



With a smile spreading from ear to ear, a toddler swings on a makeshift hammock carefully crafted by his mother. One can say this was his way of making the best out of the fog-covered winter morning. This photo was taken recently from Khuina's Dumuria area. PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

# 'RIFTS IN AWAMI LEAGUE' Ctg ward councils postponed

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

The ward-level councils of Chattogram city Awami League, which was supposed to begin today, have been postponed at the last moment due to "intra-party rifts".

AL's central committee took the decision after several party leaders raised allegations against a top leader of the city unit, according to sources.

This correspondent spoke to a number of AL leaders in the central and city committees, who pointed to intra-party rivalry for the postponement.

AL's 41 ward committees in the city have three organisational units on average. Out of the total 129 organisational units, the formation of the councils of 93 units have already finished.

It was decided in a recent meeting of AL's working committee that ward-level councils would be held after holding meetings at the unit level.

In the meantime, a number of AL leaders lodged complaints with the central committee regarding violation of instructions of the party's constitution.

According to sources, the AL city unit has three factions at present. One is a follower of AL city unit general secretary and former Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) mayor AJM Nasir Uddin; another follows AL city unit vice president and former administrator of CCC Khorshed Alam Sujan; and the other one follows deputy minister for education Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel.

The leaders loyal to Sujan and Nowfel

filed complaints with the central committee, saying that the unit committees have been formed, violating the party constitution. They are being formed to make committees loyal to a specific leader, alleged sources in AL.

Contacted, Badiul Alam, joint secretary of AL's city unit, said during formation of organisational unit committees, it was seen that a special form, made locally, was provided for new membership, and those who became members through the forms later on became councillors for the ward-level councils as well.

"It is violating the party constitution. The central committee gave forms for primary membership, and there is no scope to provide locally-made forms," he said.

"After the complaints, the councils got postponed," he said.

Contacted, Sujan said, "Some leaders in Chattogram are trying to run the city unit like it's their private property. No leader can violate the party constitution."

AJM Nasir could not be contacted for comments.

Contacted, AL joint general secretary Mahbul Alam Hanif said they received some complaints over forming unit committees.

"A misunderstanding occurred among leaders, and so a central delegation team would go to Chattogram to sit with them on January 8 to resolve the issues," he said.

"The ward-level councils will be held after consulting with all the leaders in Chattogram," he added.

## CTG SHIPBREAKING YARD 4 workers burnt in gas explosion



PHOTO: COLLECTED

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least four workers sustained burn injuries in a gas explosion at Jamuna shipbreaking yard in Chattogram's Sitakunda upazila yesterday morning.

The injured are Sohel Rana (26), Md Jahid (27), Mizanur Rahman (40) and Firoz Pramanik (22), said SI Faruq Hossain of Sitakunda Police Station.

Dr S Khaleel, associate professor of burn and plastic surgery unit of CMCH, said, "Two workers who sustained 10 and 12 percent burn injuries were referred to Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery in the capital."

All the victims were initially admitted to Chattogram Medical College and Hospital, he said.

"The four were injured after the tank of a scrap ship, which the workers were cutting, exploded around 8:30am," the SI said.

"There were lack of proper safety measures at the scrap ship where the explosion took place," the SI added.

He also informed that on April 3, another gas explosion at the same shipbreaking yard injured three workers.

Contacted, Mesbah Uddin, manager of the yard, denied the allegations and said there are no lack of safety measures in the yard.

## Puja Udjapan Parishad gets new committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hindu community leaders yesterday reiterated their demand for punishing those behind the recent spate of violence against religious minorities.

They also demanded that the government immediately provide compensations to reconstruct the Hindu temples, business intuitions, residences and other establishments affected by the attacks, said a press release.

They said this at the biennial conference of Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad at Dhakeswari National Temple in the capital.

In the conference, the Parishad's new committee was formed, with social worker JL Bhowmick appointed as president and Dhaka University Professor Chandra Nath Podder as general secretary.

## Yaba syndicate in guise of rent-a-car operator!

Says ATU after arresting racket member

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Just to smuggle yaba from Teknaf to North Bengal, they attached a special chamber to the SUV's gas cylinder.

Pretending to be a rent-e-car operator, the syndicate used to carry passengers on trips to Cox's Bazar from different districts of North Bengal.

After dropping off the passengers, the vehicle would be taken to a workshop in Teknaf, known as the traditional gateway for yaba to enter Bangladesh from Myanmar. The syndicate would then swap the SUV's cylinder, and in the process, remove the package of yaba.

For the last three to four years, the syndicate has smuggled the pills and sold them in different districts, including Bogura, Nilphamari and Gaibandha.

Anti Terrorism Unit (ATU) of police yesterday claimed to have learned about the syndicate after arresting a member from Nilphamari on Friday night.

The arrestee was identified as Imran Hossain.

The ATU team seized 91,000 yaba pills

and Tk 72,000 in cash from his possession, as well as the SUV, MM Hasanul Zahid, special superintendent of ATU, told The Daily Star yesterday.

On information, law enforcers conducted the drive and made the arrest, he said.

"We have come to know that Imran used to collect the pills from one Jubayer Jewel, a notorious narcotics dealer at Teknaf's Sabrang area," Zahid said.

After collecting the pills, Imran used to deliver many of them to Bipul in Bogura and Jony in Nilphamari, he said.

"We have received information that Imran has transported several consignments of yaba from Teknaf to Bogura and Nilphamari. With the latest consignment, he had started the journey on Friday morning but got arrested at Nilphamari," he revealed.

Zahid said they are now looking for Imran's absconding associates. "We will also interrogate Imran after taking him on remand."

A case was filed against Imran and his associates with Nilphamari Sadar Police Station.

## FORMATION OF EC President invites four more political parties for dialogue

STAR REPORT

President Abdul Hamid has invited four more political parties for dialogue with him at Bangabhaban -- over formation of the next Election Commission.

The five-year tenure of the incumbent commission, led by Chief Election Commission KM Nurul Huda, will expire on February 14.

According to the Bangabhaban Press Wing, Gonoforum was invited to sit in dialogue at 6:00pm on January 2 while Bicolpodhara Bangladesh was invited to hold dialogue at 7:00pm on the same day.

Gonotntri Party was invited to hold dialogue at 6:00pm on January 3 while Communist Party of Bangladesh at 7:00pm on the same day.

The president began the dialogue with registered political parties from December 20 and so far held dialogue with the main opposition party in parliament -- Jatiya Party -- and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, a component in the Awami League-led alliance.

As of yesterday, the president has invited 13 political parties to join the dialogue till January 3.

There are 39 registered political parties at present, according to the EC website. But only nine parties have representation in the parliament.



## It's nothing

FROM PAGE 3

said their party still did not take any decision on joining or boycotting the talks. He said their party standing committee will finalise the decision on the matter once they get an invitation letter from Bangabhaban to join the talks.

The five-year tenure of the incumbent commission, led by Chief Election Commission KM Nurul Huda, will expire on February 14 next year. The new EC -- to be formed by the president through a search committee after the dialogue -- will have to arrange the 12th national election within November 2023 to January 2024.



Workers load discarded cartons collected from scrap sellers in Barishal city on to a cargo trawler. The consignment will be sent to traders in Dhaka, who will take it to factories that repurpose the material as fresh cartons. This photo was taken recently from Port Road area.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## Loss of a luminary

FROM PAGE 3

of his merit and success in every organisation and institution he got involved with.

Noab prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family.

Jatiya Press Club President Farida Yasmin and General Secretary Elias Khan in a statement said Reazuddin was a guardian of the country's journalist community.

In a condolence message, Workers Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon said his death is an irreplaceable loss in the field of progressive journalism.

Gonoforum in a statement said with his death, the nation lost one of its brightest

sons.

In a joint statement, factions of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists and Dhaka Union of Journalists said Reazuddin was a "luminary" in the country's journalism.

His courageous role in upholding the dignity of journalism and contribution in different democratic movements will be remembered forever, the organisations said.

Dhaka Reporters' Unity in a message expressed deep shock at the death of the senior journalist, who served as the chairman of DRU's election commission.

Bangladesh Health Reporters Forum also expressed deep condolences on his demise.

## She slipped right

FROM PAGE 3

Tabassum's body was handed over to her grief-stricken family, who were also provided Tk 25,000 in financial assistance, said Barguna DC Habibur Rahman.

He also said the 29 unidentified bodies had gone through autopsy and DNA testing. If they can be recognised, their graves will come to feature plaques containing their identities.

Contacted, KM Tariqul Islam, OC of Barguna Police Station said 36 bodies had been recovered when he spoke. Barguna

district administration has compiled a list of 21 people who are still missing in the launch tragedy. Md Saiful Islam, an official of Barguna DC office control room, said relatives of the missing people have been flocking to their office over the last two days.

With the latest update as of the filing of this report yesterday evening, at least 41 have died in the devastating fire.

When this correspondent spoke to Hafeez, he wailed uncontrollably, and kept repeating, "My baby slipped right through my fingers."

## Diakul

FROM PAGE 3

our best to help the victims," said local Md Shamim Hossain. "We arranged shelter for at least 150 passengers in our houses," said Ripan Akan of the village, adding that over 800 passengers took shelter in their village in the aftermath of the fire.

## Who will marry

FROM PAGE 3

Friday morning, all three members of the family have gone traceless. No one knows what has become of them yet. They may have drowned in the river or burnt to death beyond recognition. Yesterday morning, Pakhi's mother Farida Begum discovered the charred remains of the clothes her grandson wore, along with the dresses brought for Hafsa's marriage. They were found inside a staff cabin on the ground deck of the launch.

She broke down while talking to this correspondent, holding the burnt clothes of her loved ones. She was accompanied her son Nazrul Islam and son-in-law Shariful Islam. "We searched for Pakhi, Hakim and Nasrullah everywhere, including hospitals in Jhalakathi and Barishal. But we still can't find them," she said, adding that they're not completely sure if the recovered clothes indeed belong to the family.

Like Farida, the banks of Sugandha river were crowded by many others yesterday morning, all of whom were desperately searching for family members who went missing in the aftermath of the launch fire tragedy.

## Bodies of

FROM PAGE 3

seriously injured and is currently undergoing treatment at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

Lamia and Samia's uncle Abdul Hannan said they have received the bodies and will arrange for their burial soon. He also informed that their father Rafiq is still at the banks of Sugandha looking for his missing wife.

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যোগাযোগ-০১৭৭-৬১৯৩৩৬১

**Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
District Primary Education Office, Dinajpur  
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e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal for the following procurement of goods. Registered tenderers and interested persons/firms (~after being registered) can see details in the website: www.eprocure.gov.bd.

Brief:	Furniture supply for Classrooms & Ts'-rooms of selected 82 Newly Nationalized Govt. Primary Schools constructed under the NBIDNNGPSP1 Project at different locations of Dinajpur District. FY: 2021-22.
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ID:	636265, 636290, 636297
Date:	26/12/2021-13/01/2022 4:00pm
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Date:	30/12/2021-17/01/2022 4:00pm

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Phone: 053163639, Email: dpeodinaj@gmail.com

**Padma Oil Company Limited**  
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Strand Road, Sadarghat, Chattogram  
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01	640160, E&P/Capex-09/F-53/P-113/21-22	Renovation works of Senior Executive Room at Head Office, Chattogram	22-Dec-2021 at 1000 Hrs	17-Jan-2022 at 1000 Hrs	18-Jan-2022 at 1200 Hrs	18-Jan-2022 at 1400 Hrs
02	640918, E&P/Capex-58/F-30/P-114/21-22	Construction & Fabrication of 18000 Ltrs Capacity Prover Tank at Sylhet Aviation Depot, Sylhet	23-Dec-2021 at 1200 Hrs	19-Jan-2022 at 1400 Hrs	20-Jan-2022 at 1200 Hrs	20-Jan-2022 at 1400 Hrs

Those are online tenders, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (as above) is required.

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