

DHAKA H34.0 L27.4 H32.6 L27.0 H32.5 L25.7 H33.0 L25.9 H35.0 L27.4 H34.5 L27.2 H32.7 L27.0 H31.6 L27.0 H29.5 L25.0

MYMENSINGH CHITTAGONG

RAJSHAHI

SYLHET

RANGPUR

KHULNA

COX'S BAZAR

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Rangpur divisions and at a few places over Rajshhai, Dhaka, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today, reports UNB quoting Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:18pm and rises tomorrow at 5:40am.

#### Anarchy in the name of movement will get apt reply

Says Quader

UNB, Gazipur

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said if anyone tries to create anarchy "in the name of national unity and movement", they will get a befitting reply.

He came up with the warning while talking to reporters after visiting the ongoing BRT project on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Bhogra area.

"BNP didn't see any success during the last four years, despite its call for a movement on many occasions. People are afraid of BNP because of its arson attack movement."

About electronic voting machines, he said, "Awami League prefers going with the EVM process in the next election."

During the visit, Quader also issued show-cause notices to two project directors, Sanaul Haq and Liakat Ali, due to their negligence in work.

## EVMs will create scope for digital vote rigging

Says Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka

Strongly opposing the Election Commission's move to use electronic voting machines (EVMs) in the next general election, BNP yesterday claimed that Awami League is now "depending on machine, after losing confidence in people".

Speaking at a press conference, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir warned that the Election Commission (EC) will have to pay a heavy price if it does not revoke its plan to use the EVMs, which will only create a scope for "digital vote rigging".

"People won't accept the conspiracy of looting their money in the name of procuring EVMs with an evil motive. Once again, we ask the EC to immediately rescind its move to buy EVMs," he said.

Otherwise, the BNP leader said, people's lack of confidence in the EC will further deepen, and the Commission will be held responsible for any untoward situation.

BNP arranged the press conference at its chairperson's Gulshan office to disclose the party's formal reaction to the EC's plan to use EVMs at 100 constituencies (around 15,000 polling centres) in the upcoming general election.

Fakhrul presented various examples and logics defending the party's stance against the EVM use as it can be manipulated. SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



RECKLESS... A man runs along a moving bus to hop aboard in the middle of the road while the helper firmly refuses to take in another passenger in the packed bus. This type of reckless behaviour of commuters on the road also contributes to a significant number of road accidents. The photo was taken near Saarc Fountain roundabout on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue yesterday. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

#### BARAPUKURIA COAL SCAM

### ACC interrogates nine more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday interrogated nine former and current officials of the Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Ltd (BCMCL), including three accused in a case filed in connection with the Barapukuria coal scam.

ACC's Deputy Director Shamsul Alam questioned them for about four hours, from 9:30am, at the Commission's Segunbagicha headquarters over disappearance of 1.42 lakh tonnes of coal worth about Tk 230 crore.

The three accused are: Muhammad Khalilur Rahman, deputy manager (coal handling and management); Md Abdul Mannan Patwary, former general manager (finance and accounts); and Gopal Chandra Saha, former general manager (accounts).

Six other officials are: Md Sarwar Hossain, manager (accounts); Md Kamrul Hasan, manager (sales and revenue collection); Mohammad Noman Pradhania, deputy manager (marketing and customer services); AKM Sirajul Islam, former general manager (administration); Md Shariful Alam, former general manager (administration); and Al Amin, assistant manager (security).

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# 'We had no control over the high migration cost'

Say 10 agents accused of monopoly in labour recruitment in Malaysia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The much talked about 10 recruiting agents, accused of monopoly in labour recruitment in Malaysia, said they had no control over the excessive migration cost. They held a press conference yesterday at The Westin Dhaka amid media reports accusing the agencies of monopoly and charging exorbitant fees from the workers.

According to them, some 250 other recruiting agents and brokers were involved in securing job placements from Malaysian employers as well as jobseekers in Bangladesh.

"A jobseeker does not directly come to us, rather goes to the brokers. So, when five to six levels of brokers are involved, we cannot control the cost," said Noor

Ali, managing director of Unique Eastern cost is Tk 40,000. Pvt Ltd, one of the ten agents.

The other agents who were selected by Malaysia for labour recruitment back in 2016 are Catharsis International, ISMT Human Resources Development Ltd, Amin Tours and Travels, Al Islam Overseas, Prantik Travels & Tourism Ltd, Shanjari International, Rabbi International, Passage Associates and Career Overseas Consultants Ltd.

Malaysian newspaper, The Star, on June 22 reported that an organised syndicate led by a Bangladeshi businessman with alleged political connections with the Malaysian home ministry, charged Bangladeshi workers about MR 20,000 each (Tk 4 lakh) for jobs in Malaysia, though the actual

Noor Ali said the new Malaysian government wants to change the online recruiting system, SPPA, and open it up to all recruiting agents. He clarified that the 10 agencies were selected by Malaysia and endorsed by Bangladesh. He said during negotiations in

2015-16, Bangladesh government also wanted 745 agencies to be involved in recruitment, but Malaysia wanted to start with the 10 and then include more. However, that did not happen.

Bangladesh government wanted that each of the 10 selected agents would engage at least 10 other recruiting agents as associates, Noor Ali claimed.

"Some 200 to 250 recruiting agents SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

### PM's intervention urged to implement Vested Property Return Act

Oikya Parishad holds sit-in programme at district administrators' offices

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Urging the prime minister's intervention to implement the Vested Property Return Act immediately, Bangladesh Hindu-Bouddha-Christian Oikya Parishad yesterday held a sit-in programme on the premises of district administrators' offices across the country.

Leaders of Oikya Parishad submitted a memorandum to the premier through district administrators after the programmes, according to a press release.

Though Vested Property Return (Amendment) Act was adopted in the parliament in 2001 and four positive amendments were made between 2011 and 2013, no land has been returned to any victim so far, they mentioned in the memorandum.

The memorandum also mentioned that although 1.62 lakh petitions of returning vested properties were filed with the tribunal, only 10,000 cases were disposed of in the

tribunal and appellate tribunal so far. If this trend contiues, it may take 50 years more to

Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka yesterday, demanding punishment for the killers of Suborna Nodi, the Pabna district correspondent of Ananda TV. Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, Dhaka Union of Journalists, and the journalists and employees of Ananda TV also held similar protest programmes at the same place separately. The 30-year-old journalist was hacked to death by unidentified assailants near her house in Pabna town Tuesday. PHOTO: STAR

#### ICT frames charges against 4 Sherpur men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday framed four charges against four Sherpur men in a case filed for allegedly committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971.

The tribunal fixed September 30 to begin their trial through recording of opening statement of the prosecution and testimony of prosecution's first witness, Prosecutor Rezia

Sultana said. The four accused -- all from Nakla Upazila -- are SM Aminuzzaman Faruk, 58, AKM Akram Hossain, 62, Emdadul Haque alias Kwaza Doctor, 74, and Mokhlesur Rahman Tara, 66. All of them except Tara

have been arrested. The charges include abduction, confinement, torture, arson, enslavement and murder.

### SC to hear govt petition against Khaleda's bail on Oct 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday fixed October 1 for hearing two petitions filed by the government seeking stay on the High Court orders that granted bail to BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia in two defamation cases.

The full bench of the apex court will hear the petitions, Deputy Attorney General MA Kamrul Ahsan Khan said.

After a brief hearing, Justice Hasan Foez Siddique sent the petitions to the full bench for hearing on October 1.

However, the HC orders on Khaleda's bail will remain effective until further order, Barrister Kayser Kamal, the BNP chief's lawyer said.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam moved the petitions while Advocate AJ Mohammad

Ali appeared for Khaleda.

The government on August 16 filed the petitions with the apex court seeking stay on

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the bail orders. According to the petitions, the BNP chief cannot get bail in the cases as she made derogatory comments about the number of Liberation War martyrs and demeaned

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Meanwhile, a Comilla court fixed September 12 for further hearing on a bail petition filed by

Khaleda Zia in connection with a vandalism case filed under the special powers act. Judge Shamsul Alam fixed the date after

hearing arguments from the defence and prosecution, reports our Comilla correspon-

## **Employment Opportunity**

### Sr. Executive / Dy. Manager (SCD)

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# SC clears way for hiring 634 firemen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court has cleared the way for the authorities concerned of the government to complete the process of recruiting 634 firemen.

The apex court yesterday stayed for eight weeks a High Court order that issued a status quo following a writ petition that alleged irregularities in the recruitment process of the fire service and civil defence. Chamber Judge of the SC's Appellate Division Justice

Hasan Foez Siddique passed the stay order following a petition filed by the fire service, who said there were no irregularities in the recruitment process. Now, there is no legal bar for the fire service to complete

the appointment process, said Deputy Attorney General Samarendra Nath Biswas. Following the writ petition filed by 16 candidates, who could not qualify in the recruitment test, the HC on August

14 issued the status quo for four months. Attorney General Mahbubey Alam and Advocate AM Aminuddin appeared for the fire service while Barrister AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon argued for the writ petitioners.

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