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'Give us another chance to serve'

Hasina urges people to vote for 'boat' in next national polls

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina has urged the countrymen to give her party another chance in the next general election to help establish Bangladesh as a developing country, alerting them if the anti-liberation and corrupt elements come to power again, they will destroy all the advancements.

The premier said this while exchanging greetings with a cross section of people on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr at her Gono Bhaban residence on Saturday morning.

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PHOTO: BSS

Sheikh Hasina along with her younger sister Sheikh Rehana paid tribute to August 15 martyrs at the Banani graveyard on Sunday.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Scene from Bangabazar Market after Eid. After the massive fire that ravaged the market on April 4, traders set up their shops with these makeshift arrangements under the open sky. During a visit to the spot yesterday, the area was found deserted for the ongoing Eid holiday.

Xi Jinping congratulates Shahabuddin



DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chinese President Xi Jinping yesterday sent a congratulatory letter to Md Shahabuddin on his assuming office as president of Bangladesh.

Xi Jinping noted that China and Bangladesh are traditionally friendly neighbours. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations, the two countries have always respected each other, treated each other as equals, and supported each other on issues concerning each other's core interests, which has set an example of friendly coexistence and win-win cooperation between the countries, according to Chinese Embassy in Bangladesh.

Xi Jinping said he

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'Office of president is not for profit'

HC observes in full-text order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court in the full text of an order has justified Md Shahabuddin being elected as president of Bangladesh, observing that the office of president is not an office of profit in the service of the republic.

"We hold that section 9 of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Act, 2004 does not create any bar to the former Commissioner of ACC, Mr Md Shahabuddin, to be elected as the President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and assumes the office of President as a Profitable one," the HC bench said in the full text order.

"We hold that though as a former commissioner of ACC, the President-elect, Md Shahabuddin, also held an office of profit in the service of the Republic, this in no way disqualifying him from being elected to or holding the office of President, which is not an office of profit in the service of the Republic," the HC bench of Justice Md Khasruzzaman and Justice

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The tale of holiday sufferings

Patients in peril as pathology service at govt hospitals closed for Eid holidays

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and ARAFAT RAHAMAN

Sixty-five-year-old Mohammad Siraj had to seek medical attention for severe abdominal pain and other physical illnesses on Sunday at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College.

While taking treatment, the on-duty doctor in the emergency section suggested he had to conduct some 10 tests.

However, when he heard about such a long list of tests, he became hesitant and skeptical, because he knew that he would have to go to private centres for the tests, as the government pathology service was closed for the Eid holidays.

Siraj, who came from the Geneva camp area of Mohammadpur in the capital, later went to Popular Diagnostic Centre in Shyamoli. He was charged Tk 6,160 for his tests.

Unfortunately, he was not able to pay the full amount of the bill. He was able to manage Tk 4,700. The centre authorities billed him at a discounted rate for the remaining amount.

While visiting some government hospitals, this



NITOR's emergency ward saw a rush of patients during the Eid holidays.

PHOTO: STAR

newspaper found that many patients, like Siraj, were compelled to go to private diagnostic centres and spent extra money, due to pathology services at government hospitals services being closed for the Eid holidays.

Rita, another patient who went to the Suhrawardy hospital, was also suggested for two tests. She had to rush to a private diagnostic centre and spent Tk 2,740 for her tests.

Talking to The Daily Star, her son expressed his

sections of the hospital.

Md Imam Hossain, a 37-year-old CNG driver, was admitted to the hospital with a broken leg after an accident on Eid day.

When he was taken to the emergency section, the authorities suggested a digital X-ray. They demanded Tk 350 instead of the regular charge of Tk 250, claiming it as an Eid bonus.

Additionally, Imam was forced to buy bandages from the hospital, which cost him Tk 1,500. He also had to spend Tk 700 as a trolley fee to move between different wards.

Another patient Jamal Sarker, from Shibpur in the Narsingdi area, came to the hospital on Friday, a day before Eid day. The on-duty doctor suggested he take an ECG test, but the service was closed at the hospital for the holiday.

So he had to go to a nearby private diagnostic centre to take the test. The test only cost Tk 100, but they had to spend Tk 1,000 to hire an ambulance to transport Jamal to the centre, said Md Ibrahim, Jamal's nephew.

Expressing frustration, he said,

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Dhaka for 'free, inclusive' Indo-Pacific region

Announces 15-point outlook ahead of PM's 15-day visit to Japan, US, UK

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh said it wants a free, open, peaceful, secure and inclusive Indo-Pacific region for the shared prosperity of all as it announced its 15-point Indo-Pacific Outlook yesterday.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam presented the outlook on the Indo-Pacific at a press briefing yesterday, a day before Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina begins her 15-day visit to Japan, the US and the UK.

Bangladesh's position in the Indo-Pacific carries much significance in the regional and global arena as the region is the focus of the world powers.

The US, EU, Canada, France, Japan, ASEAN and some other countries already launched their visions on the Indo-Pacific. The US's Indo-Pacific Strategy is termed by many experts as meant to counter China, which has its global project – titled "Belt and Road Initiative" – joined by Bangladesh in 2016.

Bangladesh maintains a non-aligned position and opposes joining any defence alliance but aims to build a modern, knowledge-based developed country by 2041 under the "Vision 2041".

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We want to foster cooperation among Indo-Pacific countries, collaborate with sub-regional partners, keeping with the vision of Smart Bangladesh.

SHAHRIAR ALAM
State Minister for Foreign Affairs

70pc Boro paddy in haors harvested

UNB, Dhaka

Seventy percent of the Boro paddy in haor areas have been harvested, the agriculture ministry said in a press release yesterday.

In Sylhet, 55 percent paddy, in Moulvibazar 70 percent, in Habiganj 67 percent, in Sunamganj 73 percent, in Kishoreganj 58 percent, in Netrokona 77 percent, and in Brahmanbaria 67 percent of Boro paddy was harvested.

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PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) has filled 11 acres of 53-acre water retention area in Gabtoli's Goidartek. Environmentalists and locals fear that the filling of the land will adversely affect the drainage in and around the adjacent areas and adversely affect the biodiversity.

BADC filling up water retention land in Gabtoli

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) has filled 11 acres of the 53-acre water retention area of Goidartek in the capital's Gabtoli for a four-storey building, meant for a tissue culture laboratory.

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC), Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk), and the Department of Environment (DoE) – the authorities responsible for looking after the land – did not take any action even though the landfilling continued for over six months until March.

The BADC violated the Environment Conservation (Amendment) Act 2010 by filling the water retention land, said environmentalists.

The 11-acre area is marked as a water retention land in the Detailed Area Plan (DAP) of Rajuk. However, the BADC did not get the land use clearance from Rajuk, according to Rajuk officials.

The BADC did not have an environmental clearance certificate from the DoE either, according to DoE officials.

Environmentalists said filling up a water body can seriously affect biodiversity. This can also reduce the natural flood control capacity as wetlands retain water during the rainy season.

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PRAYER TIMING

APRIL 25

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
4:20	12:45	4:45	6:29	8:00
JAMAAAT	4:55	1:15	5:00	6:34
8:30				

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION