

CCC Polls

AL focuses on unity

ARUN BIKASH DEX, Ctg

The central Awami League leaders are trying to bring the factions of port city unit AL under the same umbrella in a bid to ensure victory for the party nominated mayor and councillor candidates in the Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) polls.

According to the ruling party leaders, if they can become united during the polls, there is “no doubt” that AL candidates will win.

They have also fixed another goal, which is to bring as many voters as possible to the polling centres, said AL sources.

The politics of AL in Chattogram city has long been centred on two leaders -- late ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, former president of Chattogram city unit of AL, and AJM Nasir Uddin, general secretary of the unit.

After the death of Mohiuddin, three-time mayor of CCC, in December 2017, Nasir took control over the party, which Mohiuddin’s followers did not like.

They ended up supporting Mohiuddin’s son Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel, deputy minister for education and former organising secretary of AL, and a lawmaker from Chattogram-9 (Kotwali).

Nasir, the incumbent mayor of CCC, has not been provided with AL nomination this time for mayoral race. He held “conspirators” responsible to spread “propaganda” against him ahead of party meeting to nominate candidate.

AL on February 15 chose Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, joint general secretary of the party’s Chattogram city unit, to contest the CCC polls.

Nasir was also not seen in Rezaul’s reception at Chattogram Railway Station on his return from Dhaka on February 19. He said he could not attend the programme due to his mother’s illness.

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BNP mayor candidate for CCC polls Shahadat Hossain greets party activists in Kazir Dewri area yesterday. Denied permission to accord a reception to Shahadat at Chattogram Railway Station on his return from Dhaka, BNP held the event at its party office in the afternoon.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

RECEPTION OF MAYOR CANDIDATE

BNP denied permission for railway station

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chattogram city unit of BNP yesterday organised a reception programme for the party-nominated mayoral candidate Shahadat Hossain for the upcoming city corporation polls.

Although the party was planning to hold the event at the Chattogram Railway Station -- upon Shahadat’s return from the capital, they did not get permission from the authorities concerned, alleged leaders of the party.

BNP eventually accorded a reception to Shahadat, president of the party’s Chattogram city unit, on the premises of its office at Nasiman Bhaban in Kazir Dewri area in the afternoon.

However, on February 19, Awami League leaders gave a reception to its mayor candidate Rezaul Karim Chowdhury at the same spot, as he reached there from Dhaka after receiving the party’s nomination.

BNP on Monday nominated Shahadat to contest for the mayor post.

“We submitted the application to police on Tuesday, seeking permission to hold the event at the station on his [Shahadat’s] return from Dhaka. But they did not allow us,” said

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Six killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

At least six people were killed in road accidents in the last two days, report our correspondents and a news agency.

Two persons died in a at Khushumhati area on Sherpur-Jamalpur highway last evening, when a picnic bus collided with a rickshaw van.

Abdul Halim (40) and Abul Kashem (35) -- puller and passenger of the van -- died on the spot, said police.

Agitated villagers set fire to the bus, before fire service members and police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Teachers and students of a Tangail school -- who were in the bus -- were unhurt, said Mohammad Abdullah-Al-Mamun, officer-in-charge of Sherpur Sadar Police Station.

In Munshiganj Sadar, Abdul Sobhan Khan (80) was killed after an auto-rickshaw hit him at Sipahipara area yesterday, said police. He was taken to Munshiganj General Hospital and was then referred to a Dhaka hospital. He succumbed to injuries on the way.

In Dinajpur, two people were killed after two three-wheelers collided at Shogunkhola village of Nawabganj upazila on Tuesday evening.

Quoting witnesses, police said Jahar Lakra (35) and Ismatara Begum (25), succumbed to their injuries while being taken to Rangpur Medical College Hospital. Police seized both vehicles.

In Joypurhat, Rabiul Islam (51) was killed after a truck hit his bicycle at Somsabad area of Panchbibi on Tuesday morning, reports UNB.

Trials of Khalid Bhuiyan, GK Shamim begin

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka Court yesterday framed charges against expelled Jubo League Dhaka South Organising Secretary Khalid Mahmud Bhuiyan, in connection with a case filed under the Narcotics Control Act.

Meanwhile, trial of an arms case against SM Golam Kibria Shamim -- popularly known as GK Shamim -- and his seven bodyguards began yesterday through deposition of a complainant.

Khalid, now in jail, pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after Judge Md Robiul Alam of the Dhaka Metropolitan Special Tribunal-4 read out charges. The court set April 1 for resuming trial of the case.

On February 23, Criminal Investigation Department submitted a charge sheet against Khalid, his two brothers and three others in connection with a money laundering case. Police also pressed charge against Khalid in the case filed under the arms case.

On November 17 last year, Rab pressed charges against Khalid in the case filed under the Narcotics Control Act.

Rab arrested Khalid from his Gulshan residence on September 18 last year. Police also seized a shotgun, two pistols, 57 rounds of shotgun bullets, 53 rounds of pistol bullets and 585 yaba pills from his residence.

Later, five cases including a drug case were filed against Khalid with Gulshan and Motijheel police stations. He was remanded for several days in the cases.

GK SHAMIM

Judge Md Robiul Alam also recorded statement of complainant Nayek Subedar Mizanur Rahman of Rab-1 in Uttara in the case against Shamim.

Later, defense counsel for his four bodyguards cross-examined Mizanur for over an hour. The tribunal later adjourned the hearing till March 30.

This is the first time a Dhaka tribunal has started trial against someone involved with casino business, since the crackdown began in September last year. Earlier on January 28, the same court framed charges against Shamim and seven others in the case.

Rab on September 20 last year arrested Shamim on charges of extortion and tender manipulation. His bodyguards were also arrested.

On that day, Rab members raided his house and office in the city’s Niketan and seized eight firearms, a huge amount of ammunition, fixed deposit receipts (FDR) worth Tk 165 crore, around Tk 1.8 crore in cash, a large stash of US and Singaporean dollars and some foreign liquor.

Later, Rab lodged three cases against Shamim with Gulshan Police Station.

Savar canal recovered from grabbers



A portion of the 1.5km long Angarir Khal, which was getting filled by grabbers, was finally freed yesterday after six years.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Angarir Khal, a city corporation-owned canal in Savar, was finally freed from grabbers yesterday, after six long years.

Happy Das, assistant commissioner of land (Aminbazar circle), also an executive magistrate, along with officials of Savar Upazila Administration in a drive recovered the canal and its surrounding land.

Talking to The Daily Star, Happy Das said Nuruzzaman, a local businessman, was filling up the canal, which was causing severe troubles to farmers during irrigation.

“Hearing this information, we rushed to the spot and detained Nuruzzaman’s men. They were later freed after signing a bond saying that the grabbers will dig the portion they had filled up and free the canal within two days,” he added.

During a visit to the site, this correspondent found that the grabbed portion was being dug. Nuruzzaman could not be reached for comments.

Alek Mia, a local farmer, said the canal should be properly demarcated as it is useful for growing crops, and there is already a shortage of water.

Happy Das said locals were asked to submit an application to upazila nirbahi officer about the demarcation. UNO Parvezur Rahman said he will look into the matter after receiving the application.



A group of Barishal University students brought out a protest rally yesterday demanding expulsion of miscreants who attacked some students of the 8th batch.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Elderly man dies during scuffle over land dispute

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A 70-year-old man died during a scuffle with his “rivals”, over a land dispute in port city’s Halishahar area yesterday morning.

The deceased is Arun Kumar Shil, a resident of the area.

Deputy Commissioner (DC, West) Faruk-ul-Haque of Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP) said the incident took place around 10am.

DC Faruk said Arun’s son-in-law Palash Shil had a long-standing rivalry with his neighbours over a piece of land, and both groups have filed several cases in this regard.

On Tuesday, a court framed

charges in a case filed by Palash against his neighbours, accusing one Sadhan Shil and his supporters.

Yesterday, a scuffle broke out between the two groups, during which Arun fell unconscious and was later rushed to Chattogram Medical College Hospital, where on-duty doctors declared him dead.

After the incident, police detained two in this connection.

“During inquest report, police didn’t find any visible injury mark on the victim’s body, which was sent to CMCH morgue for autopsy,” added the DC.

Process of filing a case was underway.

Man to die for killing nephew

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A Mymensingh court yesterday sentenced a man to death for killing his nephew over land dispute at the district’s Sadar upazila in 2016.

The convict is Noor-e-Alam (55) of Mohjompur village in Mymensingh Sadar upazila. Md Helal Uddin, district and sessions judge in Mymensingh delivered the verdict, said Sheikh Kabirul Islam, court inspector.

Noor-e-Alam had a feud over a piece of land with his brother and sister-in-law. Following that, he stabbed his nephew Mahmud Hasan Moyeen Shah to death on October 30, 2016.

The victim’s mother Parvin had lodged a case with Kotwali Police Station.

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