

## JS POLLS IN RESERVED SEATS

# 68 Ctg female AL leaders seek party nomination

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

At least 68 female Awami League (AL) leaders in Chattogram have been trying to get party nomination to be elected as members of parliament in reserved seats for women.

Wasika Ayesha Khan, daughter of late AL presidium member Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser, and former councillor of Chattogram City Corporation Sabiha Muchha were elected as members of parliament in the reserved seats for women in the 10th parliament with AL ticket.

AL sources said they were trying to secure party nomination this time also.

Besides, former reserved seat lawmakers Hasina Mannan and Cheman Arita Tayab were also trying to get party nomination, said AL insiders. They both were elected as members of parliament in seats reserved for women in the ninth parliament.

President of Chattogram north district unit Mohila AL Dilwara Yusuf, general secretary of Chattogram south district unit Mohila AL Shamima Harun Lubna, Advocate Jinat Sohana Chowdhury, Khadijatul Anwar Soni, Advocate Basanti Prova Palit, councillors of Chattogram City Corporation Jesmin Parvin Jesy, Abida Azad and Jobaira Nargis Khan

also collected nomination forms, among others, said AL sources.

"I was given party nomination in the 10th parliamentary polls held in 2014 but sacrificed it for the interest of grand alliance," said Khadijatul Anwar Soni, adding, "My father was a lawmaker from Chattogram-2... He had a lot of contribution to the party... after his death I have been working in the grassroots."

"I hope party high-command would give me nomination," she said.

Advocate Basanti Prova Palit, general secretary of Chattogram north district unit of Mohila AL, said she has been working at grassroots level for a long time.

"As I have been in grassroots politics over 30 years, I hope the party would evaluate my contribution this time," she said.

Abida Azad said, "I have been in grassroots politics for 40 years. I am wife of a freedom fighter. I was on the streets during different movements," she said.

"I have been elected councillor of CCC for five times. My husband was one of AL leaders in Chattogram who bravely took AL ahead after the 1975 tragedy," said Jobaira Nargis Khan.

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## DUCSU POLLS

## VC appoints returning officer, advisory body

DU CORRESPONDENT

Professor Dr SM Mahfuzur Rahman of International Business department of Dhaka University has been appointed as Chief Returning Officer to conduct the Dhaka University Central Students Union (Ducusu) polls.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman made the appointment in line with Section 8 of the existing Ducsu constitution, reads a press release of the university.

The VC also formed a 15-member advisory cell.

The last Ducsu election was held in 1990. The Supreme Court (SC) order delivered on January 6, 2019 has made it mandatory to hold the election.

On September 15 last year, after a meeting with representatives of student organisations, the DU VC said that Ducsu polls might be held by March this year.

# Drains of Khulna city choked

## Poor waste management causes drainage crisis and pollution



PHOTO: STAR

A major drain of the city, near the Sheikh Abu Naser Hospital, is almost invisible under a thick layer of discarded plastic waste. It has filled up to the extent where grass and small plants are growing. The photo was taken recently.

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Most drains of Khulna City Corporation (KCC) have turned into garbage heaps due to unplanned waste disposal and improper waste management. City dwellers are facing environmental degradation and health risks due to blockages in the drainage system and contamination of water resources near uncontrolled dumpsites.

According to KCC, the total length of drainage network of the city is 651.50 kilometres -- of which 291.23 km are made of concrete, 55 km are half concrete and 305 km are soil drains.

Last week, this correspondent visited at least ten spots in the city to observe the drain conditions, and found most of the drains full of plastic, bottles, rags etc.

Zorina Begum, 63, has been running a tea stall at Bastuhara Colony near Sheikh Abu Naser Hospital for eight years. Her tea stall is adjacent to a large secondary drain. "I did not see any worker of KCC cleaning the drain in the last three years," she said.

A big drain flows beside the Sheikh Abu Naser Hospital to Goalkhali via Khalishpur, which was

filled up to the extent that grass and small plants were growing on them.

Abu Taher, a resident of Goalkhali, told this newspaper that lack of maintenance and monitoring of some portion of the drain has blocked water passage.

"Often the dirty water overflows on the roads that create a nuisance for pedestrians and locals," said Abu Taher, adding that stagnant water and dumped waste have made it a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Md Abdul Ahad, Principal of Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) said water stuck in blocked drains sometimes contaminate water supply line, and cause waterborne diseases like malaria, gastroenteritis, and jaundice.

Anisur Rahman, conservancy officer of KCC, however claimed to The Daily Star that the city corporation regularly cleans all drains to ease water flow and stop breeding of mosquitoes.

"It is a continuous process but shortage of manpower interrupts the process," he said.

Over 509 employees, including 203 permanent workers, are employed in the conservancy department of KCC.

About 580 to 600 tonnes of waste

is produced daily in Khulna city, of which KCC has a collection capacity of 65-70 percent, Anisur said.

"It's in our [people's] nature to dump solid waste in drains, although garbage collection points have been set up by KCC. City dwellers should change their habit and come forward to assist KCC to solve the issue," said Anisur Rahman.

While walking along four-kilometre stretch of roads, this correspondent found three garbage collection points, two of them made of bricks and one made of steel.

Raju Sheikh, a vegetable seller of Doulatpur area, said: "It's not possible for us to walk over one kilometre carrying garbage to the nearest disposal place. If there was one nearby, I would use it often."

"KCC is trying to establish more concrete waste containers and portable small bins to collect waste, said Anisur Rahman.

Shiraj Miah, a waste collector of Noyabati area, told the correspondent that he only collects waste from collection points, and does not have equipments to clear up drains. "I collect waste from selected point only; when small excavators are used to clean drains, I assist in the work," he said.

## Journo Amanullah Kabir laid to rest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, M'singh

Eminent journalist Amanullah Kabir was laid to rest at his family graveyard in Rekhirpara village under Melandah upazila of Jamalpur yesterday, after a namaz-e-janaza at Rekhirpara



Government Primary School ground.

People from all walks of life, including local journalists, cultural activists and political leaders attended the janaza and prayed for the salvation of his departed soul.

Amanullah Kabir, passed away on Wednesday at the age of 72, while undergoing treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

He had served as the executive editor of english dailies The Independent and news editor of The Daily Star; editor of Bangla daily Amar Desh, and chief editor and managing director of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha before joining online news portal bdnews24.com as a senior editor.

## ATIA MAHAL CASE

# 3 accused remanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Sylhet court yesterday placed three alleged militants on five-day remand each in a case filed in connection with the sensational five-day anti-militant drive at Atia Mahal in the city's Shibbari area.

The drive, "Operation Twilight", went on from January 24 to January 28, 2017, and resulted in the death of four suspected militants and seven other people including a high official of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab).

The militants -- Jahurul Haque, his wife Arjina Begum and Hasan -- who were arrested in connection with several other militancy cases, were also shown arrested in the case, said Amulya Kumar Chowdhury, assistant commissioner (prosecution) of Sylhet Metropolitan Police (SMP).

Sylhet Metropolitan Magistrate Mamunur Rashid Siddiky granted the remand following a petition of Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI), the assistant commissioner said.

The three are the first people to be shown arrested in the case filed after

the drive at Atia Mahal.

Saroar Zahan, additional SP of PBI in Sylhet, said, "The PBI is investigating two cases related to the Atia Mahal anti-militant drive. One was filed over the explosives recovered from the militant hideout, and another was for twin blasts near the building. The trio has been shown arrested in first case."

During the anti-militant drive led by Bangladesh Army, four militants including a woman were killed inside the hideout.

On the evening of January 25, 2017, while the drive was ongoing, two grenades were blasted around 400 metres away from the Atia Mahal, which claimed seven lives including Rab intelligence chief Lt Col Abul Kalam Azad and two police officers.

Police filed two separate cases with Moglabazar Police Station accusing unnamed people after the operation.

Following an order of Police Headquarters on May 9 that year, PBI

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A student puts various kinds of 'pitha' (traditional homemade cakes) on display, on the opening day of a pitha festival at the Sylhet Agragami Girls' High School and College yesterday. The three-day fair was organised by the Sylhet chapter of Bangladesh Girl Guides Association at the college premises.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

## Govt planning to launch 2nd satellite

Says planning minister

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Planning Minister MA Mannan yesterday said that the government has plans to launch a second satellite and build a new bridge over Jamuna river.

The minister made the remark while speaking as the chief guest at the freshmen's orientation programme of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust). "All district roads will be upgraded to four lanes eventually. After the tunnel under Karnaphuli river, we're planning a new tunnel under Jamuna," the planning minister said.

MA Mannan said, "We have plans to build more universities, technology universities and medical colleges".

"It is our prime duty to create facilities for you. We will be creating financial resources and institutions for you, but embracing knowledge and science is your duty," the planning minister said.

Sust Vice Chancellor Prof Farid Uddin Ahmed, Treasurer Prof Elias Uddin Biswas, teachers and officials were present at the programme.

## BPL, TOUR OF ENG U-19

# CMP sets up 5-tier security

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP) has arranged five-tier security measurers centring two cricket events -- Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) and tour of England Under-19 team -- in the port city.

Talking to the media after holding a security coordination meeting with the authorities concerned at its headquarters, CMP Commissioner Mahbubur Rahman said CMP has chalked out five-tier security for the players at the venue, while a 5,000 law enforcers will discharge their duties during the matches.

"Proper security measures have been taken from CMP in hotels -- where the players would stay -- and stadiums, while SWAT, Quick Response Team (QRT) and Special Branch personnel will also be deployed along with regular forces to avert any untoward situation," said the CMP chief.

Two additional commissioners, Deputy Commissioners (DC) of CMP's four zones, Bangladesh Cricket Board officials, Rab and others respective officials including Chattogram Water Supply and Sewerage Authority, and others were also present at the meeting.

As per decisions made at the meeting, spectators cannot carry any bag, backpack, glass bottles, placards, electronic cables or any kind of electronic devices except for mobile phones. Apart from that, no racist and radical banners and posters will be allowed, said the CMP commissioner.

In the Chattogram leg of BPL, 10 matches of seven teams will be held at Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury stadium between January 25 and January 30, while several matches between Bangladesh U-19 and England U-19 teams will be held in two phases from February 4 to February 19, said police.

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