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SECOND EDITION

THE DAILY

Star

ON FRIDAY

DHAKA FRIDAY MARCH 17, 2023

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXIII No. 62

CHAITRA 3, 1429 BS

www.thedailystar.net

SHABAN 24, 1444 HJRI

20 PAGES PLUS TOGGLE : Tk 15.00

Chaos all throughout SCBA polls

In one-sided election, pro-AL lawyers win all posts

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

In a one-sided election marked by scuffles, chaos, police highhandedness, and ruckus raised by lawyers, the pro-Awami League lawyers have won all posts of the Supreme Court Bar Association.

Pro-BNP lawyers who didn't cast their votes demonstrated on the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) office premises yesterday, the second day of the two-day polls, demanding cancellation of what they said was a "farce of an election".

Pro-Awami League and pro-BNP lawyers shoved each other and engaged in scuffles during the demonstrations around 12:30pm and 4:00pm.

The pro-BNP lawyers demanded that a new date be fixed for holding the polls in a fair manner under an "acceptable" election-conducting committee.

Pro-AL lawyers' panel Bangabandhu Awami Ainjibi Parishad won all the 14 posts of the executive committee with incumbent President Md Montaz Uddin Fakir and incumbent Secretary Abdun Nur Dulal getting reelected, said Rabiul Hassan, administration officer of the SCBA.

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"I have never seen police enter the Supreme Court and attack people, not even during the military regime. I am ashamed of it. I don't know why we reached such a state."

— ZI Khan Panna



A mighty man's humble birthday

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

"I have never observed my birthday – at most my wife would present me a little gift on this day. I would try and stay at home on these days."

"I found in the newspaper that the Dhaka City Awami League is observing my birthday. Must be, because I am in jail! That I am someone whose birthday is even worth observing and is a news feature made me smile."

This was how Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the then newly elected Awami League president, described his 47th birthday, which he spent in Dhaka Central Jail in 1967.

Mujib, later known as Bangabandhu – the father of the nation – described how the highlight of his birthday would be getting to meet his wife and children.

In jail, he used to note down his daily life in his diary. The diary, which was later turned into a book called "Karagarer Rojnamcha (Prison Diaries)", contains his memories of imprisonment during the Pakistan regime, especially between 1966 and 1968, and also between 1958 and 1960.

"My heart was telling me: it would be nice if Renu [Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib] would show up on this day with the children again. On the

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TEESTA WATER

Dhaka will first seek to know the facts on withdrawal

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is cautiously observing the situation and verifying media reports on India's plan to withdraw water from the Teesta for hydropower and irrigation projects in West Bengal, the foreign ministry said yesterday.

"The water resources ministry and the Joint River Commission are readying a paper, and we will try to know the facts from India. Then we shall take necessary measures," Seheri Sabrin, foreign ministry spokesperson, told journalists at the weekly media briefing at the ministry.

Indian newspaper The Telegraph last week reported that the West Bengal government decided to set up three hydropower plants in Darjeeling, and two of them are likely to reduce the volume of water in the Teesta.

It also reported that the West Bengal government acquired 1,000 acres to dig two canals and divert more water from the river to

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Pro-Awami League and pro-BNP lawyers scuffle on the last day of the election to Supreme Court Bar Association yesterday. The photo was taken on the Supreme Court premises around 4:00pm.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

13 jailed over Nasirnagar mayhem

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A Brahmanbaria court yesterday sentenced 13, including former Haripur Union Parishad chairman Dewan Atiqur Rahman Ankhi, to four years' imprisonment in a case filed over vandalising temples and carrying out arson attacks in Nasirnagar six years ago.

Chief Judicial Magistrate of Brahmanbaria Masud Parvez delivered the verdict, said Court Inspector Kazi Didarul Alam.

Other 12 convicts are: Mukhles Mia, Idhu Mia, Mofizul Haque, Nazir Rahman, Mafuz Miah, Saiham Rabbi Shyam, Mir Kashem, Tabarok Reza, Anis Miah, Khasru Miah, SK Abdul Ahad and Sajib Chowdhury.

On October 30, 2016, religious bigots vandalised and torched homes and temples of the Hindus in the upazila over a Facebook post "hurting religious sentiments".

The court inspector added that the case was filed in connection with

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'Cop was killed in my office, I wasn't there' Says 'Arav' on Facebook live from Dubai, thanks Shakib for not backing out

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Rabiul Islam AKA Arav, accused of killing a police inspector in 2018, has admitted that the officer was killed at his Banani office in the capital.

"There is a case against me," he said on Facebook live yesterday from Dubai.

Rabiul now goes by the alias Arav Khan and his criminal record came under the spotlight after he invited cricketer Shakib Al Hasan to open his jewellery store in Dubai on Wednesday.

The accused yesterday claimed that he was not in his office during the murder, and that he came to know about it from his assistant.

Special Branch Inspector Mamun Emran Khan was killed on July 7, 2018. Police in a probe report submitted to a Dhaka court said Rabiul brought a gunnysack and played a significant role in the dumping of the body.

Rabiul, who also goes by aliases Apan, Shohag and Redoy, admitted that he was arrested several times in arms cases filed against him.

A few days ago, he posted a video clip on Facebook where Shakib said that he was going to open Arav Jewellers in Dubai on March 15.

Similar videos of showbiz stars were also uploaded to his Facebook page.

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Rabiul Islam

Price hike in Ramadan an abominable act: Hasina



STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday came down heavily on a section of businesspeople for their unethical act of increasing the prices of essential commodities during Ramadan inflicting suffering on the common people.

"The Ramadan is ahead. Some unscrupulous businessmen are trying to increase the price of commodities. It is a very abominable task," she said.

"It is unnecessary to give people pain after increasing the prices of essentials when they will be busy with observing Ramadan and offering

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Chicken price UNTHINKABLE

Not likely to go down in months

MAHBOUB RAHMAN KHAN and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

With Ramadan less than a week away, the high prices of chicken and meat are not likely to come down anytime soon.

Yesterday, broiler chicken was sold for Tk 270 a kg in the capital, up from Tk 160 one and a half months ago.

"I have never seen broiler chicken being sold at such a high price. I'm worried that the price may cross the Tk 300-mark in Ramadan," said Shamim Alam, a banker, at the capital's Hatirpool kitchen market.

A trader charged Shamim Tk 510 for a broiler chicken.

"My daughter loves to eat chicken. Otherwise, I would have bought beef," Shamim told the trader.

Prices of all breeds of chicken started going up in the capital one and a half months ago.

Yesterday, the Sonalika breed was sold for Tk 370 per kg and local breed Tk 630 per kg, up from Tk 270 and Tk 500 one and a half months back, according to the market analysis of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Halima, a resident of Bhashantek slum, went to the kitchen market in the slum yesterday to buy chicken but returned home with chicken liver, head, neck, and feet which she bought at Tk 120 per kg.

The woman, who bought chicken a month ago, said, "I could not even think of such a high price of chicken."

Reajul Huq, director (administration) of the Department of Livestock Services, blamed high prices of chicks and feed and rise in demand for the price hike.

"The department cannot intervene in the market as it is an independent business," he told The Daily Star.

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Moshiur Rahman, an accountant at a private firm, buys groceries every Friday.

"We live in a large joint family. We need at least eight chickens of local breed every week. The current price of eight chickens is about Tk 5,200. With this amount, I could buy about 7.5kg beef," he told this newspaper, adding that his family was switching from chicken to red meat.

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শুভ জন্মদিন

জাতির জনক বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান

তোমাকে ভালোবাসে বাংলাদেশ

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