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Dhaka Day by Day



Squally winds accompanied by thunder shower disrupted life in the city yesterday afternoon. — Star photo

Positions in local bodies promised Most AL 'dissidents' tamed, party leaders think

By Reaz Ahmad

Awami League managed to restrain most of the 'dissidents' in the party from contesting the June 12 parliamentary elections, party sources said.

Though 26 dedicated local-level leaders of the AL had initially thrown challenge to the party nominees in some constituencies, most of them later withdrew from the race as independent candidates to throw their weight behind the party candidates, they pointed out.

The sources, however, could not confirm how many of the 'dissidents' who posed a threat to the party nominees finally withdrew their candidature.

AL General Secretary Zillur Rahman recently warned the 'dissidents' of organisational action if they violated party disciplines.

A senior party leader told The Daily Star that party chief Sheikh Hasina's assurance of honouring the dedicated leaders in local body

elections worked magically.

Hasina had said on some occasions that, if voted to power, her party would decentralise the administration and have elected local bodies at union, thana and district levels in which many dedicated party leaders could get leadership positions.

AL publicity Secretary Mozaffar Hossain Palu and Assistant Law Secretary Advocate Sahara Khatun, who were defeated in the 1991 polls, did not get party tickets this time. But both of them are now passing busy time accompanying the party president in her election campaign tours.

A few, the names of whom may be found in the list of independent candidates, are also convinced by now that they should work unitedly for the party candidates in their respective constituencies. But expiry of the limit for withdrawal of candidature prevented them from formally announcing their staying away from the fight against party candidates, said an AL president member.

Referring to Zillur Rahman's recent warning to the 'dissidents,' a senior party leader said, "The way things are coming gradually under our control, I hope there will be no need to take any disciplinary action."

In the 1991 parliamentary polls, many veteran local-level AL leaders were enraged by the party leadership's decision of sharing the party symbol boat with some left-leaning parties in over 30 seats. This time any such possibility was ruled out, party insiders pointed out.

One insider, however, said, "It is now evident from the current scenario in various constituencies that even if no dissidents throw direct challenge to party nominees, some of them may refrain from giving their support to them." In at least one seat in the capital and one in Madaripur, some deprived persons were not yet supporting the party candidates, he added.

Nor'wester kills 2 in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, June 2: Two people were killed and 20 others injured when a norwester lashed Sadar, Kamarkhand and Kazipur thanas of the district today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Ramzan Ali, 60, and his daughter Mamataz, 22 of village Bhatpuri in Sadar thana died on the spot when their house collapsed during the storm.

Ten of the injured were admitted to the Sadar Hospital.

Our Sirajganj Correspondent reports: Three motor launches and at least 15 engine boats capsized at Sirajganj Ghat when the norwester lashed the area at around noon.

ML Ashura capsized with about 130 passengers on board while on the way to Bhuiapur Ghat only 20 yards away from paltoun. All passengers were rescued. The other two launches - M L Bullet and Rafidut - capsized while they were anchored at the paltoun.

Fifteen engine boats capsized at the midstream while they were coming from Bhuiapur Ghat. Two of the boats were carrying cattle.

Some passengers said, they had seen 20 dead cattle floating near a char.

BSS from Bogra adds: At least five persons were injured.

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2 killed as AL, BNP in Pabna, Sandwip clash

Star Report

Two persons were killed and at least a dozen others injured in clashes between the supporters of Awami League and BNP in Pabna and Chittagong.

Our Correspondent from Pabna says: One person was stabbed to death by a gang of unidentified miscreants at Teengachha of Pabna Sadar thana yesterday afternoon.

The victim, Abdul Hal, 42, son of one Munshi Abu Bakr, was attacked by the miscreants while he was retriving home after participating in an election procession brought out by the Awami League in Pabna town.

Hal was immediately rushed to the Pabna General Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Awami League leaders blamed the BNP for the killing.

In another incident the workers of the Awami League and the BNP clashed at Chawk Chatiani under Hemayetpur union yesterday morning.

A Jubo League worker who received stab injuries during the clash, is now under treatment at the Pabna General Hospital. His condition was said to be critical.

Our Staff Correspondent from Chittagong reports: One person was killed and 10 others were injured in a clash between the supporters of AL and BNP that took place in Sandwip on Saturday, police said here yesterday.

A day-long hartal was observed there yesterday to protest the killing.

Saiful Islam 30, identified as an activists of BNP, was allegedly beaten by an unruly mob at Mogdara village of the island at around 12 AM on Saturday and succumbed to his injuries at the Sandwip Health Complex after 9 pm, police added.

About 10 others were injured during the clash. They were admitted to the local health complex.

Police said the clash had ensued at around noon when the house of a local Awami League leader Abul Kalam Azad

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EC to directly announce polls results

The results of the June 12 parliamentary elections will be directly announced from the Election Commission, reports BSS.

This was decided at a high-level meeting held in the city yesterday with the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), M Abu Hena, in the chair.

As part of the massive preparations for the direct announcement of the results of the coming elections, television and radio booths would be set up at the Election Commission secretariat.

According to the decisions, responsible officers will be engaged in the election control room to collect the election results through the returning officers and disseminate them simultaneously to radio, television and the press.

"The meeting was attended by the election commissioners Mushtaque Ahmed Chowdhury, Election Commission Secretary Faizur Razzak, Information Secretary Syed Amirul Mulk, Local Government Division Secretary Syed Faruque Alamgir Chowdhury.

See Page 12 Col 3

Stay of HC order extended Consideration of Salman's petition questioned

By SC Correspondent

During the hearing of Salman F Rahman's petition for stay of the High Court order in the Appellate Division allegations of irregularities were raised in submission and entertainment of the petition.

The lawyers of Dr Kamal Hossain, Eastern Bank Ltd and Sheikh International Ltd, alleged before the court that Salman got the stay order upon such a petition which was not submitted properly by meeting all required formalities.

However, the Appellate Division extended the stay of the HC order till June 6 and fixed the matter to be heard on that day. But if the certified copy of the HC order is available it may be heard earlier, the court ordered.

The division bench of the HC comprising Justice Qazi Shafiuddin and Justice Syed J R Modasser Hossain on May 30 by an oral order upon Dr Kamal's writ petition set aside the order of the Returning Officer accepting Salman's nomination paper and the order of the Election Commission expressing its inability to review the said order of acceptance.

The HC also sent the matter back to the Election Commission on remand for its disposal in accordance with law.

In the evening of May 30 Barrister Rafique-ul Huq, counsel for Salman F Rahman, with a petition rushed to the residence of Justice Latifur Rahman of the Appellate Division who passed a provisional order staying the HC order till yesterday and fixed yesterday for hearing of the matter in the full bench of the Appellate Division.

Barrister Amirul Islam, counsel for Dr Kamal Hossain, pointed out that the stay petition was submitted without swearing any affidavit, recording it in the Register Book, even without giving any notice to the other parties.

He also alleged that the petition is backdated.

Sources close to Dr Kamal Hossain told The Daily Star that they took the matter to the notice of the Registrar of the Supreme Court who took all the said documents in his custody and supplied attested copies of those to them.

"On Friday one Deputy Registrar came to the office and made the documents ready," the source said.

See Page 12 Col 3

AL observes 'anti-terrorism day' June 5

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League will observe 'anti-terrorism day' throughout the country on June 5 to protest Friday's killing of SM Shahabuddin and to back its demand for ensuring recovery of unauthorized arms, arrest of terrorists for holding a free and fair election.

Shahabuddin, Commissioner of Ward No 41 of the Dhaka City Corporation and Information and Research Secretary of Dhaka city AL, was gunned down by miscreants at Agargaon in the city on Friday.

As part of the day's programme, AL would organise a demonstration in the city and submit a memorandum to the

See Page 12 Col 2

DSE MARKET	
DSE price index	862.01 (+0.24%)
Market capital Tk	5863.04 cr
Transactions in volume	90929
Transactions in value Tk	2.36 cr
CSE MARKET	
CSE price index	399.71 (+0.61%)
Market capital Tk	3242.35 cr
Transactions in volume	1635
Transactions in value Tk	19.09 lakh

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer
Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Ex-MP expelled from BNP

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has expelled Alam Khan, a former MP from Chandpur, for contesting the coming election against the BNP candidate violating the party decision. Khan has been expelled with immediate effect, a brief party announcement said yesterday, reports UNB.

June 12 declared public holiday

The government has declared June 12 as a public holiday on the occasion of the national elections, an official announcement said last night. The day has been declared a holiday to enable the officers and employees of the government, semi-government and autonomous bodies and private offices, other establishments and organisations to cast their votes in their respective areas, reports BSS.

68 more firearms recovered

Police recovered 68 illegal firearms and arrested 12 people for possessing unauthorised arms and ammunition from across the country in 24 hours till 8 am yesterday. The recovered arms were: two rifles, two sawed off rifles, six revolvers, three pistols, 45 pipe guns, five single barrel guns and five light guns.

Khaleda visits injured people

MYMENSINGH, June 2: BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia today visited the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital to see the people injured in Saturday's tragic incident, reports UNB.

Khaleda's fresh package of welfare programme

NETROKONA, June 2: BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia today announced a package of fresh programmes for implementation, if her party returns to power, reports BSS.

These include introduction of pension scheme for the elders, pay commission for employees, wages commission for workers, fair price for farmers' produce, lower price for agro-inputs and expansion of tuition-free education for girls upto intermediate level.

She called upon the countrymen to vote for her party to reap the benefits of the 'most pro-people' package of welfare programmes conceived for the first time by any political party of the country.

The BNP chairperson was addressing a series of huge public meetings and way-side gatherings in different constituencies of Netrokona, Mymensingh, Brahmanbaria and Habiganj on the first day of her three-day marathon electioneering in the north eastern districts.

Braving inclement weather and heavy rains, tens of thousands of cheering farmers, elders, women, teachers, workers, youths and students poured into the meeting places and way-side gatherings, carrying sheaf of paddy, the election symbol of BNP.

Describing the sheaf of paddy as the symbol of rahmat, barkat, blessings of the Almighty Allah, peace, bumper crops, and sovereignty, Begum Zia said by voting for her party symbol in 1991, the farmers had produced bumper crops after receiving various incentives, commonman easily availed of the credits for employment generating ventures, the poor received food for education and girls had tuition-free education and stipend upto class ten.

The former prime minister regretted that if her government

See Page 12 col 7

AL manifesto aims at down-trodden: Hasina

COMILLA, June 2: Awami League president Sheikh Hasina today urged the people to give their verdict in favour of the Awami League to enable it to establish a society free from poverty, illiteracy, corruption and terrorism, reports UNB.

She was addressing a big public meeting at Town Hall premises here this afternoon.

If voted to power, her party will create employment opportunities for the unemployed youths and wipe out illiteracy from the country within ten years, she added.

Referring to the 21 point election manifesto of her party, she said it contained a ray of hope for the exploited, neglected and the down-trodden.

Underlying the spirit and values of the liberation war, Sheikh Hasina stated that her party's election manifesto had been formulated with the objective of translating into reality the ideals for which our freedom fighters laid down their lives.

Referring to the current mass support for the 'Boat,' The Awami League leader said sensing defeat, started a particular party was indulging in irresponsible acts and deeds.

If voted to power, Awami League will behave like servants of people and not their masters, Sheikh Hasina observed.

She told the crowd that people voted for Awami League in 1970 to bring independence. "Now vote for Awami League to safeguard and consolidate our national independence and sovereignty," the Awami League leader said.

Launching a tirade against BNP for what she called its misrule, Sheikh Hasina said it had distributed unauthorised arms among activists of Chhatra Dal and Jubo Dal, besides patronising armed terrorism.

See Page 12 Col 1

Ward commissioner murder 9 yet to be nabbed

Star Report

Police is yet to unearth the motive behind the killing of city AL leader and ward commissioner Shahabuddin and arrested nine others accused in the FIR.

According to police sources, 18 people were enlisted in the FIR lodged with Mohammadpur thana. Of them, 10 were accused and eight were alleged conspirators behind the killing.

All the 10 accused in the case are professional criminals and armed hoodlums without having any specific party affiliation, according to a senior police official.

Except BNP leader Lt Gen (ret'd) Mir Shaukat Ali, who has also been named as instigator of the murder, the seven others were ward level activists of a major political party, he added.

Commissioner of Ward No 41 and Information Secretary of the city AL Shahabuddin was shot dead by a group of youngmen near his residence at west Agargaon Friday afternoon.

Meanwhile, when contacted by The Daily Star, Mir Shaukat Ali denied the allegations against him and his party, saying that the killing was plotted out of vengeance. Mr Shaukat is contesting the June 12 polls from Dhaka-9 constituency which also covers Ward No 41.

He also said he had lodged a complaint with the Election Commission for violation of the code of conduct involving him in a murder case prior to the coming elections.

Police arrested five persons on the day of the killing, including one Saliu accused in the FIR. Shahabuddin's wife Rokeya, filed a case with Mohammadpur thana Friday night.

Of the arrested, three per-

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BNP for action against 6 Indian diplomats

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) yesterday urged the government to take appropriate action against six Dhaka-based Indian diplomats immediately for their 'illegal activities' after proper investigation, reports UNB.

The six Indian diplomats, according to a report published in a local Bengali daily, were engaged in conducting a secret survey on the June 12 general election, undertaking extensive tour of different districts in Bangladesh.

Talking to newsmen at the BNP's Kakrail office yesterday evening, a spokesman of the party said, "If the activities of the Indian diplomats, interfering into internal affairs of the country, are proved, they should be declared persona non-grata."

Haris Chowdhury, a member of the BNP's national election coordination committee, expressed concern at the reported illegal activities of the officials of the Indian High Commission in Dhaka and hoped that the government would take up the matter immediately in the interest of the country's independence and sovereignty.



PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE. Election camps of the four major parties set up side by side in Chalknagar area of Dhaka-7 constituency (Sutrapur-Kotwali). — Star photo

A day-long visit to Dhaka-7 Rival party workers gossip cordially

Star Report

Many voters in the Dhaka-7 constituency (Kotwali-Sutrapur) have said they are happy about the way the candidates are conducting their election campaigns in the area this time.

"Unlike in previous elections, we are not disturbed by blaring microphones, playing of recorded speeches and other menaces," said a middle-aged voter yesterday.

"Candidates are coming and seeking votes. This is nice", another voter told this correspondent at his house along a by-lane.

This correspondent, during a day-long visit to the area saw candidates and their workers doing hectic door-to-door campaign with only eight days left for the parliamentary election.

It was pleasant to witness workers and supporters of rival candidates gossiping at some make-shift road side election camps.

A record number of 24 candidates including three female and three independent candidates are contesting for the JS seat. BNP's Sadek Hossain Khoka, Awami League's Fazul Karim were seen ignoring the foul weather, apparently not to wasted a moment their door-to-door campaigns.

Besides, addressing a number of projection meetings everyday, they, along with their supporters, are bringing out processions with replica of their respective party symbols.

Their formidable challenger is Jahangir Mohammad Adel of Jatiya Party followed by Abdus

See Page 12 Col 3

BSP demands increase in ad rates

The Bangladesh Sangbadpatri Parishad (BSP) yesterday demanded increase in advertisement rates and fair distribution of advertisements, controlled by the Department of Films and Publications (DFF), reports BSS.

Hailing the announcement of 30 per cent dearness allowance (DA) for the journalists' press workers and employees by the government, the BSP said it was not possible.

See Page 12 Col 1