



Shovon, Rabbani removed

Joy, Lekhak given BCL helm; AL council set for December 20-21

Partha Pratim Bhattacharjee and Ashik Abdullah Apu
 Rezwanul Haque Chowdhury Shovon and Golam Rabbani were removed last night from the posts of Chhatra League president and general secretary for their controversial activities.
 Awami League President Sheikh Hasina gave this decision on the two leaders of the pro-AL student body.
 Hasina also asked for holding the AL triennial council on December 20-21.
 The AL president was addressing a meeting of AL Central Working Committee, highest decision-making body of the ruling party.
 Chhatra League Senior Vice-President Al Nahian Khan Joy and Joint General

Secretary Lekhak Bhattacharjee of have been given the charges of president and general secretary.
 Shovon and Rabbani had sent their resignation letters to Hasina along with another letter apologising for the student body's "known and unknown mistakes".
 On September 11, Rabbani sent three letters, one apologising for mistakes made and two resignation letters, to four AL leaders designated to look after Chhatra League matters, said sources.
 Rabbani and Shovon in one of the letters had sought the AL chief's forgiveness and wanted a chance to correct their mistakes.
 But at the beginning of yesterday's ALCWC meeting, Hasina told her party

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CRUELTY SHE CAN'T TAKE ... Grief-stricken 4th grader Shathi Akhter demands justice for the killing of birds at a rice mill near her home in Aponpara of Lalmonirhat. Local millers allegedly poisoned over 100 birds of different species yesterday morning. A magistrate said the offenders may face jail time or fines of up to Tk 1 lakh.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

Afghans cruise to easy win

Sports Reporter
 Zimbabwe succumbed to their second consecutive defeat in the tri-nation T20I series as Afghanistan stayed on top throughout yesterday's game to clinch a comfortable 28-run win at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.
 It was raining sixes in Mirpur, Najibullah Zadran striking a blistering unbeaten fifty to help Afghanistan post a huge

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13-year-old girl killed after 'rape'

Star Report
 A sixth-grader was killed allegedly after rape in Rangpur's Pirganj upazila yesterday.
 Suravi Akter, 13, was the daughter of Hiru Mia from Chandipur village and was a student of Chandipur High School.
 Police said the girl used to live with her maternal grandparents as her parents, who are garment workers, stay in Dhaka.
 On Saturday morning, Suravi went out to attend tuition classes around

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A life of luxury, not simplicity

ASHIK ABDULLAH APU

Many Chhatra League leaders often share on social media the prime minister's quote "let high principles and simple way of living be your ideologies in life". She had said this to Chhatra League many a time.
 But the pro-AL student body's now former president and general secretary had other ideas.
 Chhatra League now former president



Rezwanul Haque



Golam Rabbani

Rezwanul Haque Chowdhury Shovon and general secretary Golam Rabbani used to live in Dhaka University dorms but after getting the posts, they started living in flats in Kathalbag and Hatirpool that cost Tk 70,000 and Tk 40,000 in rent.
 The Chhatra League charter does not allow them to have any job or be involved in any business.

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Misuse curbing press freedom

Defamation Law
 Experts say at Star roundtable
 Staff Correspondent
 Defamation laws are being widely misused in the country, curtailing the freedom of expression and press, and ultimately forcing many to exercise self-censorship, experts said at a roundtable yesterday.
 Many of them recommended making defamation a civil offence, not a criminal one, and stressed the need for clarifying the definition of "aggrieved person" in the law as there were instances where third parties filed defamation cases.
 Mentioning that independence of the judiciary is a must to ensure freedom of expression and press, the experts also called for overcoming the existing obstacles unitedly.
 The Daily Star organised the roundtable titled "Use and Misuse of Defamation Law and its Impact on Journalism" at The Daily Star Centre in the capital. The discussion was organised amid growing concern over the freedom of speech, expression and press, especially after the passage of the Digital Security Act last year.
 Those who spoke yesterday included Supreme Court lawyers, university teachers, journalists and rights defenders.

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Nothing done, Tk 57cr gone

Project officials yet to begin work but already spent huge sum; frustrated House body terms it unacceptable, sheer negligence

RASHIDUL HASAN

Officials have attended multiple training abroad, bought five cars for Tk 2.5 crore and rented five more for Tk 10 lakh per month, but they have not even selected the project areas.
 And although nothing has been done since the launch of the project 14 months ago, project officials have spent Tk 57 crore of the Tk 1,500 crore scheme titled Sustainable Forests and Livelihood.
 The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Environment, Forest and Climate Change yesterday expressed resentment at this, saying it is nothing but sheer negligence.
 "Even some basic works such as preparing the training module, selecting instructors and the project areas have not been completed. But they have purchased and rented vehicles. This is nothing but sheer negligence towards the implementation of the project," said a member of the House body.
 "Not only that. Nine officials of the forest department visited India and Nepal in June last year for training using the project fund. This is not acceptable," he added.
 Of the project cost, Tk 12,00 crore will come from the World Bank loan and the rest from the public fund.
 "The five-year project began in July last year. But nothing of significance has been done for the implementation of the project in the last 14 months," committee Chairman Saber Hossain Chowdhury told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.
 Officials could not even select the project areas, he added.

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