



An employee fogs the premises of Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University yesterday as Dhaka South City Corporation launches an anti-mosquito drive called "Crash Programme".

PHOTO:
PRABIR DAS

Not a single arrest made without warrant

Home minister says about BNP's allegation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Refuting BNP's allegation of indiscriminate arrests of its leaders and activists, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday termed it "propaganda" and said not a single arrest has been made without warrant.

Bringing such allegations is a political strategy of BNP, the minister claimed, adding, "Only those who are accused in specific cases are being arrested."

He was talking to reporters after emerging from the launching ceremony of "The National Plan of Action (NPA) for Prevention of Human Trafficking 2018-2022" at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) in Dhaka.

The minister said law enforcing agencies are being controlled by the Election Commission. They are arresting or taking action as per directives from the EC, he added.

"If there is an arrest warrant against a nomination seeker, law enforcers have no choice but to arrest them," he also said.

Asked whether they have identified those who are spreading rumours on social media, he said the law enforcing agencies are working on it and stern action will be taken against those involved.

While replying to a query about newspa-

pers publishing fake news, the minister said the information ministry and EC have already been informed about it and the law enforcing agencies are working according to their instructions.

"NPA FOR PREVENTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING 2018-2022" LAUNCHED United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Winrock International jointly launched the National Plan of Action with the Ministry of Home Affairs yesterday.

For the past two years, Bangladesh has been rated as "Tier 2 Watch List country", just above Tier 3 – the lowest ranking in the US "Trafficking-In-Persons" (TIP) report. The five-year-long project is a framework for combatting human trafficking in Bangladesh.

Terming human trafficking "modern-day slavery", speakers called for an end to this heinous crime on men, women, and children, and ensure justice for the victims of trafficking and their families, through effective implementation of laws in Bangladesh.

The home minister said the Bangladesh government has demonstrated a bold commitment in preventing human trafficking. Despite having its own problems, Bangladesh has been hosting more than

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Rejection of Khaleda's nomination indicates a level-playing field

Faruk Khan says after AL's meeting with EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League leader Lt Col (ret'd) Faruk Khan yesterday said the cancellation of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's nomination papers proves that a level-playing field is prevailing in the country for the upcoming general election.

"This proves that all are equal in the eyes of the law... This also proves that a level playing field exists in Bangladesh," the pre-sidium member of AL told reporters after a meeting with the Election Commission. "Law will not be different for any person no matter he or she is the

chief of a political party."

Earlier, a 10-member delegation of the ruling Awami League led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Political Adviser HT Imam held a meeting with the commission.

Emerging from the meeting, HT Imam said the BNP chief's nomination papers have been rejected by the returning officer. "It's not a matter of any political party chief, it's about a convicted person. There has been no deviation of law in this case," he said.

HT Imam also alleged that BNP Secretary General Mirza

Fakhrul Islam Alamgir held a rally at Syedpur Airport, which is a violation of the electoral code and a punishable offence.

"We have been observing that provocative speeches targeting the EC and the government are being delivered. I call upon all to show restraint and assist the EC to hold a free and fair election as this election is going to be a participatory one," he said.

Khaleda's nomination papers for Feni-1, Bogura-6 and seven constituencies were rejected due to her conviction in two corruption cases.

Make metro rail disabled-friendly

Speakers urge authorities at discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Persons with disabilities yesterday urged the authorities concerned to ensure that the metro rail has all accessibility for the disabled.

They also said staff members of the metro rail have to be given necessary training so they can help persons with disabilities with a friendly attitude.

They were speaking at a discussion organised in the capital's Brac Centre, marking International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3 (today).

Brac and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) organised the programme where representatives including disabled members of around 80 NGOs took part.

Conducting the discussion, Muhammad Abu Nur Siddique, managing director (MD) of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd (DMTCL), said all necessary facilities for the disabled have

already been integrated in the metro rail project.

Brac and NHRC also signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for jointly working to enhance facilities for persons with disabilities in the project.

Takayuki Fujitomi, acting team leader of consultant consortium NKDM Association for Dhaka Metro Rail Development Project, made a multimedia presentation, demonstrating disabled access in the metro system.

Najma Ara Begum Poppy, general secretary of Bangladesh Visually Impaired People's Society, said people's attitude toward the disabled are sometimes quite unfriendly. Keeping that in mind, "the metro rail staffers must be given [proper] training on how to handle persons with disabilities."

A number of speakers recommended half fare for the disabled.

Responding to queries, the MD of DMTCL said, "The entire design of the metro rail infrastructure has been made

disabled-friendly. We'll have Metro Rail Traffic Police to look after all these issues."

The committee on fixing fare will set appropriate fares for the disabled and the elderly, he added.

Speaking as the chief guest, NHRC Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque said, "The needs of the persons with disabilities are under serious consideration of the government... We have to adopt a metro rail management system [that is] friendly to them."

KM Abdus Salam, director general of NGO Affairs Bureau; Penny Morton, deputy high commissioner of Australian High Commission in Dhaka; and KM Morshed, director advocacy of technology and partnership at Brac also spoke at the programme.

The much-hyped metro rail service, formally named as Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Line-6, is expected to open half of its 20.10 kilometres of route by the end of 2019.

Jashore BNP nominee can't contest polls

SC extends its chamber judge's order halting HC directive that allowed her candidacy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday extended its chamber judge's order halting the High Court directive that had stayed the conviction and sentence of BNP nominee for Jashore-2 Sabira Sultana and cleared her way to contest the polls.

Following yesterday's SC order, Sabira cannot run the election as her conviction and six years' jail sentence will remain in force, Anti-Corruption Commission's lawyer Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star.

He said the commission and government will move separate leave-to-appeal petitions before the SC's Appellate Division, challenging the HC

order after receiving its certified copy.

A seven-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain passed the order after hearing two separate petitions filed by the government and ACC, seeking stay on the HC order.

After the SC passed the order, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told reporters at his office that the SC order is a message for politicians. If anybody is convicted and sentenced to more than two years in any case, he or she will not be eligible for contesting any election, he added.

Sabira's lawyer Advocate Aminul Islam told The Daily Star that his client is yet to communicate with him about



Sabira Sultana

EXPLOSIVES CASE

Arrest warrants against Aman, 168 others

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued warrants for arrest of BNP leader Amanullah Aman and 168 others in a case filed last year under the Explosive Substances Act.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Kazi Md Ashrafuzzaman passed the order after dismissing petitions submitted by Aman and the others, seeking time for extending their bails that expired yesterday.

The court also fixed January 13, 2019 for submission of reports on execution of arrest warrants issued against them.

During the hearing yesterday, Advocate Masud Ahmed Talukder told the court that on June 5 last year, their clients secured

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

LOCKED OUT... After Saturday's clash between two factions of Tablighi Jamaat, police keep the gate to the Ijtima ground in Tongi closed, while a group of devotees wait on the other side requesting entry. The vast ground remains deserted, with belongings of the attendees left abandoned, inset, after law enforcers flushed them out following the clash.

'Hangsabalaka' the latest to join Biman fleet

UNB, Dhaka

The second Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner aircraft of national flag carrier Biman Bangladesh Airlines arrived on Saturday night.

The new aircraft named "Hangsabalaka" landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 11:40pm, said Shakil Meraj, general manager (public relations) of Biman Bangladesh Airlines.

AM Mosaddique Ahmed, managing director and chief executive officer of Biman, received the aircraft.

Earlier, the aircraft took off from Paine Field, USA after Boeing authorities officially handed over the key and ownership of the aircraft to Biman authorities. Captain Smoleski, Captain Shoeb, Captain Aminur and First Officer Anita conducted the flight operation.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina named the aircraft Hangsabalaka.

The Dreamliner will fly six times a week on Dhaka-London route, four times on Dhaka-Dammam and three times on Dhaka-Bangkok route.



PHOTO COURTESY: KARIB AHMED/BANGLADESH AVIATION HUB

The aircraft is capable of flying 16 hours straight, and requires 20 per cent less fuel to operate than other planes.

On September 4, the national flag carrier marked a milestone with its maiden brand-new Dreamliner taking off for Malaysia. The aircraft was named "Akashbeena".

The Dreamliners are part of a \$2.1 billion order for 10 aircrafts signed between Biman Bangladesh and Boeing in 2008.

With the inclusion of the second 787, Biman now boasts a fleet of 15 aircrafts, which includes four Boeing 737-800s, four Boeing 777-300ERs, and two Bombardier Q400s.

BANANI RAPE CASE

TIB concerned over bail of prime accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday expressed deep concern over further delay in ensuring justice, caused by the bail of prime accused Shafat Ahmed, in a case filed for rape of two private university students at The Raintree Dhaka hotel in the capital last year.

In a press statement, TIB demanded a speedy trial and exemplary punishment of the guilty.

"The case remains pending a year and a half after the charge was framed whereas according to the nature of the case, the legal process was due for completion within 180 days. Therefore, the question remains whether such delay and granting of bail

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

অভিনন্দন

বাংলাদেশের পাইওনিয়ার কলোরেকটাল সার্জন প্রফেসর ডাঃ একেএম ফজলুল হক প্রতিষ্ঠাতা চেয়ারম্যান (অবসরপ্রাপ্ত), কলোরেকটাল সার্জারী বিভাগ, বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিব মেডিকেল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ সরকার কর্তৃক ২০১৭-২০১৮ কর্তৃক সমগ্র বাংলাদেশের ডাক্তারদের মধ্যে ১ম সর্বোচ্চ করদাতা নির্বাচিত হয়েছেন। উল্লেখ্য প্রফেসর ডাঃ হক পরপর দুই বছর সর্বোচ্চ করদাতার গৌরব অর্জন করেন।

বিগত ১২ নভেম্বর ২০১৮ মাননীয় অর্থমন্ত্রী জনাব আবুল মাল আব্দুল মুহিত প্রফেসর ডাঃ হককে ট্যাক্স কার্ড সম্মাননা পত্র-২০১৮ ও ফ্রেট প্রদান করেন। উক্ত অনুষ্ঠানে অন্যান্যের মধ্যে আরও উপস্থিত ছিলেন মাননীয় অর্থ প্রতিমন্ত্রী জনাব এম এ মালান এবং জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডের চেয়ারম্যান জনাব মোশারফ হোসেন উইয়া।

ইডেন মাল্টি-কেয়ার হসপিটাল
৭৫৩, সাত মসজিদ রোড, ধানমন্ডি, ঢাকা। ফোন: ০২-৫৮১৫০৫০৭-১০
মোবাইল: ০১৭৫৫-৬৬৭১৭৩, ০১৭৫৫-৬৬৭১৭৪, ০১৭৫৫-৬৬৭১৭৫-৬

www.prodrakmfazulhaque.com www.piles.care