

Hotels clear up as crackdown looks for 'outsiders'

Rab DG asks non-voters to leave capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of boarders at residential hotels in the capital has dropped significantly, following a police crackdown to arrest outsiders ahead of February 1 Dhaka city corporation elections.

Staffers of several hotels in Mohakhali, Banani and Tejgaon yesterday told The Daily Star some 70 percent of their rooms fell vacant since yesterday morning.

"Many guests from outside the capital said they would come back after the election," said manager of a hotel in Tejgaon rail gate area, wishing anonymity.

He said police visited the hotel on Tuesday, and wanted to know whether anyone came there for "election purposes".

Though in a small scale, law enforcers started a crackdown from Tuesday last to arrest "outsiders" who came to the city "without any reason", sources said.

Meanwhile, Director General of Rab Benazir Ahmed yesterday called upon people who are not voters of Dhaka city to leave the capital.

During a press briefing at the Rab media centre in the capital's Karwan Bazar, the Rab chief asked city dwellers to

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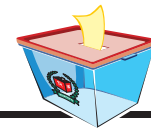


PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Ahead of the DNCC and DSCC polls tomorrow, polling materials, including the electronic voting machines, started to file into voting centres yesterday. This photo was taken from Dhaka's Residential Model School and College.

DHAKA CITY

POLLS 2020



A new beginning from Feb 1: Taposh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A conspiracy to occupy and control at least 170 polling centres in Dhaka South City Corporation area is ongoing, warned Awami League candidate Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh yesterday.

He made the remark while campaigning in Gopibagh area. On the last day of electioneering, Taposh started his campaign from Brothers Union Club field in the afternoon.

Taposh urged law enforcers to take necessary measures to maintain a congenial atmosphere on the polls day. "If congenial atmosphere prevails, we will win by a huge margin," said the candidate, while talking with reporters.

He said they are a bit concerned as few days back they saw BNP activists, in presence of their mayor candidate, go to an Awami League councilor aspirant's camp and attack AL activists and leaders who were campaigning peacefully.

He said they also heard that a person got arrested, who was identified as the personal secretary of the BNP mayoral candidate. That person also fired bullets on the day, Taposh added.

"If they [BNP candidates] try to occupy any centre, residents of Dhaka will resist it. We will stay with you and resist it," he added. "You all have to be prepared to drive them out."

Urging Dhaka dwellers to cast their vote for "boat", electoral symbol of Awami League, Taposh also pledged to work for the betterment of the capital and people.

"This is an election to the local government. Go to the

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Exercise your right: Ishraque to voters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP's mayoral nominee for Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Ishraque Hossain yesterday called upon voters to cast their votes on polls day "in order to establish people's rights", overcoming panic and "threats from the ruling quarter".

"I want to dedicate my life to establish people's rights. So, don't allow any obstacle and don't be afraid of anyone," he said, calling upon people to cast their votes.

Ishraque, son of former undivided Dhaka City Corporation mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, was speaking at a short rally at his Gopibagh home, at the closing of his electioneering yesterday evening.

The candidate of BNP's election symbol "sheaf of paddy" said he has garnered enormous love from the people during electioneering in the last few days.

After thanking his party leaders and activists for their efforts in campaigns, Ishraque shouted slogans for his symbol while hundreds of BNP leaders and activists echoed him.

Earlier in the day, Ishraque participated in several meetings with local BNP leaders held at different parts of Old Dhaka, his birthplace.

Sources at those meetings said the mayoral candidate gave directives and exchanged views with top leaders on various strategies ahead of the election -- slated for tomorrow.

Later in the afternoon, Ishraque campaigned in Tikatuli, Hatkhola, Central Women's College, KM Das Lane, Gopibagh rail gate, and RK Mission Road areas.

Meanwhile, BNP yesterday urged the Election

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Choose 'boat' for development: Atiq

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid enthusiasm and festivity, Awami League mayor candidate Atiqul Islam carried out his campaign yesterday -- on the last day of electioneering.

He started the day with a visit to Bhasantek area (ward-15) under Dhaka North City Corporation around 11am.

His supporters, however, started thronging the area since early morning, shouting slogans in favour of "boat", AL's electoral symbol.

Atiqul also brought in some star power to woo voters -- mostly slum dwellers. A number of media personalities including Hyder Husyn, Tanvin Sweetie and Azmeri Haque Badhon conducted campaign in his favour. They spoke to residents and handed out leaflets.

While talking to journalists, Atiqul said, "When I took oath for the first time as mayor on March 7 last year, the prime minister told me to prioritise Bhasantek slum."

"No one will be evicted from the slum without being rehabilitated," he assured locals.

Atiqul also promised, "Once elected, I, with the support of working class people and slum dwellers, will make a permanent arrangement for those living in the slums."

Responding to a query, he said, "The symbol of boat means development. We have no intention to thwart the election. Instead, we have heard that the opposition party is bringing in outsiders to create chaos during the polls. Just go to the polling centres and cast your votes."

Present at the campaign, former lawmaker Tarana Halim said, "Please go through the manifesto of our mayor

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One held for opening fire during Wari clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested a man early yesterday for shooting during a clash between supporters of BNP and Awami League candidates in the city's Wari area on Sunday.

Police claimed the man is a personal assistant of Ishraque Hossain, BNP's mayoral candidate for DSCC. Ishraque, however, denied this while talking to reporters near his Gopibagh house, saying he has no assistant.

Ariful Islam (47) was held from Hatirjheel area in possession of a gun and 50 bullets, said Abdul Baten, additional commissioner (detective) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, at a press briefing at DMP Media Centre yesterday.

Ariful was a former leader of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, the police officer said.

The bullet shell recovered from the spot primarily matched with bullets in his gun, Abdul Baten said, adding that a case will be filed against him under the arms act.

The arrestee was identified after examination of video footage collected from nearby areas, the police officer said, claiming Ariful admitted to opening fire on that day during primary interrogation.

"I'm contesting as a BNP candidate. Thousands of leaders are coming, volunteering and participating in my various activities. I don't know what the outsider [Ariful] said. All I can say is propaganda is being spread to divert people's attention, seeing the wave of support for us," he said when reporters asked about the police claim.

On Sunday, supporters of Ishraque and AL-backed councillor candidate Rokon Uddin Ahmed clashed during campaigning, leaving at least 15 people injured.

Several gunshots were heard during the clash, and a number of vehicles were vandalised.

Police arrested several BNP men after a local AL leader field a case accusing around 200 BNP leaders and activists after the incident.

Unsure if polls will be free, fair: Tabith

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With only a day left to the city corporation polls, BNP mayor candidate for Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) Tabith Awal said he was still not sure whether the election will be free and fair.

Speaking at a views-exchange meeting with journalists in the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday, he also expressed his apprehension over the neutrality of Election Commission (EC) and fairness of electronic voting machine (EVM).

"Our fear is centring the election day, which is drawing nearer. I am not sure whether all of our agents will be able to go to the polling centres on that day," Tabith said at the event.

"On election day, we will realise how the EVMs ultimately work. We will also see how the EC acts following polls violence and irregularities. The whole country is waiting to see what EC does," he added.

At another views-exchange meeting, held at Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU), the BNP leader alleged that the EC showed a lack of sincerity towards the opposition party candidates, as it denied many of their complaints regarding attacks and electoral code violation.

He also urged journalists to play a responsible role, so that the real picture of the election comes out through their reporting.

On the last day of electioneering, Tabith spent a busy day talking to electorate and the press.

Speaking at one of the programmes, Jatiya Press Club President Saiful Alam expressed hope that the election would be free and fair. He also urged the candidates to

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Members of Border Guard Bangladesh have started patrolling the streets of Dhaka since yesterday morning. A total of 75 platoons were deployed in both Dhaka north and south city areas to avert any untoward incident during the polls. Their deployment will run for four days, until February 2.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

HOW TO FIND YOUR POLLING CENTRE AND VOTER NUMBER

sms

Text "PC
<space>
your NID
number"
to 105



Visit https://services.nidw.gov.bd/voter_center and enter your NID number, date of birth and the given captcha

SMARTPHONE APP (ANDROID)

DOWNLOAD THE APP

"Polling Center Information" by visiting https://services.nidw.gov.bd/resources/forms/Polling_Center.apk or

BY SCANNING THE QR CODE



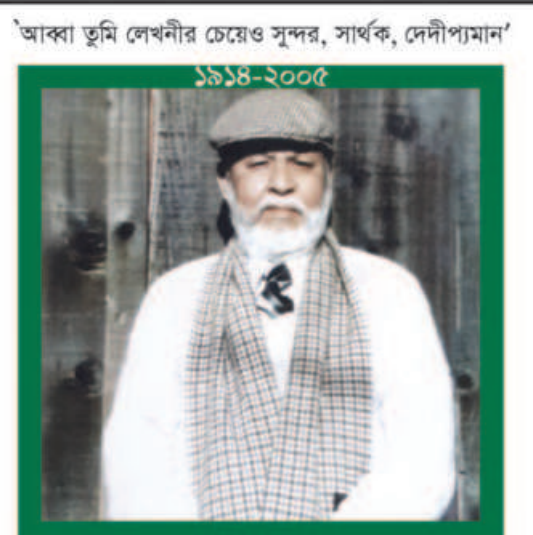
Call the EC
helpline 105
between
8am an 8pm

IN REMEMBRANCE



We fondly remember **Late Aziz H. A. Sattar**, the founding Managing Director of GMG Group of Industries, on his 27th death anniversary. He was a pioneer and a role model of industrialization in this country. His unfathomable depth of knowledge, vision, uphill struggle and firm determination may inspire all of us. Today we solicit doa for his departed soul.

**Family members, well wishers & employees
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১৯১৪-২০০৫
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তুমি কে
আবু
আনোক্তিত

৩১ জানুয়ারী ২০২০

পরম শ্রদ্ধেয়
আলহাজ্ব মোহাম্মদ আব্দুস শাকুরের
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পরম শ্রদ্ধার সাথে
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