

TIB urges govt to ensure transparency in financing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday underscored the need for ensuring transparency in financing and financial transactions to uphold the ideology of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The government has decided to observe the “Mujib Borsho” from March 17, 2020 to March 26, 2021 marking the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by holding various programmes throughout the year.

Until his last moments, Bangabandhu fought against ethnic repression, political deprivation, economic exploitation, corruption, irregularities, snatching democratic rights and other discrimination,

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Ahead of Bangabandhu's birth centenary, a photo installation displays many sides of the father of the nation at the capital's Bijoy Sarani. This photo was taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

BRUTAL MURDER OF TUHIN MIAH

Father, uncle handed death sentence

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The father and an uncle of a five-year-old, who was brutally killed in Sunamganj's Derai upazila on October 14 last year, were sentenced to death in the murder case.

Judge Wahiduzzaman Sikder of Sunamganj District and Sessions Judge's Court yesterday sentenced Tuhin Miah's father Abdul Basir (40) and uncle Nasir Miah (35) to death, said Shamsunnahar Begum, public prosecutor of the court.

After recording testimonies of 26 witnesses, the court delivered its final verdict, acquitting two other uncles of Tuhin, as allegations brought against them were not proven, the public prosecutor said.

The acquitted are Abdul Mosobbir (45) and Jamshed Ali (60).

Earlier on March 10, Sunamganj Juvenile Court Judge Md Jakir Hossain ordered eight-year detention for a 17-year-old cousin of Tuhin, who was also accused in the murder case.

Tuhin's body was found some 200 yards away from his home at Kejaura in Derai. The gruesome condition he was found in -- a mutilated body hanging from a tree -- sent shockwaves across the country.

Police detained Tuhin's father Basir, uncles Mosobbir, Jamshed, Nasir and the cousin.

Tuhin's mother Monira Begum had filed a case with Derai Police Station accusing several unknown.

The next day, Nasir and the juvenile cousin confessed before a Sunamganj court, stating that Tuhin was carried out of home by his father before his killing.

Later on December 30, police pressed charge-sheet in this murder case, accusing Tuhin's father, three uncles and the cousin. Accepting the charge, the trial of the case was started on January 7 in the court.

Shamsunnahar Begum, public prosecutor of the court, said, "We are satisfied with the verdict as justice was served in the earliest time."

PORT CITY

POLLS 2020



BNP complains to RO of obstruction in electioneering

Accuses AL activists, police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

BNP leader Abdullah Al Noman yesterday complained to the returning officer that police and Awami League activists are barring BNP supporters from campaigning ahead of March 29 Chattogram City Corporation election.

Noman, also chief election agent of BNP mayoral candidate Dr Shahadat Hossain, submitted a letter to RO Mohammad Hasanuzzaman in this regard.

The Daily Star obtained a copy of the complaint.

In the letter, Noman alleged that a group of AL candidate's supporters attacked BNP activists -- who were campaigning in the port city's Nasirabad Polytechnic area -- and vandalised a vehicle and loudspeakers.

Their posters pasted at various points -- including Bokshir Hat and Rajakhali -- were ripped apart by the ruling AL activists, threatening not to paste posters there further, he said.

Police interrupted BNP men while they were pasting posters in Notun Bridge area of Bakolia and intimidated them, the letter added.

Law enforcers in plainclothes raided the residence of a local BNP leader at Hatkhola while he was on the run to avert arrest, Noman mentioned in the complaint.

Abdullah Al Noman told this newspaper that the

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No candidate sitting idle

Five mayor aspirants look to break through AL-BNP cycle

ARUN BIKASH DEY and FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

Although somewhat overshadowed by the candidates of Awami League and BNP, five other mayoral aspirants in Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) polls have been conducting their election campaigns in the port city at full strength.

Posters of MA Matin, the mayoral candidate nominated by Bangladesh Islami Front, were seen hanging in different areas including Chawkbazar, Bakalia, KB Aman Ali Road, Bibir Hat, Hamzarbagh, Oxygen and Muradpur areas.

Matin, who is contesting with the "candle" symbol, told The Daily Star that he has been conducting campaigns in two to three wards a day.

"I am getting a very good response from voters," he said. "I am pledging voters of addressing longstanding civic problems in the city."

"City dwellers have been facing a number of problems including waterlogging, poor sewage system and traffic congestion for years... The past mayors had pledged voters to address those but failed."

"All the canals and drains have been filled with garbage that will worsen waterlogging in the rainy season," said Matin.

"Waterlogging can be addressed in a year... all that it needs is the right intention," he said. "I urge voters to vote for me, and I promise to address the problems, if elected."

Posters of Wahed Murad, a mayoral candidate nominated by Islamic Front Bangladesh, were seen in different areas of the port city. Murad has been contesting in the polls with the electoral symbol "chair".

He has been conducting campaign urging the voters to vote for him. He conducted campaign in Bakalia yesterday.

Wahed said he would run the CCC taking suggestion from all the stakeholders irrespective of political identity for the development of the city, if voted to mayor.

"Our city has been facing many problems... we can develop the city to a modern one," Wahed told The Daily Star, adding, "The city dwellers are now annoyed with the leaders of two big political parties as they just give

promises during campaign but that are not kept in the later."

"Lack of coordination between the service providing institutions is the main hindrance to the development of the city," he said, adding, "I will address the problem, if elected."

Khokan Chowdhury, an independent mayoral candidate, is vying in the polls with the symbol "elephant". He was also seen busy with campaigning since his main electoral camp was inaugurated in Agrabad on Friday. He distributed leaflets in Agrabad and adjacent areas on the first day, and has been continuing campaign at other wards.

Khokan said he would like to be a servant of city dwellers. "The chair of mayor is for providing service to city dwellers," he said. "I would not sit on this chair, rather I would put in relentless efforts to address the existing problems in the city, if elected."

Posters and banners of Jannatul Islam, nominated by Islami Andolan Bangladesh with the symbol "hand fan", were seen hanging in Halishahar, Bandar, Double Mooring

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Passport official in Bogura 'on leave' after ACC files case

He is accused of issuing passport to Indian national

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

The assistant director (AD) of Bogura regional passport office went on a leave after Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed a case against him for issuing passport to an Indian national.

Due to this, issuance of new machine-readable passports (MRP) has stopped since the last two days, causing sufferings to people.

Other office officials cannot contact him as the phone number of AD Md Abzaul Alam is switched off for the last two days.

Contacted, Shahidul Islam, superintendent of Bogura regional passport

office, said, "We got around 250 new passports in last two days, but we can't deliver them without the AD's signature; we can't contact him over phone."

AD Abzaul Alam has been on a four-day casual leave since Sunday. He's supposed to join the office on Thursday, Shahidul said.

Another official, seeking anonymity, said, "We're not sure whether the AD will return to office, as we heard that ACC filed a case against him."

"We informed the matter to the Dhaka head office," he said.

This correspondent tried several times to contact the AD over phone, but his phone

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CORONAVIRUS

3 telcos, Unilever ask employees to work from home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Multinational consumer product company Unilever, and telecom operators Robi, Grameenphone and Banglalink yesterday asked employees to stay at home and work online where possible, as a preventive measure against coronavirus.

A message posted on Unilever's website said, "On 14 March 2020, our global CEO Alan Jope has announced that all our office-based employees globally should work from home and this protocol will go live in all markets."

Similarly, in a message from Shahed Alam, chief corporate and regulatory officer of Robi Axiata Ltd, the telco said it was "encouraging" its workers to work from home.

"Ensuring sound health of our employees and their family members is always a matter of priority for us," the message reads.

Meanwhile, the management of Grameenphone issued a notice to its employees in this regard, said Md Hasan, head of external communication of the company.

"Safety is our foremost concern; we have been preparing to keep our employees and associated business partners safe following the standard guidelines provided by relevant authorities," he said in a statement, adding that employees engaged in roles that are not customer-facing have been encouraged to work from home.

Banglalink also issued a similar notice. "In light of the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 and pandemic declaration by WHO, Banglalink -- being a socially responsible company -- is actively monitoring the situation," it reads, adding that it has decided to implement "work from home" for most employees for two weeks starting March 18 except for essential services.

Two luxury cars seized in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Officials of Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate seized two luxury cars in the port city yesterday.

A Nissan X-Trail and a Subaru Impreza WRX were seized in separate drives in Khalishahar and Khulshi areas on allegations of duty evasion, said officials.

Abdul Ahad, assistant commissioner of CIID, said owners of the cars could not provide any documents of the vehicles.

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