

Despite predicaments

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any interest in involving reserved seat councillors in city corporation activities, she added.

"In the last one year as a councillor, I did not get any development work from the DSCC mayor. I tried to get involved in various activities on my own," said Nazma.

"I know that I could play an important role in the projects, if given the opportunity. If we [women councillors] do not work for the people, why would they vote for us?" she said.

Nazma said they could carry out different development works for women's empowerment, if the authorities concerned supported them. "I even conducted training on sewing and knitting for the disadvantaged in my areas on my own during my one-year councillorship."

AL's Shahnaz Begum is a councillor aspirant for wards 67-69. She said she wants to work for building a drug-free society and empowering insolvent women through organising necessary funds and training programmes.

"To achieve this goal, it is very important to have the mayor's and general councillors' support," she said.

BNP councillor aspirant Farida Yesmin (ward 39, 40, 49 under Wari) said reserved seat women councillors need more power in order to work for the betterment of their respective wards.

BNP-backed candidate Khaleda Alam (ward 52-54 under Kadamtali) said, "It's not easy to cover three wards within a short time. Even if we want to, we cannot conduct door-to-door campaigns like our male counterparts as we have a larger area to cover."

Mentioning lack of playgrounds in her wards, she said, "If elected, I want to work for creating more open spaces and playgrounds."

DNCC

In the north, 18 women councillor candidates each from Awami League and BNP are vying for the reserved seats.

Salma Kamal, president of Pallabi Thana Mohila Awami league, is contesting for the second time in wards 2, 3, 5. Her area includes Pallabi and Brindaban areas. She is also joint secretary of Dhaka Mohanagar Mohila Awami League.

"Nearly half the voters in my area are women. I am encouraging them to vote," she said, adding that women's right to vote is imperative.

She said, "It's quite challenging to look after multiple wards. Despite various discriminations, we continue to work for people. If elected, I would like to do more for women."

Razia Sultana Etee is the incumbent councillor of wards 9-11. Her area includes Gabtoli, Kalyanpur, Darussalam and Mirpur. The senior vice president of Darussalam Thana Mohila Awami League said, "Since

2001, women candidates for reserve seats are being elected, not selected. I am contesting again as I want to help women in my area."

She said it is crucial that the authorities concerned extend full support to them so that they can continue to serve people in the best possible way.

"Our responsibility is in no way less than our male counterparts. We actually cover more area than them. That's why I don't like to call us reserved seat councillors," she added.

"If elected, I will continue to work for women's empowerment. But at the same time, I know the limitations we face, so I am not promising anything grand. I wish to set up a training centre for widows and poor women, where they will learn how to sew and knit for free," she added.

About the challenges women candidates face, she said, "During campaign, we need to cover many areas in a short span of time. I had to communicate with people through mike for hours in multiple areas. Now doctors are telling me not to talk much and rest my voice, otherwise my vocal cord may get damaged."

"But as a public representative, how can I not speak to people?"

Stressing the need for more support from the city corporation, she said, "During the dengue outbreak, I had to initiate awareness campaign with my own funds as we were

not given any fogger machines," she said.

'A CHANGE IN POLITICAL MINDSET, SYSTEM NEEDED'

Stressing that equal participation of men and women in running a state and decision-making process is imperative, Dr Fauzia Moslem, acting president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, said a woman councillor [from reserved seat] has to work in three wards at a time.

In this context, women councillors cannot ensure their due role in development activities as they are deprived of adequate government funds and proper working environment, she said.

Local government expert Tofail Ahmed said the current system has to be changed. He said a parliamentary system should be introduced where people will elect councillors and then the councillors will elect a mayor from themselves.

In a male-dominated society, women in reserved seats cannot exercise power properly, whereas male councillors exercise power beyond their jurisdiction, he added.

"To empower women in the current system, one-third of the total wards should be dedicated only for women candidates, from where they will contest as councillors. Also, the wards can be changed by rotation every five years," he added.

Experts also suggested that a change in political mindset is also crucial in this regard.

Executive magistrates' activities

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election race by resigning form the position just ahead of collecting nomination forms. "Necessary action can be taken against the officials who have taken part in such electioneering," Talukdar added.

In an unofficial note on January 13, Talukdar has urged the commission to issue a specific circular stating that MPs and ministers will not be able to take part in any election-related activities. In yesterday's letter, he said a lawmaker is still engaged in campaign activities, according to a newspaper report.

"In this circumstance, I think it is necessary to publish a circular with specific guidelines," he said.

US FOR PEACEFUL POLLS

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Earl R Miller yesterday said they hope that the elections to Dhaka city corporations will be credible, peaceful and festive.

"The hope of United States is that the

elections are peaceful, festive and credible. We also hope that the elections will be participatory," Miller told reporters after a meeting with CEC KM Nurul Huda at the commission.

He said the US, along with other members of diplomatic corps, will have election observers to see the democratic process during the elections on February 1.

Miller also said he came to the commission to see the electronic voting machines and to learn more about those.

Voter turnout is more in Bangladesh than in the US, the US envoy remarked, calling upon voters to go out and vote for the candidate of their choice on election day.

"My message to all voters in Bangladesh and certainly in my country -- as we look at our election coming at the end of this year -- participate in the process, which is sometimes imperfect, noisy, messy but a vitally important process," he added.

Cabinet approves

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announced in parliament that the quota system would be scrapped.

TK 1.17CR COMPENSATION FOR AIR CRASH CASUALTIES

Yesterday, the cabinet also gave final approval to a draft law on air transportation, proposing an enhanced compensation of Tk 1.17 crore for every casualty in any air crash, while the previous amount was Tk 20,37,600, reports BSS.

"The weekly cabinet meeting gave its final nod to The Air Transport (The Montreal Convention, 1999) Act, 2020," said the cabinet secretary.

He said the amount was meant for individual victims of any air crash, dead or wounded; the law was drafted in line with the 1999 Montreal Convention, which Bangladesh endorsed the same year.

Officials familiar with the drafting process said victims of a recent crash of an aircraft belonging to a Bangladeshi private

airlines got Tk 20,37,600, which appeared minimal, prompting authorities to reassess the amount under the proposed law.

The cabinet secretary said the law also proposed payment of US \$5,734 to every passenger by every flight carrier for delays, while the amount previously was \$20.

He said the proposed law would also obligate flight carriers to compensate for missing or damaged luggage and cargo.

Anwarul said the proposed amount is \$1,381 and \$24 respectively for per kg of damaged or lost baggage and cargo; the compensation were \$20 for both the cases previously.

The top bureaucrat said the cabinet also approved in principle draft of "The Bangladesh Travel Agencies (Registration and Control) (Amendment), Act, 2020, aimed at making their operations smooth.

Idodised Salt Act, 2020 and Chattogram Port Authority Act, 2020 were the two other proposed laws to get the cabinet nod.

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Invitation to bid
Team Sponsorship Rights
Ref No: BCB/Mkt&Commercial/Team Sponsorship / 2020/44 Date: 21st January 2020
National Team Sponsorship Rights

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) hereby invites bids from interested parties /organizations/ corporate houses / agencies, who wish to acquire Sponsorship Rights for Bangladesh National Cricket Team (Men & Women), "A" Team and Bangladesh Under 19 Team for a period of 02 years starting from February 01, 2020 to January 31st, 2022.

Terms & Conditions:

01. **Area of Rights :** A detailed bid document has been developed incorporating all necessary bid details and documents for acquiring the Sponsorship Rights for Bangladesh National Cricket Team (Men & Women), "A" Team and Bangladesh Under 19 Team a period of 02 years starting from February 01, 2020 to January 31st, 2022. Such period includes Home Series, Away Series, any other competition or events and event organized by the ICC and ACC.

Note : BCB reserves the right to obtain separate team sponsor in ICC and ACC events during this period if the team sponsor brand conflicts with ICC and ACC global partners.

02. **Eligibility Criteria :**

a) Companies related to Tobacco, Alcohol (Surrogated & Non-Surrogated), Betting, Online Betting shall not be eligible to participate in the process and submit bids.

b) Any person or entities with an existing unresolved dispute with BCB or ICC on a point of law or fact shall be ineligible to acquire the abovementioned rights or to participate in the bidding process.

c) Companies related to products or services that conflict with ICC global partners' products or services (i.e. Passenger cars, vans, recreational vehicles (including SUV's (sports utilities vehicles), buses, trucks, minibuses, trailers and mobile homes, rental vehicles, mobile handset, telephones, smartphones, tablets and related accessories, tyers and inner tyre tubes.), booking, direct or indirect search, comparison, review and appraisal, selling, re-selling, reservation services in respect of accommodation and/or attractions shall not be eligible to participate in the bidding process.

03. **Document Purchasing Procedure :**

a) Interested parties need to obtain a copy of the Bid Document from the BCB Management Office (Marketing & Commercial Department, Email: saiful@bcb-cricket.com) on payment of the Non-Refundable fees of BDT 85,000 (Eighty Five Thousand Taka Only) in the form of Pay Order / Bank Draft / Cash or for overseas bidders USD 1000 (One Thousand US Dollars) to be remitted to BCB (Account No. 01-7537131-01, Account Name: Bangladesh Cricket Board, Bank: Standard Chartered Bank, Dhaka, Bangladesh, SWIFT: SCBLBDDX). Please send your request for the Bid Document (soft copy or printed version) along with the evidence of the bank transfer / payment receipt referred to above at the following email address: saiful@bcb-cricket.com.

b) The details of the Bidding / Auction Process, Tentative FTP (Future Tour Program), Branding Guideline, Bank Guarantee Format etc. is set out in the Bid Document. Such Bid Document will be available from January 22, 2020 to February 02, 2020 during working hours.(10.00 AM to 6.00 PM except Friday).

04. **Technical Offer Submission:**

a) The Technical Document / Offer (prepared in accordance with the Bid Document) must be submitted to the BCB Management Office from Monday, February 03, 2020 to Thursday, February 06, 2020 between BST 1000 to BST 1600 in a sealed envelope.

b) The Technical Offer must include a Company Profile, photocopy of updated Trade License, VAT & TIN, Authorization letter along with Security Deposit of an amount of BDT 6,00,00,000 (Six Crore Taka Only) in the form of a Pay Order (PO) or an irrevocable unconditional Bank Guarantee as per standard BCB format from a scheduled bank in Bangladesh. For overseas bidders an amount of USD 7,50,000 (Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand US Dollars) has to be paid as Security Deposit in the form of an Irrevocable and unconditional Bank Guarantee or Bank Transfer. Any bank Guarantee originated from an overseas country has to be confirmed by a local scheduled bank. In case of Bank Transfer from overseas country needs to be remitted to BCB (Account No. 01-7537131-01, Account Name: Bangladesh Cricket Board, Bank: Standard Chartered Bank, Dhaka, Bangladesh, SWIFT: SCBLBDDX).

c) The qualified bidders shall be invited to participate in a "Bidding Process" scheduled on Monday, February 10, 2020.

05. **Participation in the Bidding Process:**

a) The bidding process will be held on Monday, February 10, 2020 from BST 1100 hrs onwards in the BCB Management Office, Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur-2, Dhaka-1216.

b) A maximum of 3 rounds of close envelope bid submission will take place. The detail bidding process shall be determined by the BCB at its sole discretion.

c) The successful bidder must submit an unconditional and irrevocable Bank Guarantee that is valid for a period of 01 year or pay Order of the 50% of the total offered value (that is accepted by BCB) within 72 hours of confirmation from BCB. In case of any breach / default on the part of the company / party / agency in the process, the Security Deposit shall be considered forfeited automatically.

06. **Floor Price:**

a) The Floor Price for the bidding of the Team Sponsorship Rights is BDT 55,00,00,000 (Fifty Five Crore Taka Only).

Queries for Team Sponsorship Rights:
For further details please contact: Marketing & Commercial Department of BCB Management Office at Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur, Dhaka 1216, Bangladesh.

The BCB reserves the right to cancel or make any changes in the terms to the entire process at any stage and to accept or reject any or all offers at its sole discretion, without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Chief Executive Officer
Bangladesh Cricket Board
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Telephone: +880 2 803 1001-4, Official Website: www.tigercricket.com.bd