

## Killers inside Zia’s regime must be tried

### Says PM after meeting victims

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government must hold trials of the mass killings of military officials during the regime of military dictator Ziaur Rahman, and of the arson-terrorism “sponsored by the BNP-Jamaat clique” from 2013 to 2015.

“I have no word to console you. I am one of you, as I heard one day that I have nothing [after assassination of her parents and brothers]... [Some] culprits had already got punishment, [some] are getting it. and [the remaining others] will face the music,” she said.

She was exchanging Eid greetings with families of military officers and soldiers killed during the regime of Ziaur Rahman, families of those killed and

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Under the scorching sun, two workers persist in their task of transferring sand. Their sweat-drenched clothes and exhausted expressions is a glimpse into their daily struggle. This photo was taken in Gabtoli Landing Station yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## CITY CORPORATION POLLS

# Jatiya Party up for a good fight

RASHIDUL HASAN

Jatiya Party, the main opposition in parliament, is taking the upcoming election to five city corporations seriously, resolving to fight in the polls “properly and with full effort”.

The JP leaders said they will decide their strategy for the next national election after observing the city corporation polls.

“If the Election Commission cannot make the city corporation elections free, fair and neutral, if people’s right to vote is not guaranteed, then we will decide whether we will participate in next national election,” JP Secretary General Mujibul Haque Chunnun said at the JP chairman’s Banani office in the capital.

Elections to the five city corporations – Barishal, Gazipur, Khulna, Rajshahi, and Sylhet – will be held between May 23 and June 29, EC announced on March 15. The election schedules will be announced in mid-April, he said.

While talking to The Daily Star, JP chairman GM Quader said, “We are talking elections to the five city corporations seriously. We will actively participate.”

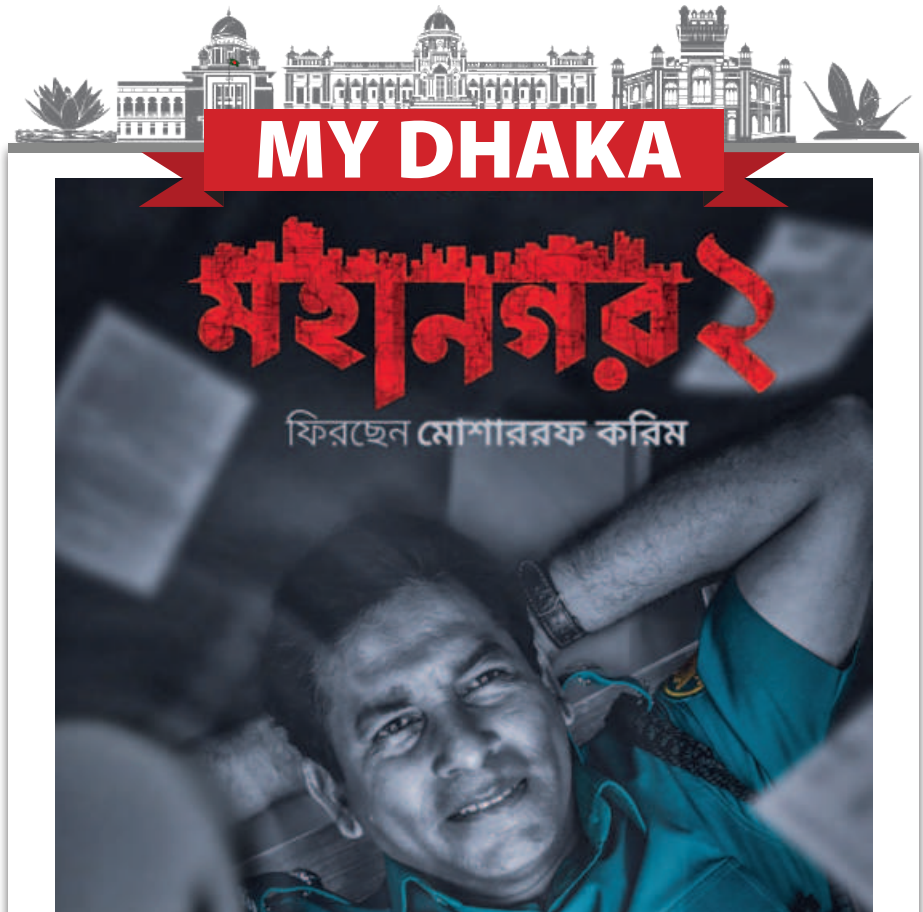
Quader, also deputy leader of the opposition in parliament, said, “As part of this initiative, we are looking for strong candidates to contest in the mayoral polls.”

“In Gazipur, Barishal, Sylhet and Rajshahi, we have given nominations to strong candidates,” the JP boss said.

“... We hope that the government will create a congenial atmosphere and will take proper measures to hold this election in a free, fair and neutral manner,” he said.

In the Gazipur city polls, JP has given nomination to

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## Mohanagar Tales

### Dhaka through the eyes of director Ashfaq Nipun

MH HAIDER

If you have watched Mohanagar, and if you live in Dhaka, you would surely agree that this Mosharraf Karim starrer Hoichoi web-series is a story of our city told right. It was almost as if filmmaker Ashfaq Nipun decided to pay an ode to the city, but then, he paid that tribute in the coldest and most unapologetic way possible by presenting many harsh realities albeit in the most entertaining way!

That is just an opinion, though, as a Dhaka buff. What does Nipun have to say? With the second instalment of this immensely popular series scheduled to release tomorrow, we quizzed the man behind Mohanagar himself.

“Any ‘mohanagar [metropolis]’ is made up of people of all classes, of all walks of life. In Dhaka, there are luxurious high-rise buildings on one hand and slums on the other and a lot in between,” Nipun began.

“The entirety of the first season took place in one night, where we brought together people of all classes under one roof, the police station.”

A Dhakaite could connect with Mohanagar 1 easily – the roads, the parties, toughness, shrewdness, rich and powerful people feeling entitled as if the system should bow down to them, and how difficult this city can become if someone falls in the wrong side of things.

The audience feels that the storyteller must know Dhaka rather intimately.

Nipun was in fact born and brought up in Chattogram. “When I first moved to Dhaka, the pace of this city really struck me. It seemed like people were always in a rush,” he said. “Everyone is running. Outside Dhaka, folks are a bit more laidback. Now that I have lived



here for around 17 years, I’ve become a part of it as well. But whenever I visit Chattogram, I’m reminded of this pace Dhaka has.”

As a filmmaker, Nipun is fascinated by a number of aspects of the capital, which he desires to portray in his future works, if the opportunity arises.

One of them, he said, is Dhaka on Fridays – the sights, sounds and moods during this day-off and how it is different from the rest of the week.

He is also fascinated by stories and dynamics of the movement of the socio-economic focus and hub within the capital, shifting from Old Dhaka to Motijheel, Gulshan, and beyond.

For now, audiences are keenly awaiting the return of the Mohanagar magic.

“The first season was a story of one night. Mohanagar 2 will go broad; the narrative is much broader and deeper,” Nipun informed.

The wait is almost over. The shrewd police officer OC Harun – central character played by Mosharraf Karim that has already made a lasting impression among the audience from season one – is ready to guide us again through the tough and hardened system that is Dhaka.

As OCHarun says in a teaser: “Dhaka mohanagar. Where the streets, lanes and by-lanes have a million stories to tell. Stories about the oppressors, stories about the oppressed, stories about the rise to power, stories about losing against power, in this city, millions are crushed under the system every day...”

Every nook and cranny of Dhaka has stories waiting to be told. ‘My Dhaka’ gives interested writers the platform to share experiences of city life. Only selected stories will make it to our print edition and digital platform. Send your Dhaka story (within 450 words) to raffat@thedailystar.net

## DHAKA NEW SUPER MARKET

# Traders trying to get back on their feet

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Three days after a devastating fire that ravaged Dhaka New Super Market, traders started reopening their shops yesterday.

During a visit, traders were seen removing burnt clothes and debris, cleaning and sorting goods, and decorating their shops.

The shop owners had to depend on generators to use electric fans and lights, as there was no electricity connection in the market till filing this report at 7:30pm yesterday.

Many who did not have generator connections were seen using charger lights, candles, and cell-phone lights to illuminate their shops.

Around 250 shops on the ground floor, 200 on the second floor, and 50 on the third floor were reopened for business after permission was granted to do so, though most of them had little

The massive fire that broke out just a week prior to Eid-ul-Fitr, left the market, which was usually abuzz with buyers and sellers, in a devastated state.

Alamin Hossain, an employee of a shop on the third floor of the market, had decorated the shop with new jeans for the upcoming Eid.

But his joy turned into tears as he sat alone in front of his shop, watching everything get burnt to ashes.

“Everything changed for the worse in an instant,” said Alamin.

Many traders like Ilyas Akanda are struggling to get back to their previous stream of business.

Akanda, an employee of Bismillah Spice Shop on the ground floor, said that the shop was open for four hours and made only Tk 600 in sales, a tiny fraction of the average of Tk 8,000 of sales per day during Eid season.

Another trader, Kamal Hossain, owner of Himel Fashion on the second



PHOTO: STAR

or no customers.

Kazi Abul Khayer, member secretary of Dhaka New Super Market Bebohayee Samity (South), said 125 shops were totally destroyed and 100 were partially burnt out of the 1,050 shops in the market.

“Electricity connection is expected to be restored in the market soon,” he added.

floor, said the fire destroyed around 20 percent of their merchandise, including pants and t-shirts.

The road to recovery has been challenging, as Hossain said only two t-shirts were sold in two hours of re-opening the shop.

Some traders are busy with restoration work, while others eagerly waited for customers to come.

## Doa mahfils held for Zafrullah Chowdhury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Doa mahfils were held nationwide yesterday for Zafrullah Chowdhury, freedom fighter and founder of Gonoshasthaya Kendra.

After Asr prayers, special prayers were held at Dhanmondi Nagar Hospital and Gonoshasthaya Kendra in Savar, followed by an iftar mahfil.

Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Gonoshasthaya Kendra Professor Altafunnesa, Trustee Abul Kashem Chowdhury, Trustee Sandhya Roy, and Executive Head Monzur Kader, along with Zafrullah Chowdhury’s

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## ‘Conduct fair probe into fire incidents’

### Demand eminent citizens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of 28 eminent citizens issued a joint statement yesterday, demanding a fair investigation into the recent fire incidents that occurred at Bangabazar and New Super Market in the capital.

They emphasised that such incidents could be prevented with the goodwill of the government. They called upon government agencies concerned and city corporations to play a responsible role in this regard.

The statement also urged the government to increase citizens’ awareness, ensure accountability, and increase the capacity of the relevant agencies to prevent such accidents.

Expressing their doubts on whether the incidents were accidents or the doings of several vested quarters, they called for a fair and impartial investigation to uncover the true causes behind the fires.

They said if there was any matter of negligence

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## TIPU MURDER CASE

# 3 accused get bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted ad-interim bail to three accused in the murder case filed over the deaths of Awami League leader Jahidul Islam Tipu and college student Samia Afran Jamal Prity in Dhaka on March 24 last year.

The accused are Md Maruf Khan, Mahbubur Rahman Titu, a former local Chhatra League leader, and Maruf Reza Sagor.

Judge Md Asaduzzaman of Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge’s Court passed the order after their lawyer submitted an appeal against the rejection orders of the lower court.

In the order, the judge said their bail will remain valid till May 3, said the Dhaka Metropolitan Additional Public Prosecutor Tapash Kumar Pal.

During yesterday’s hearing, the defendants’ advocate Pran Nath told the court that their clients had been languishing in jail for over 13 months. The IO was asked to appear before it with the progress report on the investigation but they failed.

In the meantime, four of the accused got bail from the High Court on different dates.



As the weather has been particularly dry throughout last week, the city has become more dust prone than ever. To prevent this menace, city-corporation trucks were seen spraying water on the roads in a drive. This photo was taken in Paribagh area yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN