



PHOTO OF THE DAY

ANISUR RAHMAN



WRONG ON SO MANY LEVELS... Pasting posters on walls is not allowed as per the electoral code of conduct for the upcoming city polls, but the walls of Lalbagh Fort -- an archaeological heritage site where any poster is prohibited -- is covered with campaign materials of mayoral and councillor candidates of multiple parties. Many posters are also in violation of allowed dimensions and directives. A notice prohibiting all kind of posters or festoons on the wall is almost hidden amid a plethora of advertising -- from electronics to bus services and schools. The photo was taken yesterday.

MAYOR CANDIDATES' ELECTION EXPENSES

AL candidates to fund themselves, BNP rely on family

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Awami League's mayor candidates for Dhaka city polls will meet election campaign expenditures from their pocket, while BNP and other parties' candidates said their families will bear a significant portion of the costs.

The information was found from candidates' disclosure to the Election Commission on possible expenditure for carrying out electioneering.

Awami League candidates -- Atiqul Islam for DNCC and Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh for DSCC -- and BNP candidates Tabitha Awal for DNCC and Ishraque Hossain for DSCC -- all said they will spend Tk 50 lakh each during the election.

This year, EC said a mayor candidate will be able to spend Tk 50 lakh for polls expense, aside from Tk 2 lakh personal expenses and Tk 1 lakh for deposit.

EC sources said candidates are allowed to spend money for campaign activities like transportation cost, street rallies, election camps, publication of posters and others.

They will need to place details of their polls-time expenditures 30 days after the election, slated for February 1.

Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh in his disclosure to the EC said his possible expenditure in the electioneering would be Tk 53 lakh, all from his own pocket.

This includes printing of 4,00,000 posters at the cost of Tk 12 lakh, and 450,000 leaflets and 750,000 handbills at the cost of Tk 4.5 lakh. He also set Tk 7.5 lakh for 1,500 street rallies.



Ekushey book fair to begin on Feb 2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The month-long Amar Ekushey Granthamala has been deferred by a day as the Election Commission shifted the date of Dhaka north and south city corporation elections to February 1.

The country's largest book fair will now begin on February 2, said Habibullah Siraji, director general of Bangla Academy.

"We delayed opening of the book fair due to Dhaka city elections. The prime minister is scheduled to inaugurate it," he said.

The EC on Saturday night shifted the city corporation polls date to February 1 in the face of mounting pressure from various quarters as the previous date, January 30, coincided with Saraswati Puja.

Ekushey book fair 2020 organising committee member secretary Jalal Ahmed said more than 500 publication houses and other organisations are expected to join this year's fair on the Bangla Academy and adjacent Suhrawardy Uddyan premises in the capital.

He said the fair will conclude on February 29.

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More greenery, less concrete

Suggest experts to keep the capital cool

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rooftop gardens and urban green-blue space can mitigate the warming of a megacity like Dhaka, according to experts.

Normally, average temperature of Dhaka remains about 2 degree Celsius higher than that of the rural areas in summer and monsoon.

Temperature in the capital has been increasing over time with the rapid pace of urban development, construction activities and movement of vehicles and declining vegetation and waterbodies, said Dr Ashraf Dewan of School of Earth and Planetary Science, Curtin University, Australia.

He said this while presenting findings of a research on "Mitigation Strategies for Warming of Dhaka Megacity: Implications for Sustainable Development".

The seminar was organised by Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic

Studies (BIISS); Curtin University, Australia and Dhaka University's Meteorology department at BISS auditorium yesterday.

In his presentation, Dr Dewan said rise in temperature in planned areas such as Gulshan and Uttara is higher than that of unplanned areas due to high use of cooling technology.

According to him, density of buildings, population, transportation and lack of green-blue space are mainly responsible for this.

He further said heating is detrimental to public health. It is related to outbreak of deadly diseases, such as dengue and other fevers.

Rivers, lakes, parks, street trees and water fountains provide significant thermal comfort, he said, adding that micro green spaces in buildings also provide thermal comfort, and create a positive impact on

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'What we need is accountability'

Says Prof Serajul Islam Choudhury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Accountability is very important. There is a severe lack of accountability in society and state. So, accountability has to be exercised," said Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury at a programme at Dhaka University yesterday.

Department of Accounting and Information Systems (AIS) of DU organised the event to inaugurate "Accounting Week 2020".

Speaking as chief guest, Prof Serajul said both socialisation and accountability have to be practiced properly. At the same time, people should think about how practicing accountability is improving them.

Besides, "This is high time we change our society by establishing social ownership instead of privatisation. We have to look forward to enhancing social development," he said.

Prof Serajul said this feeling -- my development is imparted in everyone's development, my freedom is implicit in everyone's freedom -- is needed for the betterment of the society.

Citing the recent rape incident of a DU student, he said the country's women are being empowered but such achievements are constantly fading due to incidents of rape, torture and other violence against them.

The weeklong programmes include debate competitions, quizzes, poetry recitals, sports, dance, music, business planning contests and raffle draws, said department chair Dr Riazur Rahman Chowdhury.

Man dies in police custody

Cops say suicide, family claim torture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was found dead in police custody yesterday, hours after Tejgaon Industrial Police arrested him under the Digital Security Act, allegedly for harassing a woman.

The deceased is Abu Bakar Siddique Babu (45), floor-in-charge of Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (BFDC).

His wife Aleya Ferdousi suspected that Babu was "tortured and killed" at the police station. Police, however, refuted the allegation and said Babu hanged himself inside the lockup.

Ali Hossain Khan, officer-in-charge of Tejgaon Industrial Police Station, said a woman filed a case against Babu for developing a relationship with her on the pretext of

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'Govt now avoiding Nirmul Committee'

Allege leaders of the body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee yesterday said the government has been "avoiding" them lately.

The civic platform -- that rallies for trial of war criminals -- organised a discussion at Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) in the capital yesterday, on the occasion of its 28th founding anniversary.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal was expected to be present as chief guest at the event, but he could not attend the programme due to his schedule, which disappointed the committee leaders.

They criticised various activities of the Awami League-led government and indicated that a rift is taking place in the relationship between the government and the committee -- which is known to be pro-Awami League.

"I think people who are in power recently either don't like the Nirmul Committee or don't feel comfortable to be with it," Prof Muntassir Mamoon, a vice-president of the committee, said in his speech.

It happened as the AL is now highly influenced by right-leaning politicians, who have unease over the Nirmul Committee and its President Shahriar Kabir, he observed.

"If the Awami League was in the power without Sheikh Hasina [as the prime minister], the trial of war criminals might not have happened," said Prof Mamoon, also an eminent historian.

Expressing frustration over the home minister's absence

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