

Dateline Chittagong

Brisk preparation to hold free, fair elections

CHITTAGONG, Feb 20: The district administration and the election office are taking brisk preparation to hold a free, fair and impartial election in 15 constituencies of the district, official sources said, reports BSS.

A total of 30,60,144 voters including 13,29,702 female voters are expected to exercise their franchise through 1151 polling centers, a total of 17,738 polling officials will work on the polling day throughout the district.

In Chittagong Metropolitan area there are 5,80,657 voters under 3 constituencies - Chittagong-8, Chittagong-9 and part of Chittagong-10.

Three thousand one hundred and sixty-nine polling officials will conduct election in the metropolitan area under three assistant returning officers.

There will be one returning officer in each constituency.

The law enforcing agencies including BDR and army will be deployed on the polling day to ensure peace around election centres in the district, officials added.

The Chittagong Metropolitan Police has taken some measures to ensure free and fair polls in the Metropolitan area.

CMP banned carrying of lighted fire arms from February 20.

The CMP has also asked all concerned to remove election publicity camps which are erected within 400 yards of the polling centres.

Terrorism alleged

Dr MN Safa, BNP candidate for Chittagong-four (Fatic)

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THE DAILY STAR

Ekushey programmes in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Feb 20: Ekushey February will be observed today (Thursday) in the Port City and elsewhere in the district in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

Political parties, socio-cultural organisations, trade unions, student organisations and educational institutions have chalked out elaborate programmes to pay homage to the martyrs of Language Movement. Discussion on the significance of Language Movement of February 21, 1952, cultural and literary functions are among the programmes.

Meanwhile, Panhalalish police arrested one Mohammed Alam alias Alangir this afternoon for alleged involvement in killing of Oli Ahmed, a separate police press release said.

Floral wreaths will be placed at central shaheed minar at K.C. Dey road at one minute past midnight.

Ctg transport strike call withdrawn

CHITTAGONG, Feb 19: Transport strike earlier called for tomorrow has been withdrawn following a fruitful discussion between Chittagong Metropolitan Police Commissioner and transport workers and owners this afternoon, says a CMP press release, reports BSS.

Twentyfour-hour transport (bus and truck) strike was scheduled to begin from 6 am tomorrow in protest against killing of transport workers' union leader Oli Ahmed here on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Panhalalish police arrested one Mohammed Alam alias Alangir this afternoon for alleged involvement in killing of Oli Ahmed, a separate police press release said.

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Metropolitan



Supreme Court Bar Association brought out a procession in the city on Wednesday demanding immediate trial of former President Ershad and violence-free polls.

— Star photo

Cash found in Ershad's house belongs to JP : Mizan

Acting Chairman of Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury Tuesday said none of the political leaders could ever submit their known and reasonable source of income, reports UNB.

Defending deposed President Ershad, who has been charged with accumulating wealth disproportionate to his known source of income, he told the newsmen that cash found in Ershad's residence belonged to the Jatiya Party. The amount was kept for purchasing the party house.

He claimed at a press conference at his Gulshan residence that proper accounts of the party funds would be submitted to the court at the appropriate time.

Chowdhury, who had a stint as Prime Minister under Ershad, also alleged that the interim government had failed to ensure neutrality and

become puppet in the hands of a few quarters.

Referring to a new case instituted by Bureau of Anti-Corruption for misappropriation of gifts, he said those were kept in different government guest houses, Bangabhaban and other places.

He further said such allegations were being made intentionally to damage Ershad's image before the elections.

Chowdhury urged the government to release all JP leaders including its chairman Hussain Muhammad Ershad before the polls to ensure free and fair election.

Demanding impartial behaviour with the Jatiya Party, Mizan Chowdhury called for providing equal opportunity to Jatiya Party in the electronic media.

He also demanded handing over the central office of Jatiya Party and release of its fund.

In reply to a question Mizan

Chowdhury said that the case relating to his pharmaceutical concern is nothing but to harass him.

He challenged the BNP Chief Begum Khaleda zia alleging embezzlement of Tk 40,000 crore by Ershad which according to her lie deposited in foreign banks.

According to BSS, Mizan Chowdhury defended ousted President Ershad, saying that total value of his assets recovered from the Sena Bhaban after his arrest amounted to Taka 31 lakh only.

The JP Acting Chairman said the lawyer of Ershad had informed them that Ershad had written three letters to the Acting President and four letters to Home Secretary regarding the list of goods found in his residence. He described the letters as 'very important'.

He said Ershad was being humiliated and his image being tarnished.

Ganatantri Party for parliamentary system

Ganatantri Party President Syed Altaf Hossain Wednesday announced the election manifesto of the party with a commitment of introducing parliamentary system of government, reorganisation of administration and independence of the judiciary, reports BSS.

The manifesto said democratic ideals should be implemented and reflected in every sphere of national life, rule of law should be established and the judiciary must be separated from the administration, a press release said.

It said the administration should be reorganised to raise efficiency and sense of responsibility of the officials and the employees.

The party also assured for a mixed economy where private sector, state owned, and cooperative organisations would be encouraged to boost economic activities in the country.

The agricultural sector, the party would provide subsidy to different agricultural inputs and make them available to the farmers to increase agricultural production and at the same time efforts would be taken to ensure fair price of the products.

Regarding market control the party would form a council consisting of the industrialists, businessmen and the consumers to check prices.

It would also set up cottage industries in the rural areas and provide soft loans to the educated unemployed youths for establishing industries and business firms on joint ownership with a view to creating employment opportunities.

If the party is voted to

BCCMCC executives

Comrade Nurunnabi and Engineer FR Siddiqi have been elected President and Secretary General respectively of Bangladesh-China Cultural and Mass Communication Centre (BCCMCC) at its annual general meeting held Tuesday in the city, a BCCMCC press release said.

Mr Attauddin Khan was elected Chief Patron of the Centre while Gias Kamal Chowdhury, Amanullah Kabir, Abdul Matin Khan, Syed Anwar Hossain and Zahruddin Alamgir were elected patrons, the press release added.

The meeting also elected a 25-member executive committee.

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Sibapada Mondal.

The speakers called upon the people to cast their votes in favour of Awami League candidates for the consolidation of democracy earned through the recent mass movement.

Ejaz Ahmed Siddiqui leader of the Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Council (SPGRC) expressed concern Sunday over the recent statement of Pakistans President asking the armed forces not to interfere with the formulated policy of the government regarding the Gulf war. He reaffirmed that each and every citizen of the country has the democratic and Islamic right to express views freely.

Shishu Academy award for Atowar

Bangladesh Shishu Academy Wednesday announced the Academy's Sahitya Purashkar 1397 in observance of Amar Ekushey, reports BSS.

The award was accorded to Atowar Rahman for his overall contribution to juvenile literature. The award carries an amount of Taka 25,000.

Rahman had earlier received United Bank Shishu Sahitya Award 1968, Bangla Academy Award, 1970, Agrani Bank Shishu Sahitya Award 1982 and Lekhika Sangha Award 1986 for his outstanding contribution to different fields of literature.

The Director of Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Mr Golam Kibria, announced the award at a discussion on "Bhasha An-doloner Katha" held Wednesday, the second day of the Academy's three day programme for the Ekushey.

PIB training course ends

A 9-day training course on agricultural reporting concluded Wednesday at the Press Institute of Bangladesh, says a press release.

Enamul Haq, Director General of the Institute, distributed certificates among the participants.

Fifteen journalists from daily newspapers of Dhaka and the districts participated.

The course contents included agricultural development, development of fisheries and livestock, agricultural development agencies, rural development, food production, news gathering, news writing etc.

For field work the participants visited the agricultural farm at Kashimpur in Gazipur district.

'Save garments from ruination'

Speakers at a meeting of the Garments Welfare Committee, Zone-1 in Dhaka on Wednesday expressed grave concern at the call of continuous