

WAR OF WORDS

All polls under
AL govt staged

Says Rizvi

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Senior joint secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday alleged that all the elections, including those of the Zilla Parishad, under the current government are staged.

"We're not involved in any election. We won't talk about this election (Zilla Parishad). In fact, all elections under the current regime are staged," he said while speaking at a press conference at BNP's Nayapaltn central office.

He said they are now focusing on only the national election that has to be held under a neutral caretaker government.

Rizvi alleged that the ruling party leaders and ministers have started making unguarded remarks seeing the huge flow of people to BNP's two massive rallies against corruption and misrule. He slammed Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader for this remark that their party can arrange the gathering of 30 lakh against BNP's 10 lakh.



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One-eleven, never again

Says Quader

UNB, Dhaka

Accusing BNP of trying to stage another one-eleven, Awami League general secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday advised it to come out "this nightmare."

"One-eleven will never come back to Bangladesh," Quader said at a media briefing at his official residence. "Those who think that the government will fall after a few rallies are living in a fool's paradise," he said.

In Bangladesh, the 1/11 is referred to the day when a military-based caretaker administration took over amid a deepening political crisis over holding of general elections.

The AL leader explained the scrapping of the constitutional provision of holding general election under neutral caretaker government in 2011.

Pointing to BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam's claim, Quader said the high court -- not the Awami League government -- abolished the caretaker government system.

He said Awami League believes in



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Even though this water measurement pillar is situated in the middle of the river, local children, evading the rules, get on top of the structure and take a dive into the river for fun. Such "playful" activities can lead to a serious accident. This photo was taken in Kamrangirchar area yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Sheikh Russel
Day today

BSS, Dhaka

Sheikh Russel Day will be observed in the country today, marking the 59th birthday of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's youngest son Sheikh Russel.

Russel, also the youngest brother of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, was born on October 18 in 1964 at the historic Bangabandhu Bhaban in Dhanmondi 32.

He was brutally killed along with most of his family members, including his father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, on August 15, 1975, when he was a student of class four at University Laboratory School.

To mark the day, government bodies, ruling Awami League and its associate bodies, and different socio-cultural organisations have taken various programmes.

Awami League leaders and activists will place wreaths at the graves of Russel and other martyrs of August 15, 1975 carnage at Banani graveyard at 9:00am.

Fateha, milad and doa mahfil will also be offered there, said a press release.

The day will also be observed at Bangladesh missions abroad while different dailies will publish supplements highlighting the significance of the day.

In pursuit of better life,
they go off the railsCTTC arrests 3 Bangladeshis after they
get deported for stealing money in Iraq

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

To change their fortunes, three Bangladeshis went abroad, after handing over all their savings to a transnational trafficking syndicate.

But luck was not on their side. They were dragged back home and put behind bars, after they stole money in Iraq.

Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit arrested the three -- Md Sujon Uddin (23) and his partnet Md Sohrab (31) on Saturday and Sujon's elder brother Md Sumon (28) yesterday -- from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital after they were deported.

An Iraqi national filed a complaint with the Bangladesh embassy in Iraq on September 28, Tohidul Islam, additional deputy commissioner of CTTC, told The Daily Star yesterday.

According to the investigators, the two siblings -- Sujon and Sumon -- left for Iraq in April this year, after making a contract with a trafficking syndicate for Tk 6 lakh.

They first went to Dubai on a visiting visa and stayed there for 20 days, before entering Iran. They then entered Iraq illegally, said CTTC officials, citing the investigation findings.

In Iraq, they met Sohrab and started working together in a diagnostic centre.

Their monthly salary was equivalent to USD 400.

Sohrab had been staying in Iraq since 2018.

Because they had no work permit or valid documents in Iraq

Sumon	Sujon	Sohrab
Sujon, Sumon left for Iraq in April	They decided to go to Italy illegally	They are arrested, deported
They met Sohrab, started working in Iraq	They looted money worth \$1.43 lakh from employer's office	Bangladesh police arrested them at Dhaka airport
Employer confiscated passport, tortured them	Turkish police stopped them mid-journey	The three sent to jail in Bangladesh

and their employer confiscated their passports, these migrants could not go out of the country.

The employer would often torture them and not pay their salaries regularly, claimed the arrestees during primary interrogation.

Desperate, the three decided to make an illegal journey to Italy for a better future.

As per the plan, they broke into their employer Dr Ali Ahmmed's office to get the passports.

During that time, they also looted money worth around USD 1.43 lakh and started their journey to Italy.

For the journey, they communicated with another trafficking syndicate in Iraq and paid it an amount equivalent to around USD 17,000.

Mid-journey, when they were

trying to go to Turkey's Istanbul from Iraq by road, the three were detained by the Turkish police at a check-post.

The Turkish police then arrested the group and deported them on Saturday, after a 17-day stay in jail there, according to the CTTC officials.

After CTTC made the arrests, a case was filed with Airport Police Station, and the three were sent to jail.

Meanwhile, Sohrab gave a confessional statement to a Dhaka court on Sunday, said the investigators

As the three had already lost their savings to go abroad, they decided to steal the money to go to Italy, said police, quoting the arrestees.

ADC Tohidul said before

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KAPTAL LAKE

Identify land
grabbers: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the local administration to take necessary steps to stop any further encroachment, earth filling and construction of structures in Kaptai Lake of Rangamati.

The High Court also asked the administration to submit a compliance report before this court in two weeks.

In response to a petition, the court ordered the government to conduct a survey on the lake, identify its land grabbers and to submit their list to it in 30 days.

At the same time, the HC issued a rule asking the authorities to explain in four weeks why the inaction of the local administration to stop encroachment, earth filling and construction of structures in Kaptai Lake should not be declared illegal.

The HC bench of Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam and Justice Md Shohrawardi came up with the order and rule following the petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB).

HRPB's lawyer Manzill Murshid told the court that many local influential persons including municipality mayor and political party leaders, and even officials of the administration are reportedly grabbing boundaries of Kaptai Lake, which is an artificial waterbody, in violation of the laws.

Stay united to
face threats
Says army chief

UNB, Dhaka



Chief of Bangladesh Army General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed yesterday said all members of the Bangladesh Army need to stay united to safeguard the country and its constitution from any internal and external threats.

He made the statement at a flag hoisting event of four units under the 71st Infantry Division at the Sheikh Hasina Cantonment in Barishal.

The army chief said the military is being modernised to enhance its strength and skills in line with the force's Goal-2030.

The newly formed units of the Bangladesh Army are 52 Independent MLRS Battery Artillery, 35 Beer, 163 Field Workshop Company and 85 Field Ambulance.

1971 GENOCIDE
ICSF welcomes US
Congress initiative

UNB, Dhaka

The International Crimes Strategy Forum (ICSF) has welcomed the resolution "Recognising the Bangladesh Genocide of 1971" introduced in the US House of Representatives.

The resolution is the first of its kind relating to the genocide of 1971 perpetrated in Bangladesh by the Pakistan Army, presented anywhere to any legislative body in the world, the ICSF said in a statement Sunday.

"We laud this initiative from Congressman Steve Chabot and Congressman Ro Khanna for tabling

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PHOTO: COURTESY

Dhaka teen
alleges rape

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five persons sedated an 18-year-old girl and raped her in Dhaka's Demra area on Sunday night, police said quoting the victim.

She was admitted to the one-stop crisis centre at Dhaka Medical College Hospital for a medical examination.

The victim came to visit her elder brother's house in Dhaka's Kadamtali area two weeks ago and went to visit a local fair in Demra's Konapara area with her cousin's husband Sunday evening, said Faruk Mollah, inspector (investigation) of Demra Police Station.

At the fair, a friend of her cousin's husband offered her a soft drink, which had sedatives mixed in it.

After she fell unconscious, the two



A man walks on the road to commute as campaign posters and festoons of candidates of political parties occupy the footpath. On the occasion of Awami League's upcoming tri-annual conference, footpaths in different areas of the city have been littered with such materials, creating obstacles for people to walk. This photo was taken near Rajarbagh Police Lines yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Recruiters
can submit
passports to
Saudi embassy
Says Baira

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Recruiting agencies will be able to submit passports as perschedule to the Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Dhaka from today, Shameem Ahmed Chowdhury Noman, secretary general of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira), said yesterday.

The decision came following a phone conversation with the Saudi Ambassador to Bangladesh Issa bin Youssef Al-Duhailan, Noman said.

Earlier, some agencies could not submit passports to the Saudi embassy due to "miscommunication",

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Ensure equal land
rights for womenSay speakers at Dil
Monowara memorial lecture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a memorial lecture yesterday stressed the government's initiative to ensure equal rights for the country's women.

Besides, they urged the government to withdraw its reservation on two articles of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (Cedaw) treaty and its full implementation to ensure women's equal rights.

Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD) and Dil Monowara Monu Shajan Parshad jointly organised the "Dil Monowara Monu Memorial Lecture" at the capital's Jatiya Press Club, said a press release.

The third death anniversary of writer-journalist Dil Monowara was observed on October 14.

Chairing the event, ALRD Vice President Rawshan Ara Firoz said the main subject of Dil Monowara's writings was the plight of underprivileged women.

Delivering the memorial lecture, Prof Sadeka Halim, chairperson of Dhaka University's

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