

JS to go into  
21st session  
today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad goes into the 21st session this afternoon.

It will be the first JS session of the new year, where the president is scheduled to deliver his speech approved by the cabinet.

The president's speech consists of the government's development activities, said sources at the parliament secretariat.

It will be a long session since the lawmakers will speak on the thanks-giving motion on the president's speech.

The business advisory committee of parliament, headed by Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, will finalise the duration of the session before the House goes into session around 4:00pm.

For the first time, BNP lawmakers will not present at the House session, as all the seven MPs of the opposition

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Samson H  
Chowdhury's  
death anniv

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Pabna

Today is the 11th death anniversary of visionary entrepreneur Samson H Chowdhury.



On the occasion, various programmes have been chalked out. A discussion will be held at Pabna Press Club commemorating his life and work.

Samson, founder of Square Group, died on January 5 in 2012 at Raffles Hospital in Singapore.

Born on February 25, 1926 in Pabna, Samson started a small pharmacy at Ataikula in Pabna in 1952, which ultimately led to one of the country's leading pharmaceutical businesses.

Samson was nominated for the "Best Entrepreneur of the Country" in the Year 2000-2001 organised by The Daily Star and DHL. The American Chamber in Bangladesh honoured him as "Business Executive of the Year" in 1998.

Toughest  
action after  
probe

CCC mayor on  
sexual harassment  
allegation against  
headteacher

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,  
Ctg

Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) Mayor Rezaul Karim Chowdhury visited Kapasgola City Corporation Girls High School yesterday, two days after the headmaster was transferred after students raised allegations of sexual harassment against him.

During the CCC mayor's visit, the school's students demanded headmaster Md Alauddin's permanent suspension to ensure a safe environment at the institution.

Mayor Rezaul assured students of taking the "toughest action" against the teacher after investigation is conducted, the students told The Daily Star.

The mayor also spoke to the teachers and guardians and said that complaints against the alleged teacher should've come earlier to him from the students' parents.

"The teacher who doesn't have morality is totally unworthy to be a teacher," he said. "As you

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Although traffic lights are present in almost every area of the capital, most are not in operation. As a result, traffic police are often seen controlling vehicular movement through gesturing. Even though attempts for digitisation are aplenty, when it comes to the traffic system of one of the busiest cities in the country, nothing seems to work out. This photo was taken in Shahbagh area yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

FOUR POSH DHAKA AREAS

Sewers of 85pc homes  
lead to lakes, canals

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

Around 85 percent of houses in the capital's Gulshan, Baridhara, Niketan and Banani areas have their sewerage lines connected to nearby lakes and canals, polluting the waterbodies, revealed an assessment.

Sewerage lines of 3,265 out of 3,830 houses are connected to canals, lakes or Dhaka North City Corporation's (DNCC's) surface drains, which are only meant for collecting water from rainfall and kitchens for later use.

surface drains, which makes it difficult for the corporation to use the collected water for fish farming. Furthermore, this situation leads to mosquitoes proliferating, he said while talking to reporters during the drive on Road-112 in Gulshan-2.

During the drive, the sewerage lines of two houses were sealed up for dumping waste into lakes and surface drains.

"The waste of the two houses is supposed to be dumped through a separate line of Wasa," Atiqul said, adding that the owners had been informed about the drive a year ago, but they

In the Gulshan West area, 791 of 864 houses have illegal connections. In the Gulshan East area, there are no separate sewerage lines for 736 of 818 houses. In Niketan, 373 of 432 houses are also dumping waste ignoring the rules.

The survey found that in all these areas, only around 41 houses have separate sewerage lines, while 524 (13.6 percent) homes have partially complied with the rules.

Former Buet professor Mujibur Rahman, who led the assessment, said although Wasa's sewerage network exists in Gulshan

AREAS	TOTAL ASSESSED HOUSES	FULLY COMPLIED WITH RULES	PARTIALLY COMPLIED	NOT COMPLIED
Banani	1,166	23	120	1,023
Baridhara	550	5	203	342
Gulshan East	818	8	74	736
Gulshan West	864	3	70	791
Niketan	432	2	57	373
Total	3,830	41 (1.07pc)	524 (13.6pc)	3,265 (85.24pc)



These homes should have had a separate sewerage connection to Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority's (Wasa's) network for proper sanitation, it said.

Unicef and EQMS Consulting Limited conducted the assessment in the four neighbourhoods in October and November last year.

Referring to the assessment, DNCC Mayor Atiqul Islam, during a drive yesterday, said the city corporation will not allow anyone to dump waste into lakes and surface drains.

Many houses are illegally connected to

did not take any measures.

"It is advisable for residents to check if their water line is properly connected. Residents pay their sewerage bill to Wasa every month, but their house is connected to DNCC's drains," the mayor said.

The drive will continue in the areas, he added.

Besides, the assessment found that out of 1,166 houses in Banani, 1,023 are connected to lakes and surface drains. In Baridhara, 342 of 550 houses have no sewerage lines connected to Wasa.

and Banani, it is not present in Niketan and Baridhara, which rely on septic tanks.

"One percent of houses in the four areas have a safe sanitation system. Sewage flowing into local lakes and canals leads to the water getting polluted," he said.

Aminur Rahman, a resident of Gulshan-2, said, "I pay my bill every month for the sewerage line. I wasn't sure if the line was connected to Wasa or not."

Contacted, Dhaka Wasa's superintending engineer Touhidul Islam Murad refused to comment on this matter.

Presidential polls  
in due time

Says law minister; Hamid's  
tenure to expire in April

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The presidential election will be held in due time as the tenure of Abdul Hamid expires in April this year, said Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday.

As per the constitution, Hamid cannot be elected president for another term, as he was elected president for two terms, the law minister told reporters after attending the inauguration of a four-day workshop for lower court judges at Judicial Administration Training Institute in Dhaka.

The minister also said the government has no plans so far to amend or alter the constitutional provisions regarding the president's election.

On April 24, 2018, Abdul Hamid took oath as the head of state for a second consecutive term, which will expire on April 24 this year.

The first five-year tenure of Abdul Hamid expired on April 24, 2018, as he took office on the same date in 2013.

According to article 123 of the constitution, the presidential election will be held between 90 and 60 days before the expiry of the five-year term.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Sweaters, jackets and shawls are flying off the vans of hawkers, as the bone-chilling winter has taken over the country. Sellers at the capital's New Market area are getting overwhelmed with the number of customers, who are in search for a sweet deal. This photo was taken yesterday.

Be more vigilant to  
prevent militancy

President asks cops; PM  
directs them to deal firmly  
with destructive activities



STAR REPORT

President M Abdul Hamid yesterday asked police officers to be more alert and vigilant in preventing militancy and drug abuse, reports BSS.

"You [police] must perform your duties with dedicated service ... You should be more alert and vigilant in preventing militancy, terrorism and drug abuse," he addressed

the police officials at Durbar Hall of Bangabhaban in Dhaka on the occasion of Police Week 2023.

The president directed the police forces to develop their efficiency to face future challenges.

Appreciating the role of the police in maintaining law and order, the president said it should be ensured that no justice seekers are harassed in any way.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked police officials to take proper action against any destructive activity for the sake of continuing the country's uninterrupted economic progress, reports UNB.

"[Stay alert] so that none ... could dare to carry out arson, violence anymore and none could interrupt the overall security of the people's lives," she said.

Hasina was addressing a meeting with senior officials of Bangladesh Police, held at the PMO on the second day

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Bring attackers,  
backers to book

Demand 42 citizens about  
arson attack on Mro village

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forty-two eminent citizens of the country demanded that the government take steps to bring to book those from Lama Rubber Industry who "recently committed arson attack" at a Mro village in Bandarban, and punish those who backed the attackers.

In a joint statement sent to media yesterday, they expressed concerns over the Lama Industry's ill attempt to evict 39 families by setting fire to their homes, looting their valuables and keeping them under constant threat.

The industry authorities did not stop there -- they filed cases against Mro families at Rengyen

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Minorities fearing  
pre-election violence

Says Rana Dasgupta of  
Oikya Parishad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People from minority communities are concerned about the electioneering activities of political parties, as during pre-election period, religious and ethnic minorities often come under attack, said Rana Dasgupta, general secretary of Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad.

"Political parties and their alliances have started visible activities ahead of the elections, to be held in 2024. We believe that it is natural and essential for democracy," he said.

But the slogan "Khela hobe", being used by major parties, has alarmed the religious-ethnic minorities, as such seemingly innocuous slogans often lead to violence.

He said this while announcing the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2