast."

However, he regretted that the other side (Myanmar) has not been completing the process fast enough.

Diplomatic sources in Dhaka said the foreign minister's initiative to visit Rakhine apparently follows a meeting between Foreign Minister Ali and Myanmar's Union Minister for the State Counsellor's Office Kyaw Tint Swe with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing on June 29.

The Chinese foreign minister in an apparent move to negotiate the Rohingya repatriation invited both the Bangladesh and Myanmar ministers to visit China on June 28-30 and arranged an "informal meeting" when both the sides exchanged views and shared ideas on early repatriation of the Rohingyas to Myanmar.

Bangladesh sought China's active support in expediting the process of early repatriation of over 700,000 forcibly displaced people by encouraging Myanmar in creating a conducive atmosphere in Rakhine.

The Chinese foreign minister during his meeting with Ali expressed China's commitment to fully supporting the early repatriation and improving the resettlement environment by helping build houses and create economic opportunities for the Rohingyas.

According to UN agencies and international rights bodies, the Myanmar authorities have not yet created an environment conducive to safe return.

UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar Yanghee Lee on Monday said the Myanmar government's failure to redress discriminatory laws against the

Rohingyas made it impossible for hundreds of thousands of refugees to return home anytime soon.

"As it is now clear that the Government of Myanmar has made no progress or shown any real will to dismantle the system of discrimination in the country's laws, policies and practices, and to make northern Rakhine State safe, the Rohingya refugees will not be returning to Myanmar in the near future," she said after her 10-day visit to Dhaka and Cox's Bazar on July 8.

### Indigo starts

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destination effective August 2018," says William Boulter, Chief Strategy Officer, IndiGo.

Passengers would be able to buy tickets through its official website www.goindigo.in, and the all-inclusive fares would start from Tk 5,031, according to a release of IndiGo.

The IndiGo flights from Dhaka depart at 7:10pm, with options for convenient connections to Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi and Mumbai.

Starting airfare of a Dhaka-Delhi-Dhaka via Kolkata (departure August 1, return August 4) showed Tk 11,700 when an input was made into the system of IndiGo.

With this airfare, IndiGo is certainly going to stretch the existing competition between airlines in this popular destination to a new level.

Currently, four Bangladesh carriers-- state-run Biman, US-Bangla, Regent and Novo -- are operating flights to Kolkata alongside India's Air India, Jet Airways and SpiceJet.

Frequent visitors to India are understood to be happy with the news. Businessman Ashiqur Rahman is one of them. "Healthy competition is always good. It means affordable airfare and good service for passengers," he told the newspaper when contacted.

## Khaleda's bail

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The court fixed the same date for hearing arguments on behalf of two other accused in that case.

On June 28, the same court extended her bail until yesterday in connection with the graft case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

The ACC filed the case with Tejgaon police in August 2011 accusing Khaleda and three others of abusing power to raise funds for the trust from unknown sources.

The three other accused are Harris Chowdhury, political secretary of the then prime minister Khaleda between 2001 and 2006, Ziaul Islam Munna, assistant private secretary (APS) to Harris, and Monirul Islam Khan, APS to former Dhaka city mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka.

Khaleda is currently serving a five-year prison term in the graft case.

Meantime, the High Court yesterday adjourned till July 15 the hearing on a petition filed by Khaleda seeking stay on the trial proceedings against her in an arson case filed in Comilla in 2015.

The case was filed with Chouddagram police on charge of killing seven people and injuring 25-26 others by setting fire to a bus in Chouddagram upazila on February 2, 2015.

The HC bench of Justice AKM Asaduzzaman and Justice SM Mozibur Rahman yesterday passed the adjournment order after concluding the day's hearing on the petition.

During hearing, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam opposed the petition saying that Khaleda was shown arrested in connection with the case on July 1 this year and she (Khaleda) was absconding until July 1 as per law.

## Indian

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it is going to take place ahead of Bangladesh's next general election, likely in December.

Officials at the Bangladesh home ministry and Indian High Commission in Dhaka yesterday told The Daily Star that Rajnath would be coming to Dhaka for a home minister-level meeting with his Bangladesh counterpart Asaduzzaman Khan.

The two sides will discuss cooperation between the two police forces, anti-terror cooperation, killing in border areas, checking the movement of illegal immigrants, and smuggling of arms and drugs and fake Indian currency notes.

The Indian home minister will visit Bangladesh Police Academy (BPA) in Rajshahi's Sardah where he along with Asaduzzaman will inaugurate India-Bangladesh Friendship IT Building. The four-storey building has been built under a joint financing arrangement for providing sophisticated IT facilities.

In Sardah, a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) will also be signed between Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA) Hyderabad and Bangladesh Police Academy (BPA) Sardah to institutionalise and intensify cooperation between the police forces of the two countries.

Officials said the two ministers would discuss ways to strengthen the anti-terror mechanism between the two countries and to check radicalisation of youths by terrorist groups. The Rohingya crisis issue will also come up for discussion as both the countries fear redicalisation of Myanmar refugees in Cox's Bazar.

The Indian delegation will discuss steps to strengthen the existing mechanism to check smuggling of cattle, arms and ammunition, narcotics and other items through the Indo-Bangla border.

Bangladesh is expected to raise the issue of killing and injuring of innocent people by the BSF along the border and the illegal transportation of drugs into Bangladesh from India.

Extradition of criminals and transfer of prisoners will also be discussed at the official talks.

The Indian side is expected to take up the issue of attacks on BSF personnel by criminals based in Bangladesh, according to a PTI report run by The Times of India yesterday.

## Probe opens

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seven working days, said Prof Selim Muhammad Jahangir, principal of the CMC.

Two other committee members are Prof Mahmudul Haque, of bio-chemistry department, and Prof Md Hasannuzzaman, of neuromedicine department, he added.

An email was sent to media houses in the name of Dr Abul Kashem, president of Besakari Chikitsa Protisthan Malik Samity, using the email ID of CMC (cmc@ac.dghs.gov.bd) on Sunday.

Following widespread criticism, the CMC on Monday formed the body to probe the matter.

## Tough task for BNP

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leader did not withdraw their candidacy.

In the previous city corporation polls in 2013, Arif had bagged 107,330 votes while his rival Kamran had gotten 72,173 votes. During that election, Arif was supported by all in the the BNP-led combine.

"All the party leaders are united and there is no one beside the rebel candidate. I am not concerned about others," Arif said after offering prayers at the shrine of Hazrat Shahjalal.

"I worked for the people when I was in office and I will continue to do that if I am elected again," he said.

Selim, meanwhile, has expressed anger over his expulsion from the party. He, however, said the move was expected and he would vie for the mayor post at any cost.

"I have been involved with the BNP since its birth. The party did not take all my dedications into consideration while picking its candidate.

"During the 2013 elections, Arif had promised that he would work for me in the next election. But he has broken his promise," he said.

Talking about the matter, Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, a standing committee member of the BNP, told The Daily Star yesterday, "This is not an issue. The main thing is the election atmosphere. If the election is fair, our candidate will surely win".

He also expressed hope that the Jamaat leader would ultimately withdraw his candidacy and support the BNP's candidate.

Contacted, Jamaat's Nayeb-e-Ameer Mia Golam Parwar said, "We also hope that the BNP will extend its support to our candidate".

On the other hand, AL's Kamran said, "I have served the city people for a long time and I want to serve them more. We are united, working to win the polls. We need the citizens' support to turn Sylhet into an ideal city."

RAJSHAHI POLLS

The AL candidate in the Rajshahi polls, AHM Khairuzzaman Liton, began his campaign through the announcement of his election manifesto. He got the electoral symbol of "boat".

At a press conference in the city, AL adviser Abdul Khaleque read out Liton's 81-point election manifesto that talked about 14 sectors, including employment, education, health, environment, and communication.

Liton pledged that, if elected, he would ensure job for over one lakh people by working to providing gas connections to garment factories and tannery units, establishing a special economic zone in the city and reopening several closed factories.

The manifesto, however, ignored several issues, including occupation of footpath, and traffic jam.

"Development of the city depend on the mayor's connections with the top tier of the government. I have those connections and I will be able to fulfill my pledges," Liton said at the press conference.

BNP's Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul offered prayers at the shrine of Hazrat Shah Makhdum (Rh) after he was allocated "sheaf of paddy" symbol.

Both Liton and Bulbul went to voters in different areas of the city and sought votes yesterday. Their posters were hanging in different places. The two candidates expressed their firm determination to seal victory in the polls.

### BARISAL POLLS

Mujibor Rahman, returning officer of Barisal City Corporation election, distributed election symbols among the candidates yesterday.

After receiving the symbols, AL candidate Seriatib Sadik Abdulla, BNP-led 20-party candidate Mojibor Rahaman Sorwar and another candidate Obaydur Rahaman Mahabub campaigned in different points of the city.

[Our correspondents in Sylhet, Rajshahi and Barisal contributed to this report]

## Listed drug dealer killed

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Rab-2, said a Rab team carried out a raid in Rugganj area around 2:45am when suspects sensing the presence of law enforcers opened fire. The team retaliated resulting in a "gun battle", he said.

Nadim was found wounded on the spot. He was declared dead when taken to Rugganj Health Complex, the Rab official said.

Rab claimed to have recovered two firearms and 4,020 yaba pills from the spot.

Nadim is among 173 suspected drug dealers killed in the ongoing nationwide anti-narcotics drive that began on May 4. Most of them were killed in "shootouts" involving police or Rab.

To bluff law enforcers, Nadim used to promise that he would correct himself. He even took part in anti-narcotics campaigns, an official of Mohammadpur Police Station said.

Jamal Uddin Mir, officer-in-charge of the police station, told The Daily Star yesterday, "When we took up a rehabilitation programme inside the camp in late 2016 and Pachish agreed to quit the illicit trade. But he continued his drug dealing. Police later arrested him in a case."

Nadim was accused in at least seven cases filed with the police station, police said. He had been arrested but he resumed his illicit trade coming out of jail on bail, police sources said.

Arresting him was difficult. Police faced protests by locals when they went to the camp to arrest him. He gave away money to locals and kept a team of youths to inform him if law enforcers were getting ready to raid the camp, police officials said.

A joint taskforce, led by the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC), arrested him on November 3 the last time. But he was out on bail in 11 days, said Khurshid Alam, an assistant director of the DNC.

A DNC official preferring anonymity said Nadim told DNC officials during interrogation that he would be killed if he disclosed the names of his

patrons.

Ishtiaq, for whom Nadim worked at the Geneva Camp, was one of Nadim's suppliers of yaba. Like Nadim, many others used to work for Ishtiaq.

Ishtiaq has been on the run since the law enforcers' drive began in May, DNC officials said.

Yesterday, three more people were killed in "shootouts" involving law enforcers. A suspected drug dealer was killed in the capital's Mirpur area while two alleged robbers were killed in Rangpur and Bagerhat.

Rab claimed that drug dealer Ibrahim Hossain alias Pilot Babu, 35, was accused in 15 cases.

"Two men on a motorbike were signalled to stop at a check point on Mirpur Beribadh. They hurled a crude bomb at the Rab men. The law enforcers opened fire in retaliation," said Chowdhury Monzurul Kabir, commanding officer of Rab-4.

One of them was hit while the other managed to flee, he said. The injured was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he was declared dead.

Rab recovered 6,000 yaba pills, splinters of the bomb, and the motorbike from the scene, he claimed.

### 2 SUSPECTED ROBBERS KILLED

Our Dinajpur correspondent reports: Alleged robber Belal Hossain, 40, was killed in a "shootout between police and a gang" in Rangpur.

Saifur Rahman, an additional superintendent of Rangpur Police, said when a police team went to Uttam Betarpara around 4:00am, they were attacked by robbers forcing police to retaliate.

Belal, accused in 20 cases filed with police stations, was hit.

In Bagerhat, a suspected robber was killed in a "gunfight" with Rab near Ambariya canal close to the Saila river, said Rab-8 Deputy Commander Maj Shajibul Islam Khan, reports our Bagerhat correspondent. The identity of the deceased could not be known immediately.



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