

## Bailout for big loan defaulters

**BB to offer generous scheme for large loan scheduling; experts fear it would further weaken banking governance**

JEBUN NESA ALO

Bangladesh Bank and a government committee have come up with a generous scheme to allow easy rescheduling of defaulted loans, which experts say will hurt the banking sector and the economy at large.

Once implemented, the scheme will also enable loan defaulters to obtain many other financial benefits.

Four years ago, a similar bailout offer was made to companies that had defaulted on large loans, allowing them to reschedule and repay loans on significantly relaxed terms.

But the special bailout scheme couldn't yield desired results as most of the large loan defaulters, who availed themselves of the scheme, did not make any serious effort to pay back their huge loans.

According to the new proposal, loan defaulters will get 13 to 15 years, with a grace period of up to two years, to pay back their loans.

All they will need to do is make a down payment of maximum 2 percent of their outstanding loans, instead of the current requirement of 10 to 15 percent, for regularising their loans. In some cases, they won't have to pay.

In case of the defaulters, who got loans from the BASIC Bank through irregularities between 2010 and 2014 when Sheikh Abdul Hye Bacchu was its chairman, will be allowed to regularise their loans by making a down

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hands over a plaque to a student during the prize distribution ceremony of a literary and cultural competition held at Bangabandhu Mausoleum Complex in Gopalganj's Tungipara yesterday, marking the National Children's Day and the birth anniversary of the father of the nation.

PHOTO: PID

## Working for bright future of children

**PM tells programme marking birth anniv of Bangabandhu**

BSS, Tungipara

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reiterated her firm commitment to present a "bright future" to the children by building a developed and prosperous Bangladesh, free from hunger, poverty and illiteracy.

"We have been working with a target to give the children a bright future by building a developed and prosperous Bangladesh as dreamt by Father of the Nation," she said while attending a children's rally and a cultural programme that was organised marking the birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Children's Day at Bangabandhu Mausoleum Complex in Tungipara.

Expressing her

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## Nur again calls for Ducsu repolls

**All five panels who boycotted polls to observe sit-in in front of VC office today; Liton Nandi blasts Nur's Gono Bhaban speech**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Even a week into the Ducsu election, the crisis at the Dhaka University is yet to be over as five agitating panels including that of new Vice President Nurul Haque Nur have again demanded fresh polls.

They are going to observe a sit-in in front of the office of DU vice chancellor, boycotting classes and examinations today to press home their demand, said their representa-

tives during a joint press conference at Madhur Canteen yesterday.

Speaking at a separate press conference of Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Odhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, Nur demanded repolling and alleged that the March 11 election was not held in a free, fair and credible manner.

He came up with the demand just a day after he along with other elected student

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Security personnel along with election officials carry polling materials to voting centres at Sadar upazila's Bandukbhanga union in Rangamati. All the 10 upazilas in the district go to polls today amid tight security. The photo was taken at Sadar Upazila Ghat around 10:00am yesterday.

PHOTO: ANVIL CHAKMA

## 116 upazilas go to polls today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the second phase, 116 upazilas go to polls today amid a growing number of candidates being elected unopposed.

The local body elections, boycotted by the BNP and several other parties, kicked off on March 10 about two months after the December 30 general polls.

This year, elections in 480 upazilas will be held in five phases.

Over 1.79 crore people are expected to cast votes at 7,034 centres in the second phase.

The third-phase polls will be held on March 24 in 127 upazilas and the fourth in 122 upazilas on March 31.

The Election Commission is yet to announce the schedule for

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## 2 killed as AL factions clash

**12 others hurt in fight between polls rivals in Joypurhat**

STAR REPORT

Two people were killed and 12 others injured in a factional clash of ruling Awami League over upazila elections in Joypurhat on Saturday night.

In Kalai upazila, a clash broke out between supporters of two AL leaders in Moslemganj village, killing two people and injuring 12 others.

The deceased are Aftab Hossain, 48, of Maddhyapara village, and Ratan Kumar Mohanta, 43, of Mahishpara village.

Police said election in Kalai upazila was held on March 10. Two AL leaders -- Minfuzur Rahman Milon and ANM Shawkat Habib Talukdar -- tried to get party's nomination for contesting in Kalai upazila chairman post. Finally, Milon secured party's nomination.

In the polls, Habib and local union parishad chairman Wazed Ali, who is also an AL leader, supported JSD candidate Tarikul Islam. But Milon won the polls, said locals.

Following the rivalry, followers of Milon equipped with sticks and sharp weapons attacked Moslemganj village, which is a stronghold of Wazed, around 9:00pm

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MARCH 18, 1971

## So-called talks enter third day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The so-called negotiation, which will later be proved as a ploy of the Pakistan military junta to kill time for military buildup in East Pakistan, now Bangladesh, rolled into third day.

Following the previous day's meeting between General Yahya Khan and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and their advisers, the Pakistan president ordered the army to make preparation for action against the Awami League leadership.

He gave a green signal to General Tikka Khan for the operation. Tikka Khan, infamous as the Butcher of Baluchistan for his murderous operations against Baluch tribal in the early 1960s, authorised General Khadim Hussain Raja and General Rao Farman Ali to work out the details of the planned operation, which later came to be known as Operation Search Light.

And they started their preparations for the operation successfully with the

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## 5 Bangladeshis killed in NZ attack named 'lone gunman'

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The number of Bangladeshis killed in Friday's mosque massacre in New Zealand's Christchurch rose to five, said the honorary consul of Bangladesh in Auckland.

The consul Shafiqur Rahman Bhuiyan yesterday confirmed the identities of three more Bangladeshi victims. They are Omar Faruk, of Narayanganj; Mojammel Haque, of Chandpur; and Zakaria Bhuiyan, of Narsingdi.

Two other Bangladeshi nationals -- Dr Abdus Samad, Prof of Department of Agronomy at Bangladesh Agriculture University; Hosne Ara Ahmed, of Sylhet -- were earlier declared dead by the New Zealand authorities.

Shafiqur also said three other Bangladeshis, who survived the shootings attacks at Al Noor Mosque and Linwood Mosque with injuries, were receiving treatment at a Christchurch hospital. They are Sajeda Akter Lipi, Sheikh Hasan Rubel and Motassin Billah. Of them, Lipi's condition is stated to be critical and other two were out of danger.

According to Shafiqur, Prof Samad used to live in New Zealand with his wife and two sons. Another Bangladeshi, Hosne Ara, was killed when she tried to save her physically challenged husband Farid Ahmed.

The NZ authorities could not find close relatives of the three others -- Omar, Mojammel and Zakaria -- to hand over the bodies, he added.

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## Attacker was 'lone gunman'

**Say police; death toll rises to 50**

AGENCIES

New Zealand police said yesterday the man charged over Friday's twin mosque attacks in Christchurch was believed to have acted alone.

Australian Brenton Tarrant, 28, a self-described white supremacist, live-streamed the attack on Facebook. Three others arrested afterwards are not believed to have been involved, Police Commissioner Mike Bush said.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said her office received a "manifesto" from the gunman suspected of killing 50 people in two Christchurch mosques minutes before the attack.

"I was one of more than 30 recipients of the manifesto that was mailed out nine minutes before the attack took place,"

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