



PHOTO: RAJIB RAHMAN

Visitors marvel at a colony of egrets on the shore of Karnaphuli river yesterday afternoon. Every winter the birds arrive here foraging for food.

CU student found dead at mess

CU CORRESPONDENT

A student of Chittagong University (CU) was found dead at a mess outside the campus yesterday.

Jahangir Islam Raju, 21, son of Sirajul Islam from Sonaimuri upazila in Noakhali, was a fourth year student of the economics department.

When he did not respond to calls, his university mates noticed through a window that his body was hanging from the ceiling in his room, said police.

On information from the university authorities, police rushed to the spot and recovered the body after breaking open the door around 1:30pm.

The body was sent to Chattogram Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Hathazari Police Station Officer-in-Charge Belal Md Jahangir said Jahangir might have hanged himself.

SNAPS & snippets

Jamila Begum no more

CITY DESK



Jamila Begum, wife of late freedom fighter Abdul Wadud Mollah of Pingolia village in Kashiani upazila of Gopalganj, died yesterday at Impulse Hospital, Dhaka. She was 73, says a press release.

She left behind her four sons, two daughters and grandsons and numerous well-wishers.

Jamila is the mother of Azad Hossain, director of Annex Communications Ltd.

Mosharraf Bhuiyan passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Deputy Inspector General of Criminal Investigation Department Md Mosharraf Bhuiyan died at Apollo Hospitals Dhaka yesterday, aged 58.

He left behind his wife, a son and a daughter.

Mosharraf was born in Gazipur in 1960. He joined BCS police service on February 15 in 1988 as an assistant superintendent of police (SP).

He served as the SP in Satkhira, Khulna and Manikganj and as deputy inspector general in Barishal and Sylhet ranges and Special Branch, says a Police Headquarters press release.

AIUB holds conference on business, management

CITY DESK

A two-day international conference on Business and Management was held at American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) on November 29-30, says a press release.

University Grants Commission Chairman Prof Abdul Mannan was present as the chief guest. AIUB Vice Chancellor Dr Carmen Z Lamagna welcomed the distinguished guests invited to the programme.

KAM Majedur Rahman, managing director of Dhaka Stock Exchange; and Prof Syed Ferhat Anwar, director, Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Dhaka University, were present as special guests.



HC gives dissenting order on bail of 2 AB Bank ex-officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-judge High Court bench yesterday delivered a dissenting verdict on the legality of bail of two former AB Bank officials in a money laundering case.

Two senior judges of the bench upheld the bail of former chairman M Wahidul Haque and former head of financial institutions and treasury Abu Hena Mustafa Kamal.

In their verdict on a suo moto (voluntary) rule, Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice M Enayetur Rahim observed that the magistrate's court, which gave them bail, can do so in such cases, but the magistrate has to exercise the bail granting power cautiously.

The judges, however, issued a travel ban on the two until the trial court finishes the trial of the Tk 165 crore laundering case, Anti-Corruption Commission's (ACC) lawyer Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star.

The other member of the bench, Justice Md Ashraf Kamal, scrapped the magistrate's bail order and asked the two accused to surrender to the lower court immediately.

ACC lawyer Khurshid said the verdict given by majority of the judges [two out of the three] will remain in force. He also said all the judges observed that the magistrate's court

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End of a nightmare

Two minors, who were forced into labour in Dubai by their uncle, return to parents

SHADMA MALIK

Two minors engaged in forced labour in Dubai have been rescued by Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA).

They were identified as brothers Hridoy, 14, and Jahid Hasan Jibon, 12, hailing from Laksam upazila in Cumilla. They were handed over to their parents at BNWLA office in the capital's Agargaon yesterday.

Their maternal uncle Mannan took the brothers to Dubai four years ago through family visa, claiming they were his sons. After arriving in Dubai, they were forced to work in a bicycle garage.

"My uncle used to beat us without any reason," Hridoy told The Daily Star, adding that they worked from 7am to 11pm daily to repair bicycles.

Hridoy's mother, Shirin said she



Hridoy and Jahid at Dhaka airport.

had very little contact with their sons. "My sons always complained and wanted to return to their hometown," she added.

A year back, a policeman noticed

Hridoy and Jibon working in the garage. He rescued them and sent them to a shelter home in Abu Dhabi.

Police also arrested Mannan, who is now in Dubai jail.

The shelter home contacted BNWLA to find the parents, providing the cell phone number of their mother taken from the boys. The brothers were in the shelter home for eight months, before returning to Dhaka.

"In one year, we have received 55 cases to rescue people," Advocate Towhida Khondker, director of BNWLA, said, adding that these included cases of a number of women, who were taken to India and were forced to live and work in brothels.

President of BNWLA Advocate Fawzia Karim Firoze said, "We often find that the perpetrators are within the family. This is challenging."

New voters to be a major factor in Khulna

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

A total of 3,67,000 new voters have been added to the updated voter list in Khulna district, taking the total number of voters to 18,00,656, who would exercise their franchise in the December 30 election.

Of the total voters, 9,02,631 are male and 8,98,025 female.

The number of voters was 14,42,862 in the 2008 ninth parliamentary election, according to the Election Commission.

With the addition of around 4 lakh voters in the last 10 years, the battle of ballots for the election in the district's six constituencies rely largely on the candidates' ability to sway the young and first-time voters.

Political parties are trying to reach out to the new voters through engaging in dialogues and visiting educational institutions.

But the youths are on alert and waiting for the election manifestos as well as comparing their (candidates') previous pledges and performances as well as educational backgrounds. They are also looking into the affidavits.

In 2008, Panchanon Biswas of

Awami League defeated BNP's Amir Ezaz Khan by 52,381 votes in Khulna-1 (Batiyaghata-Dacope). Both of them got party tickets this time. This year, around 41,626 new voters will cast votes in the constituency, which could play a crucial role in the polls results.

In Khulna-2 (Sadar, Sonadanga), Nazrul Islam Monju of BNP defeated AL's Mizanur Rahman Mizan by 1,670 votes in 2008. This year, 55,672 new voters might end up deciding the fate of AL's Sheikh Jewel and BNP's Monju.

In Khulna-3 (Khalishpur, Khan Jahan Ali), former state minister for labour and employment Begum Monnujan Sufian of AL won by 16,501 votes, defeating BNP's Shekender Ali Dalim. This year, the constituency has 43,000 new voters.

Former FBCCI president and AL candidate Abdul Salam Murshedi and BNP's Azizul Bari Helal are vying for Khulna-4 (Rupsa, Terokhada, Dighalia). In 2008, the AL candidate defeated BNP candidate by 11,669 votes. This year, 77,585 new voters will decide the next MP.

"We are keenly observing the candidates and waiting for the manifestos,"

said Rejesh Golder, a master's student at Khulna University (KU).

Matiur Rahman, a journalism student at KU, said, "We don't want a loan defaulter or corrupt person as candidate."

Shornali Golder, a student of Daulatpur Day-Night College, hoped that the candidates would address women's rights issues.

Many of the first-time voters, mostly students, said they want a lawmaker who would engage in dialogues with them, listen to their issues and work for development of the education sector as well as create employment opportunity for them.

Many new voters also include working-class youths.

Ismail Sheikh, 22, who works at a city garage, said he wants a lawmaker who would create jobs and revive the jute industry.

Contacted, Advocate Kudrat-e-Khuda, district secretary of Sushashoner Jonno Nagorik, said, "Youths will play a vital role in ensuring victory or defeat of any aspirant. Also, voters need to consider transparency and accountability of a candidate."

CUMILLA ARSON CASE

File leave to appeal petition against bail order: SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday asked the government to file a leave to appeal petition in two weeks against a High Court order that granted bail to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in an arson case.

A six-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain passed the order after hearing a petition filed by the government seeking a stay on the HC order.

The bail order will remain in force until the SC passes an order on the leave to appeal petition, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam said.

The arson case was filed under the Special Powers Act for setting fire to a vehicle in Cumilla during the anti-government agitation in January 2015.

Send Mirza Abbas' nomination paper to RO in 24hrs: SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday asked the chief election commissioner (CEC) to send nomination paper of BNP leader Mirza Abbas to the returning officer (RO) concerned for scrutiny within 24 hours.

The SC also said the RO has to complete the scrutiny in 24 hours after receiving the nomination paper.

A six-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC, headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, issued the verdict after hearing a petition of the government, challenging a previous High Court order.

On December 4, the HC asked the CEC to immediately send Abbas' nomination paper to the RO for scrutiny and set 24 hours for the RO to complete the scrutiny.

Opposing the HC order during yesterday's hearing at the SC, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam said both the SC and the Election Commission are constitutional independent bodies. And, if the HC order remains in force, the EC will not be able to function independently.

Advocate Zainul Abedin, lawyer for Abbas, argued that it is a citizens' right to be able to file a nomination paper. Hence, the RO's refusal to receive Abbas' nomination paper was illegal.

Meanwhile, the HC asked the ROs concerned to receive and scrutinise in 12 hours the nomination papers of Sadakat Khan Sakku (independent) for Dhaka-16, Md Azharul Islam (Gono Forum) for Kishoreganj-1 and

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Shakil's 2nd anniversary of death observed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The second death anniversary of Mahbubul Hoque Shakil, a former student leader, PM's special assistant and a poet, was observed through daylong programmes yesterday.

The programmes included a discussion on the life and work of Shakil, a doa mahfil and placing of wreaths at his grave at Bhatikashar Municipality Graveyard in Mymensingh.

District Awami League and Mahbubul Hoque Shakil Smriti Sangsad organised the programmes at Shaheed Sahabuddin Auditorium in Mymensingh.

District AL secretary Advocate Moazzem Hossain Babul, city AL vice president and administrator of Mymensingh City Corporation Ekramul Haque Titu, and member secretary of the Sangsad Kamal Pasha Chowdhury, addressed the discussion, among others.

On December 6, 2016, Shakil, son of Jahirul Hoque Khokha, Mymensingh district unit president of AL, breathed his last in Dhaka at the age of 47.

A popular face among youths and in student politics, Shakil was a forefront leader of anti-autocracy student movement in the 1980s. He was a good organiser and omnipresent with his high-pitched slogans -- "Down with autocrat" -- in the processions on the Dhaka University campus and beyond during the turbulent times of HM Ershad.

Shakil was also a former senior vice president and organising secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League.

ACC to monitor whether candidates spend black money centring election

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Iqbal Mahmood yesterday reiterated that they will scrutinise the affidavits of all nomination seekers.

"Whoever submits affidavit before government, semi-government or constitutional bodies, we will cross-check the information with NBR (National Board of Revenue) and others to verify it," he said, adding that the commission will do random sampling and take action against the persons if discrepancies are found.

ACC will begin their work in this regard from January next year.

He said this while addressing a meeting with media personalities at the ACC headquarter in Dhaka.

ACC held the meeting on the occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day, to be observed on December 9.

Citing examples that many candidates arrange extravagant feasts to earn the support of voters, the ACC chairman said, "We'll monitor whether candidates spend black money centring the election."



Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman Iqbal Mahmood holds a meeting with editors of different media houses at ACC office yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

"Our intelligence division is working on it," he added.

Iqbal said they have so far received around 7.5 lakh calls on the ACC hotline but could not take action because most of these allegations were out of its jurisdiction.

Top officials and editors of different media outlets participated in the meeting.

Prothom Alo Associate Editor Abdul

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Ctg BNP President Shahadat shown arrested in three more cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Dr Shahadat Hossain, city unit president of Chattogram BNP and the party-nominated candidate from Chattogram-9 (Kotwali) constituency, was shown arrested in three more cases when he was produced before a court yesterday.

The court of Additional Metropolitan Magistrate Mohiuddin Murad passed the order to show Shahadat arrested in three cases filed with Bakalia police station, when police produced him before the court with an appeal, said Assistant Commissioner (Prosecution) Kazi Shahabuddin Ahmed of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP).

Shahadat's lawyer Advocate Nazim Uddin, said that after Shahadat was shown arrested in the cases, they sought bail but the court rejected the plea.

The three cases in which the BNP leader was shown arrested, were filed under explosives, sabotage and special power acts, said court sources.

Detectives arrested Shahadat from Dhaka on November 7, when he went to Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court premises to visit BNP leaders and activists. He was later brought to Chattogram and shown arrested in a case filed with Kotwali police station on October 29 on charges of subversive activities.

According to the affidavit submitted before the Returning Officer as of filing nomination paper, he stood accused in 40 cases filed over different charges with different police stations in the city.

From the Ctg-9 constituency, the ruling Awami League has nominated Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel, central organising secretary of the party and son of three-time mayor, late Mohiuddin Chowdhury.