## Form nat'l body to protect

FROM PAGE 5 With MRDI Executive Director Hasibur Rahman in the chair, the discussion was moderated by Syed Ishtiaque Reza, editor-in-chief of GTV.

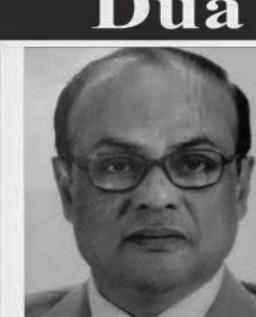
Journalists face various challenges including disagreement among leaders, lack of rule of law, dearth of job security, low pay and lack of ethical practices, the speakers observed.

"Despite all limitations, people still trust them. They should be protected," said Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul.

"Since there is no rule of law currently in the country, sometimes newsmen also resort to self-censorship," said Rezaul Karim, Natore district correspondent of privatelyrun Channel-i.

Associate Prof Abdullah Al Mamun, chairman of Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Rajshahi University, said, many fear journalists for their malpractices and urged newsmen to be more professional and practice ethical journalism.

## Dua Mahfil



Mr. Mujibul Huque, FCA, passed away on Monday 16th July 2018 (Inna Lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un). His Dua Mahfi will take place on Friday 20th July after Asr prayers at his residence House 2/B, Road 73, building Midsummer Dream of Navana, Gulshan 2. D-21

## HSC pass rate

FROM PAGE 5 As in previous years, girls outperformed boys with 65.87 percent pass rate against the latter's 59.47 percent rate.

A total of 96,858 students -- 49,230 girls and 47,628 boys -- appeared in the HSC exams this year from 253 colleges and 60,755 of them passed it successfully.

Colleges outside Chittagong city also showed an increase in pass rate --59.25 percent, up from last year's rate of 55.81 percent.

## English

FROM PAGE 5 Communication Technology and 4.75 percent students failed in Bangla, he added.

A total of 71,951 or 60.21 percent of students among 1,19,507 examinees have passed the exams this year from 653 colleges, according to board officials.

The pass rate of girls is 64.51 percent while that of boys is 56.22 percent. A lesser number of students -- 2,297, secured GPA-5 this year against last year's total number 2,987.

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for learning

## 6 journalists awarded for report on violence against women

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six journalists of print and electronic media were awarded yesterday for writing and broadcasting report on violence against women and girls. The award giving ceremony jointly organised by Women

Journalists Network, Bangladesh (WJNB) and Nari Unnayan Shakti (NUS), and supported by South Asia Women's Fund, was held at Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka. State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Meher

Afroz Chumki handed the crests and certificates to the awardees for writing minimum 30 articles and broadcasting 10 TV reports on violence against women and girls. In print media, Wazed Hera, staff reporter of the daily

Janakantha, won the first prize, Yasmin Reema, Comilla correspondent of the daily New Age, won second prize and Jugantor's Rita Bhowmick won the third. For TV reporting, senior reporter of SATV Farzana Shova won first prize, Shatila Sarmin, staff reporter of Somoy TV, won second prize and Sheikh Humayun Kabir Surjo, Kurigram correspondent of News24, received the third. Through their reports, the journalists explored issues such as

child marriage, underprivileged women, education and so on. Meher Afroz Chumki said the media has a key role when it

comes to bringing national attention to gender violence. She urged journalists to provide credible and accurate information. Women have progressed in many ways. Journalism is a challenging profession and women have made their mark in

the field, she said. While speaking at the programme, awardee Farzana Shova said journalists have a responsibility to bring to light incidents of violence against women.

Farida Yasmin, secretary general of Jatiya Press Club, said not only from the capital, reports were also collected and selected from across the country. Abul Kalam Azad, managing director and chief editor of

BSS, also spoke.

## 4 more arrested

FROM PAGE 3

in a TV serial, invited him to attend a birthday party of her friend in the Banani flat on July 8, Baten said.

Mamun also went to the flat on his motorcycle, being invited by Rahmat, who went there by his own car.

Within minutes of their entry, four to five males including the fugitive suspects entered the flat and identified them as "men of administration". They claimed that Mamun and Rahmat were engaged in "immoral activities" with the girls, and threatened to call journalists and make their pictures with the girls public, the police officer said. As Mamun showed his professional ID, the male gang

members tied up both Mamun and Rahmat. They beat up Mamun after they found out his identity, leaving him dead on the spot, Baten said. The DMP official said Rahmat was the initial target of the

gang members, as Afrin did not invite Mamun. The gang members also informed the incident to Rabiul, a member of the group who used to look after the flat. To hide the body, the gang initially thought of drowning

it in a water body, or dumping in the jungle, but eventually decided to burn so that it cannot be identified, detective officials said. Rabiul followed them on a bike. Baten said the gang members put the body in a sack and took it to Gazipur in Rahmat's car with Rahmat behind the wheel. They took petrol from a petrol pump there, and burnt the body using the fuel in a secluded area. Detective officials said the gang has rented 7-8 flats in

different parts of the capital to conduct illegal activities, and often blackmailed its victims. The flats were rented by a suspect named Nazrul Islam. Mamun was posted to different police stations in Dhaka

and Chittagong since 2006 before he was transferred to the special branch.

## All except Liton demand

FROM PAGE 5

"We may talk against each other at meetings, but we always stay together. The history of politics in Rajshahi is that of all parties staying together peacefully," Liton said.

"Those who are demanding army deployment are afraid as people are with us," he added.

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০১৯৯২০০৯৯০১, ০১৯১৭৭৬১৬১৬, ০১৯৯৯৯৬৬৭১১

### 40,000 probable FROM PAGE 5

told journalists.

According to election rules, final polling centre list should be published 25 days prior to the election schedule announce-

In the letter it was said that in the upcoming parliamentary election the probable number of voting centres will be around 40,000, including 613 in the Chittagong Hill Tracts area. Currently there are

10,41,42,381 voters in the country. In the last parliamentary election held on January 5, 2014 the number was 9,19,65,167. According to the consti-

tution, the tenure of the

incumbent parliament will expire on January 28 next year. Election should be held within 90 days before the parliament expires. So election should be held between October 31, 2018 and January 28, 2019. **Election Commission** 

has already started working in this regard. A total of Tk 1,895 crore was allocated to hold the election.

## E-passports likely

details, which now appear in the beginning of an MRP, would be replaced by a polymer card embedded with a chip containing the holder's information.

The e-passport includes high-tech colour personalisation technology, which would improve visual verification. The contract, signed under the project -- "Introduction of

Bangladesh" -- is estimated to cost around Tk 4,569 crore and will be implemented by the DIP between July 2018 and June 2028. During this tenure, Veridos would provide 3 crore epassport booklets, establish an assembly factory in the capital's Uttara, 50 e-gates, maintenance facilities of all

E-Passport and Automatic Border Control System in

software, hardware and networks and special training to 100 DIP officials in Germany. Home Minister Asaduzzaman said they are introducing the e-passport as the MRP, which was introduced in 2010, was not sufficient in combating passport fraudulence and

mismanagement. The tenure of MRP ended on June 30 but the services will continue until implementation of e-passport, he added.

At present, more than 2 crore people of the country have MRPs. They would be provided e-passports when they apply for re-issuing passports. German State Minister Niels Annen said, "Through the

technological partnership with Germany, Bangladesh will gain crucial expertise to prepare for various challenges, whether we are talking about fighting counterfeit IDs or terrorism."

Hans Wolfgang Kunz, CEO of Veridos CEO, said although Bangladesh is set to introduce e-passport system as the 119th country, it is the fourth such country to use polycarbonate database.

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ESTABLISHMENT DIVISION Head office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka.

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