



TARIQUE-ZUBAIDA Cases against them ‘false, fabricated’ Says Khandaker Mosharraf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday alleged that the court order to confiscate the moveable and immovable properties of BNP acting Chairman Tarique Rahman and his wife Zubaida Rahman was given out “vengeance.”

The party also said “the verdict was given as the government got scared of the BNP’s mass movement”.

Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, BNP standing committee member, made the remarks at a press conference at the party’s Nayapaltan office in Dhaka.

He said the army-backed caretaker government wanted to ensure depoliticisation by filing false cases against political leaders. The case against

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visits Puber Beel in Gopalganj’s Tungipara early yesterday morning to see how vegetables and other crops are being cultivated there.

PHOTO: PMO

US HOUSE McCarthy finally elected Speaker

REUTERS, Washington

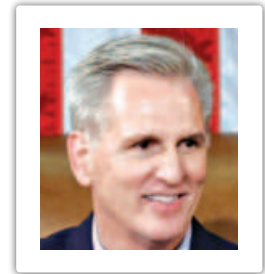
Republican Kevin McCarthy was elected speaker of the US House of Representatives early yesterday, after making extensive concessions to a group of right-wing hardliners that raised questions about the party’s ability to govern.

The 57-year-old Californian suffered one final humiliation when Representative Matt Gaetz withheld his vote on the 14th ballot as midnight approached, prompting a scuffle in which fellow Republican Mike Rogers had to be physically pulled away.

McCarthy’s victory in the 15th ballot brought an end to the deepest congressional dysfunction in over 160 years. But it sharply illustrated the difficulties that he will face in leading a narrow and deeply polarised majority.

He won at last on a margin of 216-212. He was able to

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Empowerment of upazila parishad remains elusive

UNOs continue to run the show

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Under the law, upazila chairmen hold executive power to run the local affairs. But in reality, Upazila Nirbahi Officers, who are appointed to provide secretarial support, exercise power beyond their jurisdiction in many cases.

As a result, Upazila Parishads, a crucial tier of the local government system, cannot often function properly and provide expected services to the public, experts have said.

More than a decade ago, the incumbent government enacted the Upazila Parishad Act, giving control on 17 departments under various ministries at upazila level.

These departments deal with the different local issues.

But the “empowerment” of Upazila Parishad envisioned in the law has never materialised.

In September 2021, the High Court ordered the cabinet secretary to take necessary measures to “empower” UP chairmen following the circulars issued [by whom] in this regard on different occasions. Subsequently, the cabinet formed a committee to find out how this can be done.

In response, the committee recommended withholding all previous circulars relating to the empowerment of UP chairmen, terming the circulars “vague” and “incongruent,” a cabinet division

official said.

The upazila system was introduced in 1982 by HM Ershad’s autocratic government. The system collapsed with the fall of Ershad in 1990.

In 1998, the Awami League enacted legislation to reintroduce the Upazila system but no election was held. The military-backed caretaker government promulgated the Upazila Parishad Ordinance 2008 repealing the Upazila Parishad Act 1998.

However, the ordinance was again repealed by the Upazila Parishad (Reintroduction of the Repealed Act and Amendment) Act 2009 by the Awami League government.

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Univ edu doesn’t work in real life Says Liberation War affairs minister

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

The universities have become factories that churn out unemployable people, said Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Huq yesterday.

“The resources and talents of the country are being wasted. The curriculum is being changed, it is being updated, to curb unemployment,” he said at a job fair in Gazipur.

“If the district administration issues an advertisement for the job of a peon, around 1,000 people with master’s degree will be among the 2,000 applicants. They want to be a peon after attaining the highest education of a university. They studied hard, but that education doesn’t work in real life,” he said at the event organised by the district administration.

“Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman formed the Qudrat-e-Khuda Education Commission which says ... only a handful will pursue higher education. Others will take technical, vocational education, which will be useful in practical life.”

Around 40 firms, including Beximco, Square, Nestlé, Walton, Pran RFL, and Bata participated in the two-day fair that ends today.

Prof Mohammad Mahfuzul Islam, vice chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

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BMW unveils car that can change colour

AFP, Las Vegas



BMW has unveiled the prototype of a car that can change colour and showcases digital features like projecting driving data across the inside of the windshield.

This car, called i Vision Dee, was presented at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas on

Wednesday at an event attended by “Terminator” actor and former California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

BMW unveiled last year at this same show a car that could change hue but only from white to black and gray in between.

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A truck crashes into a pit in the central reservation on Dhaka-Aricha highway in Savar’s Bank Town area early yesterday. Development work was going on at the central reservation there. An employee of the owner of the truck’s cargo said the driver, who was injured, did not see obstacles ahead due to poor visibility.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

CEASEFIRE IN UKRAINE

Little let-up in fighting

US announces another \$3b in military assistance for Ukraine

AFP, Kyiv

Ukrainians and Russians yesterday marked Orthodox Christmas under the shadow of war, as fighting persisted despite Kremlin leader Vladimir Putin unilaterally ordering his forces to pause attacks.

Despite Putin’s ceasefire order, war-scarred cities in eastern Ukraine saw no significant let-up in the fighting as AFP journalists in the town of Chasiv Yar south of the frontline city of Bakhmut heard heavy artillery fire throughout much of Saturday morning.

The Russian defence ministry

insisted its forces were observing the ceasefire but also said that the army had repelled the Kyiv forces’ attacks in eastern Ukraine and killed dozens of soldiers on Friday.

Ukrainian authorities said that three people were killed on Friday.

In Moscow, 70-year-old Putin cut a lonely figure as he stood by himself at a service at a Kremlin church, the Cathedral of the Annunciation, to mark Orthodox Christmas.

In Kyiv, hundreds of worshippers attended a historic service at the 11th century Kyiv Pechersk Lavra as Metropolitan Epifaniy, head of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine,

led a Christmas liturgy in the pro-Western country’s most significant Orthodox monastery.

The service is expected to anger the Moscow Patriarchate. Located in the capital Kyiv, the monastery used to be the seat of a branch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church that was previously under Moscow’s jurisdiction but which severed ties after Russia invaded Ukraine in February.

Orthodox Christians observe Christmas on January 7.

In the battered town of Chasiv Yar in eastern Ukraine, worshippers

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দিনরাত ২৪ ঘন্টা Sonali e-wallet আপনার সেবায়

প্রবাসীরাও এখন থেকে বিদেশে বসেই Sonali e-wallet এ লেনদেন করতে পারবেন

ডিপোজিট জমা করা যায়

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কেনাকাটায় QR পেফেক্ট এবং ব্যাংকের যে কোন শাখায় ক্যাশ অউট সুবিধা

ইউটিলিটি বিল-পেমেন্ট

মোবাইল রিচার্জ

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