

BSRM WINS THE BEST BRAND AWARD FOR THE 10TH TIME IN A ROW

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT BSRM building a safer nation

**HIGHEST SELLING 15 years** SHAH CEMENT

## 8 more held for Khagaria polls violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CG

The Rab in separate drives yesterday arrested eight more people who brandished firearms and sharp weapons during a clash over elections to Khagaria Union Parishad in Chattogram's Satkania on February 7.

At a press conference in the capital's Rab headquarters, Khakader Al Moin, Rab's legal and media wing director, said the eight were picked up from Bandarban, Chattogram and the capital.

Five firearms and 42 bullets were also recovered, added the Rab official.

The arrestees are: Nasir Uddin, 31, Md Morshed, 26, Md Korban Ali, 37, Md Ismail, 55, Md Mintu, 26, Md Jasin, 24, Md Kayes, 22, and Nurul Absar, 33.

The Rab director said Kayes works at a private organisation in Chattogram city. He used to maintain connections with political leaders in Satkania.

He has a gang of 30 to 40 members. He rented firearms from different sources and handed those to his trusted aides for creating violence, Moin said.

According to the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6



## মেয়ের আনিসুল হক সড়ক



Next to the plaque of Mayor Annisul Huq Road in the capital's Tejgaon area, the illegal truck stand has reared its head again. The late mayor was lauded for being able to clear the street of illegal parking. But now, hundreds of trucks block the road and parts of its pavement, inset, obstructing pedestrians and motorists.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

গৃহ কক্ষল ফু প বা এড় ত প আ ফ গ ব ত ত ত প  
প আ জ ব ব খ প আ ম ট ম ট গ  
গৃহ কক্ষল ফু প বা এড় ত প আ ফ গ ব ত ত ত প  
প আ জ ব ব খ প আ ম ট ম ট গ  
LANGUAGE MOVEMENT: IN THEIR OWN WORDS

## A medieval battlefield!

MR AKHITAR MUKUL

On the night of February 20, Zahedul Huq, Shelley, Gazi, Sultan, Mansur of Naogaon and I sat by the pond of Fazlul Haque Hall to discuss what can be done the next day.

I talked about how we have been tolerating silently and we should face the challenges.

Gazi supported me fully. Earlier, some students went to Jinjira and other places in preparation of the next day's strike.

On the morning of February 21, five to seven thousand students arrived at the university campus by 10:00am. Around 11:00am, police charged batons on them in front of Lalbagh Police Station.

At that time, a number of university teachers, including Dr Muhammad Shahidullah and Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury, came to talk to the students.

By 1:30pm, there were no students on campus. They were either arrested or at the medical college.

Meanwhile, information about the Assembly Session starting soon started circulating.

Around 2:30-4:30pm, the then irrigation minister Hasan Ali arrived. Students stopped his jeep and punctured the tyres, after which police warned of opening fire.

Around 18-20 armed police officials entered the wooden gates of the medical college and opened fire around 3:10pm.

I ran straight to the emergency room and

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

## Why kazi's daughters can't be kazis

### HC questions marriage rules

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule questioning a discriminatory provision regarding the appointment of marriage registrars.

According to the Muslim Marriage and Divorce Rules, 2009, only the sons of marriage registrars, popularly known as kazi, can be appointed as a Kazi on priority basis after the death of their father.

In the rule, the HC asked the government to explain in two weeks why this provision should not be declared unconstitutional and not be scrapped.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

## RECOMMENDING NAMES FOR EC Political parties have time till Feb 24

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political parties that have yet to make their recommendations for forming the new election commission can still send the names of their nominees to the search committee by February 24.

The committee is likely to send a list of 10 names to President Abdul Hamid on February 24. The president will choose the new chief election commissioner and four election commissioners from the list.

The committee held meetings with senior journalists yesterday at the Supreme Court Judges Lounge and heard their opinions regarding the formation of the next EC.

The journalists suggested that the names on the final list be made public if the individuals named on the list agree.

They also suggested that

competent, courageous and honest individuals, including women and those from the minority communities be in the Election Commission.

"I said publishing the 322 names was not a right decision as many [of the individuals] were unaware," Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, former president of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), told reporters after the meeting.

The time for political parties to send their recommendations has been extended and the search committee will consider if any political parties propose names, he said.

Bangladesh Pratidin Editor Naeem Nizam said before disclosing the final nominations, consent of the nominees must be taken.

Shykh Seraj, head of news at Channel i, and Inam Ahmed, editor of

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

## Ukraine crisis shows sign of de-escalation

Russia pulls back some troops; West seeks proof; Dhaka asks Bangladeshi to consider leaving

AGENCIES

Russia said yesterday some of its military units were returning to their bases after exercises near Ukraine and mocked repeated Western warnings about a looming invasion, but Nato said it had yet to see any sign of de-escalation on the ground.

Russia did not say how many units were being withdrawn, and how far, after a build-up of some 130,000 Russian troops to the north, east and south of Ukraine that has triggered one of the worst crises in relations with the West since the Cold War.

"We've always said the troops will return to their bases after the exercises are over. This is the case this time as well," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said.

Nato's chief welcomed signals from Russia in the past two days that it may be looking for a diplomatic solution but urged Moscow to demonstrate its will to act.



"There are signs from Moscow that diplomacy should continue...But so far we have not seen any sign of de-escalation on the ground from the Russian side," Nato Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg told reporters.

Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said Kyiv would only believe that Russia was moving to de-escalate the situation if it saw for itself that Russian troops were being pulled back, reports Reuters.

Britain, which with the US has led the warnings of imminent action, reacted cautiously.

"The Russians have claimed that they have no plans for an invasion, but we will need to see a full scale removal of troops to show that is true," Foreign Secretary Liz Truss told LBC radio.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Embassy in Poland has said Bangladeshi nationals in Ukraine may consider leaving the country temporarily in view of the current

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

**Heartiest CONGRATULATIONS**  
to  
**Safwan Sobhan**

Vice Chairman  
Bashundhara Group



Managing Director  
Bashundhara Industrial Economic Zone Ltd.



President  
Lt. Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club Ltd.



For being elected as the 1st President of

**BEZIA**  
one team, one goal

Bangladesh Economic Zone Investors Association

It is another dimension to your achievements.  
Best wishes for a great & successful future journey.

**BASHUNDHARA GROUP**  
For the People, for the Country