

My contribution to development will bring me victory

Hopes Mohiuddin Chowdhury

SHAHIDUL ISLAM

ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury said his contribution to the development of Chittagong city and welfare of the city dwellers in the last 10 years will bring victory for him in the May 9 election.

"I love Chittagong from the core of my heart. I devote my life to it. I always spoke loud in the past and will do so in future for the interest of the city," Mohiuddin Chowdhury, the opposition Awami League-backed Nagorik Committee candidate for mayor, said this at different election rallies.

He said the city dwellers have seen revolutionary developments in the fields of education, health, communications and environment and all these were done without imposing any tax on them during my two tenures. "Considering my contribution and activities, I believe, the

Chittagong people will give me another chance and support me in the upcoming election."

Mohiuddin said that a conspiracy was on to rig the election, printing 20 per cent more ballot papers than the required figure. He, however, warned the government of any manipulation or attempt of rigging, saying "the consequences for such an ill move will be severe and grave."

"I know how to resist election rigging. I'm ready to foil any such conspiracy. Gone are the days to snatch votes by applying force," he said.

He said "I've turned the CCC over the years into a self-reliant public welfare organisation and I've earned trust of all." "Moreover, I wasn't engaged in any sort of corruption and didn't squander corporation money," he said.

He said, "Even ruling BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami and Jatiya Party supporters voted for me because I



could prove that I'm not a partisan mayor but a mayor of all who lives in Chittagong."

Mohiuddin Chowdhury said if elected he will construct a hanging bridge on the river Karnaphuli, a crying demand of Chittagong people, and implement the commitments he made in his 40-point election manifesto.

Implementation of any project is possible if there was honesty, sincerity and courage, he said.

"Implementation of the 40-point might be difficult in five-year tenure for a government but, if elected, I will make it possible using the resources of Chittagong with the cooperation of all," he said. "I'm not alone in my development activities and I love to work together for the sake of Chittagong," he added. "I know how to do it."

Regarding the hanging bridge

on the Karnaphuli, Mohiuddin Chowdhury said the total expenditure will be realised through distribution of shares. Twenty-five percent of the shares will be distributed among the industrialists and businessmen while the rest will be given to donor agencies (on Build, Operate and Transfer basis) through tender, he said.

Mohiuddin Chowdhury alleged non-cooperation from the government in the past. "If the government comes forward positively, I think, it will not be a problem to end the power and water crises in the city."

On the Chittagong port, he said "I was always vocal for the interest of this port and will remain so in future". He criticised the random privatisation of some services of the port, saying "Privatisation will be okay as long as the government keep its control on the overall operation of the port."

Elect me for a corruption-free city corporation

Mir Nasir urges voters

ABDULLAH -AL MAHMUD

Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin has urged the voters to elect him to re-establish a corruption-free administration at Chittagong City Corporation (CCC).

Mir Nasir, the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party-backed four-party alliance candidate for mayor, has promised to turn Chittagong into a commercial capital and tourist city in the true sense.

He has also vowed to establish a "city government" for proper urbanisation of the city and ensuring civic amenities for the city dwellers.

Mir Nasir told the city dwellers during campaigns that if elected he will take up a comprehensive plan to free the city from traffic congestion and water logging. He will create a congenial atmosphere to help flourish the potential tourism and attract foreign investment.

Mir Nasir, also the state minister for civil aviation and tourism and the president of Chittagong city BNP, focused on two major problems, traffic congestion and water logging, in his electoral pledges.

He said he will set up separate bus and truck terminals to ease traffic jam in the city.

He committed to take steps for digging and re-excavations of silted canals, including Chaktai Khal (canal), to maintain the drainage system properly under special projects.

He said the "vision and mission" which he started during his last tenure as the mayor until 1994, will resume, if he is elected, for the overall development of the city.

The city corporation is a service oriented organisation whose job is to ensure health, education, power and water, he said.

But, the city dwellers are deprived of these civic amenities as CCC is now engaged in real



estate business, raising market buildings on drains to create water logging and developing residential plots only to make money, he said.

The trend has to be changed, he says. "If I get elected, all the CCC activities will aim at serving the city dwellers," he added.

"I like to work with transparency, accountability and honesty and I think my 30-month tenure as mayor is a testimony to this," he said.

He said that if elected he would not increase the holding tax and exempt thatched houses of such tax. At the same time CCC under him will lessen the tax load on the city dwellers, undertaking income-generating projects in phases.

Projects will be taken to rehabilitate hawkers in phases and they will get loans on easy conditions, he said.

He said rickshaw license fees

will be decreased and the process of license issuing will be made easier as well as less time consuming, he added.

Mir Nasir assured the temporary workers and employees of CCC of confirming their jobs.

He said that the claim made by the present CCC of not increasing the holding tax in the last ten years was nothing but an act of "deceiving the city dwellers."

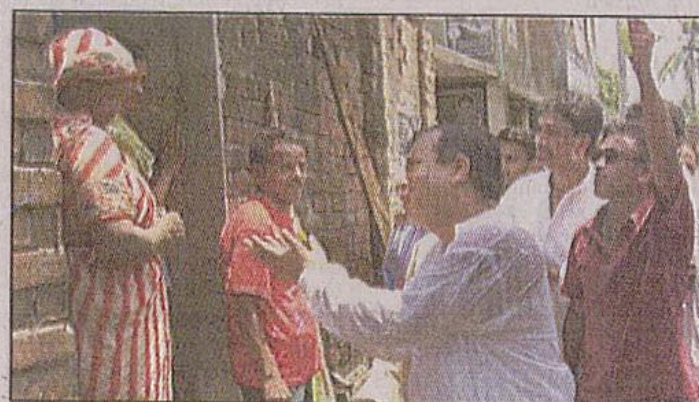
He said the present CCC misappropriated lakhs of taka by recruiting some 41 new assessors in all the wards.

The trade license fee has been increased to as high as Tk 25 thousand from Tk 500 while the CCC has emerged as bankrupt organisation, said Mir Nasir.

"Every staff, employee and contractor will make testimony to this bankruptcy and massive corruption has gripped the organisation," he added.



The opposition Awami League-backed Nagorik Committee candidate ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury seeks votes at the Sweeper Colony at Patharghata on Saturday.



The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party-backed four-party alliance candidate Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin seeks votes in Patharghata area.

City residents to elect new mayor on May 9

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

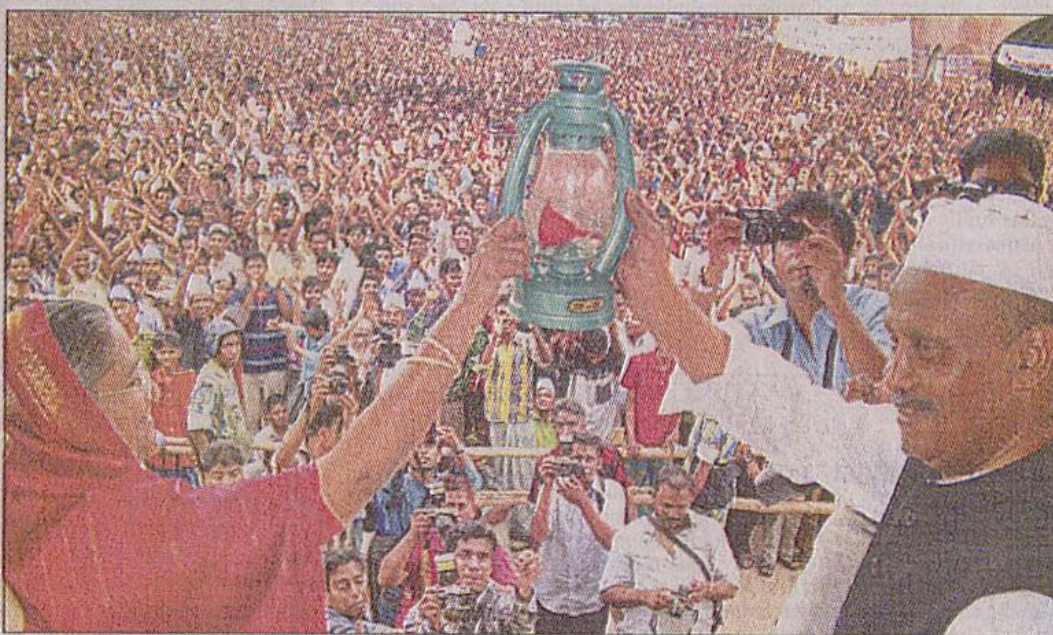
As the port city is now in the grip of the election fever, Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) has completed its preparations to hold the polls in a free and fair manner amid fear by some candidates of manipulation and rigging.

With barely five days left, two major mayoral and 387 ward commissioner candidates and their supporters, activists, well-wishers and volunteers are now in frenzied campaign.

A total of 11,38,318 voters (6,85,444 male and 4,52,874 female) from 41 wards will choose their new mayor on May 9. They will cast their votes in 577 centres in the 60km city. About 10,500 presiding and polling officers from different educational institutions, public banks and government offices, and 450 magistrates will look after the polling from 8:00am to 4:00pm and the final counting, sources said.

The three-day training for presiding, assisting presiding and polling officers started here on Tuesday.

Security will be tightened



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina introduces Nagorik Committee candidate ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, left, and Law Minister Moudud Ahmed introduces four-party alliance candidate Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin, right, at election projection meetings in the port city.

during the polls, the third of its kind. Army, BDR, Armed Police Battalion (APBN), Ansar and Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) forces will be deployed to maintain law and order during

the voting. Of 21 mayoral contestants, the fight and focus will obviously be on the two major personalities -- Awami League-backed Nagorik Committee

candidate ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, the incumbent mayor and ruling BNP-backed four-party alliance candidate Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin, state minister for civil aviation

and tourism. Mohiuddin Chowdhury has 10 years experience and Mir Nasir 31 months in running the CCC as mayor. In their campaign they highlighted what

they have done for Chittagong during their tenures and again came up with 40-point and 20-point promises to woo the voters.

Mohiuddin Chowdhury and

Mir Nasir have different political beliefs and ideologies but, they are united at least on one point that is the development of Chittagong. The rest lies in the minds of 11.38 lakh voters.

Hasina, Mohiuddin's speeches 'void of political norms', says Mir Nasir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin, BNP-led four-party alliance mayoral candidate in the Chittagong City Corporation election, on Monday termed the speeches of opposition leader Sheikh Hasina and Awami League-backed mayoral candidate Mohiuddin Chowdhury "void of political norms."

Mir Nasir in a statement protested the speeches made by Hasina and Mohiuddin against him and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at different rallies in the city on Sunday.

Mir Nasir alleged that Hasina distorted the finance minister's speech to slur his achievement as a state minister for civil aviation.

He claimed that during his tenure Bangladesh Biman saved over Tk 300 crore, and the earning of the civil aviation rose to 17 per cent.

Mir Nasir said Shah Amanat International Airport would not be released out.



the week that was

ATN launches div station

Satellite TV channel ATN Bangla opened its divisional station here at the Chittagong Press Club building, says a press release.

The station, now under construction, will be able to telecast programmes live from Chittagong.

ATN Bangla is the first private channel opening its station outside Dhaka.

In this connection, an agree-

ment between ATN and Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) was signed on Thursday. CCC revenue officer Abul Kashem and ATN director Nesar Ahmed signed the agreement on behalf of their respective

Save Foy's Lake from pollution

Two environmental organisations on Monday staged a demonstration here demanding immediate measures to stop pollution of Foy's Lake.

Jano Udyog and Save Chittagong organised the programme in front of the Chittagong Press Club.

Speakers at the rally said that the recent upgrading of Foy's Lake as a lake-cum amusement park was not environment friendly. The continuous operation of mechanised rides was polluting the water of the lake - a

source of water for some 50,000 people living on the surrounding railway colonies. Besides, the live concert at Foy's Lake was contributing to noise pollution while the hill cutting in the name of developing eco-tourism at the park was sure to cause massive degradation of the topography of that hill beset area.

Professor Muhammad Idris Ali, Ferdous Ahmad of IED, Tusher Kanti Basak, Morshed Alam and Kaiser of Save Chittagong spoke at the rally with Jano Udyog Coordinator Sharif Chouhan in the chair.

Surf Excel talent search

The first round of Surf Excel talent

search competition titled "Pratibha Larai" ended at Chittagong MA Aziz Stadium here on Monday.

A total of 320 students from 16 city schools participated in the day long competition organised by Unilever Bangladesh Limited.

Chittagong Grammar School (CGS) and Little Jewels became the joint champions while Chittagong Ideal School was runners up at the competition.

The champion and runners-up teams would participate in the final round to be held in Dhaka.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (Education and Promotion) Md. Matin Ul Haq distributed prizes among the winners at the closing ceremony as the chief guest.

Hasan Zafar Chowdhury, Sami Ashraf and M Shahabuddin of Unilever

Bangladesh were present at the ceremony.

Photo exhibition on '91 cyclone

A photo exhibition titled "Kichhu Smriti" was held on the Chittagong Press Club premises on Saturday to remind the visitors of the tragic end of lakhs of people and massive devastation caused by the cyclone of April 29 of 1991.

Industrialist and social worker M Manzoor Alam inaugurated the photo exhibition of photojournalist Shishir Barua.

Manzoor Alam in his speech as chief guest said such a photo exhibition might raise the conscience and

alertness among the authority concerned for taking precautionary measures against devastating natural calamities.

Chittagong Press Club President Abu Sufian and Chittagong Union of Journalists General Secretary Shahid Ul Alam also spoke.

Press Club family night

The family night-2005 of Chittagong Press Club (CPC) was held amid colourful programmes and festivity at the auditorium of Engineers Institute on Sunday.

About 200 club members and their family members enjoyed the night.

Singers Mahmuduzzaman Babu,

Ruxi, Tanuja, Soma, Naim Ahmed, and Holmanti Raxit Maan enthralled the audience at the function titled 'Ami Banglar Gan Gai'. Dancer Ananaya Barua and his group presented classical, folk and modern dance followed by fashion choreography and fashion parade.

CPC President Abu Sufian, General Secretary Kalim Sarwar and Cultural Secretary Mamun Abdullah made brief addresses on the occasion.

Later, a raffle draw was held.

Angon's founding anniversary celebrated

"Angon," a cultural organisation,

celebrated its 16th founding anniversary on the Chittagong University campus on Saturday.

A day-long programme, including rally, discussion and cultural function, was held at social science faculty gallery to mark the founding anniversary.

Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr. Muhammad Shamsuddin was the chief guest at the discussion with Jubaida Gulshan Ara, Vice-President of the organisation, in the chair.

Professor Dr. Moniruzzaman, Professor SM Ansar Ali and Professor Shah Newaj were special guests.

The discussion was followed by a cultural programme. Debashish, Mitu, Mazhar, Lutfi, Mukta, Mondia, Nazmul Nilima and Munni performed at the cultural function.