

## Sabira Rouf passes away

CITY DESK

Sabira Rouf, mother of Dr Eaysmin Ara Lekha, vice-chancellor of Uttara University, passed away on June 7. She was 86.

She breathed her last at 1:05pm in the Intensive Care Unit of Dhaka United Hospital.

Kazi Mohiuddin, registrar of Uttara University, and the university family have expressed their deep grief and condolences.

## 100 structures

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sought time to remove the belongings, we will knock down the building tomorrow," he said, requesting anonymity.

Recently, local influential people were attempting to fill the century-old pond, triggering protests from environmentalists, who held several programmes to thwart the move.

Meanwhile, the High Court imposed a three-month status quo on any construction and filling of the pond in response to the writ petition filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela).

## Traders still

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Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said no one will be removed forcibly but the kitchen market will have to be shifted.

A decision will have to be taken jointly, he said.

He requested the mayor to construct a multistoried market for the market at the Karwan Bazar.

"Due to the urgency of the situation, many things are being constructed, and if the government decides not to allow any trucks here, you will be in trouble," he said.

Local Government and Rural Development Minister Md Tazul Islam said a discussion is necessary on the issue as it is complex and its solution is quite important.

Mosharraf Hossain, treasurer of Karwan Bazar Khudra Kacha Bazar Samiti, said around four crore people are directly or indirectly involved with the market and will be affected due to the shifting.

Hazi Abdul Hakim Bulbul, secretary of Number-1 DIT Market, said late mayor Anisul Huq assured them of bringing four markets in a particular area in Karwan Bazar but the decision fell flat due to his demise.

"We will sacrifice our lives if necessary, but we will not move," said Lokman Hossain, a Kitchen Market Beboshaye Samity leader.



Law enforcers intercept BNP leaders and activists in front of Notre Dame College yesterday as they were trying to go to the WAPDA Bhaban on Toyenbee Road to submit a memorandum to the officials concerned, protesting the recent power outages across the country. Later, police allowed some of the party members to hand over the memorandum.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## NID correction to be made easy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission has moved to ease the hassle for people in correcting information on National ID Cards.

EC officials prepared a draft Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) which will make it easier for fixing NID corrections. It has re-designated officers' jobs and proposed increasing the powers of field officers of the EC to correct NID information.

The SOP also made the jobs of officials specific.

The draft SOP was placed before a meeting of election commissioners chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal yesterday.

"The meeting in principle approved the SOP, and they would finalise it after holding further discussions," NID Wing Director General A K M Humayun Kabir said after the meeting.

Earlier in late May, the draft of the SOP was finalised proposing 20 additional regional officers should be given the authority to categorise the applications for correcting NID cards.

At present, the process is done centrally.

The draft of the SOP also proposed that district election officers will be able to correct the mistakes of names of parents of NID card holders. Currently, regional election officers are authorised to bring such changes.

District election officers will be able to take decisions about applications seeking a change of date of birth for a maximum of seven years, while additional district election officers will be able to settle applications seeking a change of date of birth for a maximum of five years.

Additional district election officers will be able to take decisions about applications regarding change of marital status, names of spouses as well as religion. Till now, additional district election officers had no authority regarding the correction of NID cards.

The SOP proposed that the regional election officer will be able to take decisions regarding applications seeking a change of the full name of the national identity card holder. Currently, the Director General of the NID wing can take such a decision.

## Ctg-10 by- polls July 30

UNB, Dhaka

By-polls to Chattogram-10 constituency will be held on July 30. The Election Commission announced the schedule yesterday.

EC Secretary Md Zahangir Alam briefed reporters after a meeting at the EC secretariat.

The last date for submission of nomination paper is July 4.

The last date for withdrawal of the candidature is July 12 while symbol allocation will be on July 13. The Parliament Secretariat on June 4 declared Chattogram-10 (Double Mooring - Halishahar - Khatulshi - Katalgani) vacant following the death of Awami League lawmaker Afsarul Amin.

## Chaos at AL rally

No talks with BNP at the moment, says Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two factions of Awami League yesterday threw chairs at each other twice during a rally organised marking the historic Six-point Day in front of its headquarters in the capital's Gulistan.

Zahangir Alam, a member of ward-57 unit AL, was injured in the incident and received primary treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Eyewitnesses said chaos ensued at the rally venue when Nurul Amin Ruhul, vice president of Dhaka City (south) unit AL, started his speech around 4:00pm.

At one point, the activists started throwing chairs prompting Ruhul to stop his speech. He then requested everyone to calm down.

After pacifying the situation, when he resumed his speech around 4:30pm, chaos ensued again as the AL men started throwing chairs.

The situation also created panic among the activists.

At that time, the AL leaders from the stage started saying that the followers of BNP-Jamaat may enter the rally and create chaos, so that everyone should be

alert to prevent it from happening.

Awami League presidium members Quamrul Islam, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Joint General Secretary Mahubul Alam Hanif then intervened and pacified the crowd.

Meanwhile, AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader at the rally said the party is not considering talks with the BNP for the time being.

"Time will tell whether we would consider holding dialogues. We can remember what happened last time. We held dialogues with them twice, but what was the outcome? Nothing," said Quader.

Quader said the BNP has fallen into a trap after repeatedly complaining for sanction. "They got visa [restriction] policy instead of sanctions. There is nothing to worry about the visa policy."

He also said caretaker government will not return, it is a dead issue.

Quader, also the road, transport and bridges minister, said, "The foreign friends want neutral elections. They want free and fair elections. Our leader [AL chief Sheikh Hasina] has assured both locals and foreigners that she will ensure a free and fair election."

## Facebook

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fake currency producers. During these drives, many manufacturers were arrested and several counterfeit note factories were busted in the last couple of years.

Speaking with this correspondent, Mashuiur said a section of people is involved in fake note trade offline. However, most online fake note sellers are frauds.

"Buyers of these notes are also criminals and they have no provision to lodge a complaint with police after they are cheated in the deal they struck with the fake note sellers," he said.

Mashuiur, however, said law enforcers are on a high alert regarding such advertisements on social media.

## Concealing yaba

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the drives said the female mules would wear these petticoats to supply the pills to the wholesale dealers in the northern districts, including Rangpur, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh.

For carrying each consignment, a mule used to get Tk 10,000 to Tk 15,000, he added.

Md Shahjahan, hailing from Thakurgaon, used to bring yaba pills from traders in Cox's Bazar after dealers in the northern districts placed their demands. He used truck drivers to carry the consignments to the capital from Teknaf, hiding them inside goods and spare truck wheels.

Shahjahan has already two cases against him under the Narcotics Control Act.

"The arrestees admitted that for every 10,000 pills, a truck driver used to get Tk

1,00,000 to Tk 1,50,000," Mehedi told The Daily Star yesterday.

He also said Alamgir, hailing from Chattogram, admitted that he used to earn Tk 1,00,000 to Tk 2,00,000 on each trip.

## Integrate

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Qawmi madrasa syllabus and look into creating more job opportunities for their graduates. In the article, suggestions were also made to prohibit political activities, ensure the safety and security of the students and regulate the activities of all madrasas across the country.

Maulana Yakub Badsha and Forhad Hossain Fahad, also spoke at the programme, moderated by Asif Munir of Nirmul Committee with historian Prof Muntassir Mamoon in the chair.

## Forced to live a miserable life

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Post-graduate trainee physicians are medical school graduates who pursue further specialised training in a specific medical field for 2-5 years to achieve higher degrees.

Their role is to provide direct patient care under the supervision of attending physicians, gain practical experience and

refine their clinical skills.

According to the organisers, there are around 8,500 non-government post-graduate trainee physicians in all medical colleges, universities and specialised institutes in the country. They are not allowed to engage in private practice and are supposed to be on duty round the clock.

"We have no choice but

to live a very miserable life. We need adequate financial support to fully concentrate on our training and service patients without any stress," said Suhag.

Speaking at the event as the chief guest, Prof Major (Retd) Abdul Ohab Minar said, "All the professional physicians' organisations should come forward to press home this demand."

Contacted, Prof Sharafuddin Ahmed, vice chancellor of BSMMU, said, "I have discussed the issue with the health minister a week ago. He said he would take steps after discussing it with the prime minister."

The VC also said he has proposed to distribute the allocation to the respective institutions where the post-graduate physicians study.

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Yuasa Takashi, Deputy Team Leader of JICA Expert Team  
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## Polls-time govt

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government. The current government will serve as the election-time government as it is the norm around the world," he said.

"When BNP was in power, the country used to generate 3,600 MW of electricity. Now we have the capacity to generate 18,000 to 20,000 MW of power. And when BNP was in power, only 40 percent

of the people were under electricity coverage. Now 100 percent of the people are," the minister added.

Urging patience, the minister said the current power crisis due to fuel shortage will improve soon.

"The state minister for power said that this problem, caused by global recession and war, is temporary and it will be eased in 15-20 days," he added.

## Who gets BNP votes?

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the election. We have even discouraged them from going to the polling stations. Those who defied the party's decision have been expelled. We do not have any involvement with the election."

Despite that, 18 leaders who hold various positions in the BNP and its associate body are participating in the election. Therefore, it can be inferred that at least a small number of BNP voters will likely cast their votes in favour of these candidates.

Senior BNP leaders have claimed that there are approximately one lakh BNP voters in the city.

Additionally, Jatiya Party candidate Iqbal Hossain Tapos, brother of Jubo Dal leader Taslim Uddin, shares ideological similarities with BNP, which is why the JP candidate hopes to get a significant number of the BNP votes.

On the contrary, Mufti Karim, the candidate from Islami Andolan Bangladesh (IAB), has taken a proactive approach by engaging with BNP-minded voters on a personal level and remains hopeful of securing BNP votes.

Sources said the floating voters with ideologies similar to IAB are likely to rally behind the IAB

candidate. Besides, a section of Awami League leaders has been spreading rumours that some AL supporters may end up voting for the IAB candidate.

Meanwhile, amid the final phase of the campaign, accusations of electoral code violations have become common among the candidates, with each promising various development initiatives. IAB CANDIDATE UNVEILS 17-POINT MANIFESTO Mufti Karim yesterday unveiled a 17-point election manifesto at a city restaurant. The manifesto includes initiatives such as

implementing stringent measures against food adulteration, ensuring access to safe drinking water, guaranteeing food security for all residents, elevating living standards for city dwellers and beggars, ensuring affordable housing and employment opportunities, reducing holding tax and license fees, facilitating easy access to citizen services, establishing dedicated markets for hawkers, improving the road infrastructure, constructing embankments to prevent river erosion and promoting a greener environment within the city.