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‘Parliament just approves laws the govt wants to enact’ Says GM Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader yesterday told parliament that in the existing system, the parliament is incapable of doing anything other than legislating laws the government wants to implement.

He holds Article 70 of the Constitution responsible for this situation, demanding its amendment.

According to Article 70, a person elected as a member of parliament through an election in which they were nominated as a candidate by a political party shall vacate their seat if – they resign from that party, or vote in parliament against that party.

Quader, also the deputy leader of the opposition, made this observation while participating in a discussion on the special

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Amidst a sea of plastic, a lone worker meticulously sifts through a towering pile of discarded bottles. Each bottle represents a small victory in the battle against waste, as it will be transformed into pellets and given new life in recycling and manufacturing factories across the city and its outskirts. This photo was taken in Meradia area of Khilgaon recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

## Govt takes up Tk 2,995cr project

MD ASADUZ ZAMAN

The government plans to take up a Tk 2,995-crore project for enhancing its technical and administrative capacity to manage the environment in a sustainable manner across the country.

Under this project, the Department of Environment (DoE) will build its permanent regional offices and laboratories in at least 35 districts and four divisions by acquiring 13.15 acres of land.

The project will establish a “Green Credit Guarantee Scheme” to incentivise the financial sector to support green investments, which will reduce air pollution, according to the documents of the planning ministry.

The project, “Bangladesh Environmental Sustainability and Transformation”, will be placed before the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) today.

The project will also be helpful to improve environmental regulations and curb pollution.

Aiming at reducing pollution, the DoE will establish an air-quality forecasting system.

Bangladesh Bank, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority, and Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority will jointly implement the project under the leadership of the DoE.

The project is expected to start in July 2023 and be completed in June 2028. The World Bank will finance the project with Tk 2,569 crore, and French aid agency Agence Française de Développement (AFD) will provide Tk 232.13 crore.

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## SCBA VANDALISM 24 pro-BNP lawyers get bail in case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted anticipatory bail to 24 pro-BNP lawyers in a case filed over vandalism and attempted murder of lawyers at an iftar mahfil organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association on April 6.

They have been granted bail for 12 weeks or till submission of the police report, whichever is earlier, in this case.

The HC also asked the accused lawyers to surrender before the lower court concerned during this period in connection with the case.

The HC bench, led by Justice Md Iqbal Kabir Lytton and Justice AKM Rabiul Hassan, passed the order following a bail petition filed by the 24 lawyers.

Earlier in the day, the accused petitioners, including AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon and Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal, appeared before the HC bench seeking bail.

Senior lawyer AJ Mohammad Ali appeared for the petitioners during hearing of the petition, while Deputy Attorney General BM Abdur Rafell opposed the bail petition.

Md Robiul Hassan, administrative officer of SCBA, lodged the case on April 9 with Shahbagh Police Station in Dhaka against 50 to 60 persons, including 24 pro-BNP lawyers.

In the case, names of 24 lawyers, including Khokon and Kazal, who were the candidates for the posts of president and secretary in the SCBA election held on March 15 and 16 from the

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# The grim picture of street children’s lives

4 out of 10 surveyed never enrolled in school, finds BBS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around four out of 10 street children have never been enrolled in school, according to a survey conducted by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

The survey findings reveal that over 56.6 percent of street children who attend school are unable to complete grade five. Only a small fraction – 8.8 percent – can complete this grade.

“Survey on Street Children 2022” was conducted with support from Unicef Bangladesh and the Department of Social Services, Planning Minister MA Mannan unveiled the survey findings at the BBS Auditorium in the capital’s Agargaon yesterday.

The findings reveal that Chattogram, followed closely by Barishal and Dhaka, has the highest number of street children.

The survey findings are based on first-hand reports from a sample of 7,200 children aged five to 17 years in hotspots of the country’s eight divisions. While the report does

### AT A GLANCE

- » 56.6pc unable to complete fifth grade
- » 65.1pc come to the streets with parents
- » 64pc of girls use unhygienic cloth during menstruation
- » 13.7pc abuse drugs
- » 61.7pc physically abused at work
- » 72pc unwilling to rehabilitate

The survey’s findings are shocking. They tell us not only of the urgent work ahead but also of the empathy and support that children living and working on the streets need from us.

Sheldon Yett  
Unicef representative to Bangladesh

not contain exact figures, Unicef fears that the number of children living on the streets in Bangladesh could be in the millions.

“The survey’s findings are shocking. They tell us not only of the urgent work ahead but also of the empathy and support that children living and working on the streets need from us,” said Sheldon Yett, Unicef representative to Bangladesh.

The survey revealed that 28.3

percent of street children can read and write, while 30.8 percent can write, and 31.5 percent can only read.

Poverty or hunger, parents’ migration to urban areas, and the need to explore work opportunities are the main driving factors for the children to leave their homes and end up on the streets, according to the findings. The survey report also mentioned that 65.1 percent

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## No threats centring Pahela Baishakh: IGP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun yesterday said they were not aware of any threat centring the celebration of Pahela Baishakh.

“However, highest security measures will be taken during Mangal Shobhajatra,” he said while inspecting security measures at Bashundhara City Shopping Complex in the city.

Top police officials including DMP Commissioner Khandker Golam Faruq accompanied him.

The IGP said police took security measures at all markets and shopping malls and people are shopping without any inhibition.

All units of police are working their level best to ensure security and ease of traffic jam on the streets, he added.

The police chief also said that citizens can avail police escort when carrying large sums of money.

## Human trafficking syndicate busted

### Gang, in guise of NGO, forged visas to send people abroad

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The promise of a better life in a foreign land has long been a lure for many. But for some, this dream turns into a nightmare when they become targets of human-trafficking syndicates.

The Cyber and Special Crime Division of the police’s Detective Branch (DB) has revealed that a syndicate has been forging documents to obtain visas for countries like the USA and Europe, and then trafficking people into those countries as NGO workers.

The details of this elaborate scheme came to light after the detectives arrested three members of the syndicate. The three suspects, Abul Kashem Shaikh, Bokhtiar Hossain, and Nazrul Islam, were apprehended by DB yesterday. They were involved in the criminal activities for over a decade.

Kashem, who identified himself as the CEO of an NGO called Kathak Academy, has been involved in trafficking people since 2008, according to Harun Or Rashid, additional commissioner (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

“We have seized 31 passports from Kashem’s possession. He collected these passports through his agents with an aim of trafficking people to the USA, Germany, Japan, Italy, Dubai, and France,” said Rashid.

Kashem’s modus operandi involved sending a

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## Lack of awareness the key reason

### Speakers tell workshop on online harassment victims struggling to get support

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Online harassment victims are struggling to seek redress due to a lack of awareness and institutional mechanisms, as well as poor digital literacy and fear of stigma, said speakers at a workshop yesterday.

They made the remarks at “Advocacy dialogue: Recommendation for strengthening service provision and protection mechanism for citizens who are victims of online crimes and harassment”, held at a city hotel.

The workshop was organised by the European Union (EU), DNET, and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom under the “Foster Responsible Digital Citizenship to Promote Freedom of Expression in Bangladesh” project.

Many victims are unaware of where to seek redress for online harassment and bullying, the speakers said.

Taif Hussain, programme manager of the delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh, said, “It is important to consider one’s behaviour and awareness in the offline world. Your online behaviour can be affected by your offline conduct if you are not a civilized citizen in real life.”

The formation of eight cyber tribunals to redress cases of cyber harassment has not been widely publicised, and people often fear approaching police stations due to the stigma associated with being a victim, said independent consultant Mozahidul Islam

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AN INFORMAL TRADE... Customers rummage through a pile of clothes placed on the footpath for purchase, especially since these clothes are sold at extremely low prices. Traders collect these clothes, which are rejected due to tears or defects from Islampur, the largest clothing market in the city, and sell them from their vans or on the footpath. This photo was taken in Tejgunipara yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

PRAYER TIMING APRIL 11					
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN 4:24	12:45	4:45	6:22	7:45	
JAMAAT 4:34	1:15	5:00	6:32	8:15	
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					
SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING					
RAMADAN	APRIL	SEHRI	IFTAR		
19	11		6:22		
20	12	4:18	6:23		
21	13	4:17	6:23		