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## HC rebukes Savar UNO

Asks him to resubmit report on Bangshi river encroachment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday rebuked and warned the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Savar for not complying with its directive over submitting a report after evicting encroachers from Bangshi river in Banshpatti area to this court.

"You [UNO] have not complied with the order of this court and have not cooperated with the law officers in providing relevant documents properly. You are now a junior officer... if you do irregularities by taking Tk 10-20 what will you do when you become a secretary? If we make any negative observation about your performance and competence, you will face problem in future," the bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Razik-Al-Jalil told UNO Md Mazharul Islam.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



Processions and rallies by BNP and Awami League in Dhaka caused severe traffic congestion throughout the day yesterday, leaving vehicles stranded on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue and creating a 1.5-km tailback on Dhaka-Aricha highway among other places. Commuters suffered immensely as traffic was diverted to a single lane in different parts of the capital to make way for the marches. Amid such commotions, many had to walk to their destinations.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ, AMRAN HOSSAIN

## It's selection not election

Alleges GM Quader on by-polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman and Deputy Leader of the Opposition GM Quader yesterday said there is no democracy in the country at present.

"The way this government is conducting elections, democratic process will be lost forever," he added. "Then there will be only one leader, who will be a leader for life. There will be only one party and it will keep some puppet party if it wants," he said.

"The way things are happening, seems like everything is being decided through selection," he said.

The JP chief said this while talking to reporters at the Jatiya Party chairman's office in the capital's Banani area.

GM Quader said organisations of traders, engineers, diploma engineers and doctors are also going for selection. The country is heading towards a one-party rule.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

PRAYER TIMING JULY 19					
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN 4-15	12-45	5-00	6-55	8-17	
JAMAT 4-50	1-15	5-15	7-00	8-45	
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					

# Held hostage in a city of processions



STAR REPORT

Tasmin Jahan had a harrowing experience yesterday as her daughter's 30-minute journey to school turned into a two-hour ordeal due to gridlock between Mirpur-10 and Shaheed Bir Uttam Lt Anwar Girls School and College.

Most of the Dhaka dwellers who stepped outside their home during morning and afternoon shared a similar fate.

The cause? Political processions organised by two major parties in the capital, which paralysed traffic flow of the capital yesterday.

"My daughter could not attend school on time," said Tasmin.

Amidst the scorching afternoon heat, our correspondents observed a group of six people resorting to carrying heavy luggage over their heads as they walked through Fakirapool.

**To accommodate BNP's procession demanding the current regime's resignation, and Awami League's counter procession to hold election under the present one, traffic was diverted to a single lane in many places, causing chaos and distress for commuters throughout the city.**

"We'll have to catch a flight at 7:00pm," explained one of them. They were rushing to Kamalapur with plans to catch a train to go to the airport station.

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hold election under the present one, traffic was diverted to a single lane in many places, causing chaos and distress for commuters throughout the city.

Talking to The Daily Star near Moghbazar flyover, businessman Sadhu Mia said he had been stranded at that very place for over two and a half hours.

"I have an emergency meeting in Gazipur. I will make a huge loss in business if I fail to reach on time," he said.

One Hamidur Rahman was heading to Tikatuli from Mohammadpur around 11:00am along with his wife and daughter on a motorbike.

"I reached Shabbagh smoothly. As we came near the Matshya Bhaban, we got stuck in a long tailback," he said.

"We were exposed to direct sunlight for about 30 minutes as police were taking a long

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Doctors suspend countrywide strike

Central Hospital physicians get bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Doctors of private hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centres yesterday suspended their strike after two of their fellow physicians were granted bail in a case filed over the death of a mother and her newborn during a C-section operation last month.

Mohammed Khurshid Alam, director general of Directorate General of Health Services, confirmed the development following a meeting of 44 organisations of doctors including Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Bangladesh (OGSB) and Society of Surgeons of Bangladesh.

"We have already heard that Dr Shahzadi Mustarshida and Dr Muna Shaha have been granted bail, so we have decided to suspend our movement," Khurshid Alam, also the president of Society of Surgeons of Bangladesh said during a press conference at Dhaka Medical College Hospital in the afternoon.

"All physicians around the country will start their private practices from today [yesterday]," he added.

"We have also decided to file a petition for the safety and security of doctors at their workplaces," Khurshid Alam also said. Earlier, services for outpatients were suspended as doctors at private hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centres began their two-day strike on Monday to demand the release of two physicians.

Outpatients seeking help at the private health facilities had to suffer throughout the day. Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to Shahzadi Mustarshida Sultana and Muna Shaha in a case filed over the deaths of Mahbuba Akter Akhi and her newborn at Central Hospital in the capital.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

DHAKA-17 BY-POLLS

## Lowest turnout in four years

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The turnout of 11.50 percent voters on Monday's by-polls to Dhaka-17 was the lowest in any by-election held in the last four years, excluding the ones held amid coronavirus restrictions.

Experts blame the absence of participatory and competitive elections and the erosion of people's trust in the EC the reason behind its failure to hold credible elections.

Election Commission sources said since the last general election, the current EC had held 32 by-polls. Thirteen of those were held amid coronavirus restrictions between March 17, 2020, and August 19, 2021. Five by-polls were held before the restrictions were imposed and 14 after they were lifted.

No voting was needed in four by-elections because only one individual ran for MP in each.

Before Monday's by-polls, the lowest turnout after the relaxation of the Covid-19 ban was 14.55 percent in the Chattogram-8 by-election held on April 27, according to EC data.

Voter turnout was 16.10 percent in Brahmanbaria-2, 22.33 percent in Bogura-6, 23.92 percent in Bogura-4, 29.07 percent in Chapainawabganj-3, 34.78 percent in Chapainawabganj-2 and 46.30 percent in Thakurgaon-3. All these by-elections were held in February.

The voter turnout in the Dhaka-10 by-elections held on March 21, two weeks after the country's first detection of the Covid-19 case, was 5.28 percent, the lowest ever recorded in the nation's electoral history.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



The grand finale of the Climate Justice Idea Competition 2023, organised by Action Aid Bangladesh in association with The Daily Star, was held at The Daily Star Centre on Monday. Nine groups of young environment enthusiasts participated with their innovative ideas under three categories: Circular Economy, Water Rights and Energy Transition. One winner from each category was selected by a panel of judges. Among others, special guest Saber Hossain Chowdhury MP, chair of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid Bangladesh, were present at the event.

PHOTO: STAR

## OBITUARY



**Fazle Hussain Bhuiyan**, Son of Late Ali Hussain Bhuiyan and Late Yakutun Nissah, Passed Away on 14th July, 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand, during Jumma Prayers at 2.18pm. He was 85 years old. He was a Chartered Accountant from England, A Graduate of the London School of Economics, and Member of the Chartered Institute of Marketing.

His Last Post was that of the Head of Audit for the Royal Commission, Yanbu Al-Sinaia, Saudi Arabia. He leaves behind a wife, Son, Daughter, and Grandson and an Array of Friends and Family, who mourn his Death and request all to forgive him and pray for his departed Soul, Ameen.

His Qulkhani will be held today the 19<sup>th</sup> July baad-Asr at his Gulshan residence.