

City corporation elections before JS polls if EC is ready

Says LGRD adviser

UNB, Bhaluka

LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal has said the election to some local government bodies, including the city corporations, could be held before the parliamentary polls if the

Election Commission can complete its preparations, including the voter list.

He said the tenures of some city corporations will expire in June this year. "If the Election Commission can complete its preparations, election to Dhaka, Rajshahi and Khulna City Corporations could be held."

Talking to journalists after inaugurating a new programme styled 'Police Open Day' and Bhaluka Model Thana in Mymensingh yesterday, he said parliamentary elections will be held as soon as the Election Commission could complete its preparations.

Bhaluka Model Thana is part of the police reform programme being implemented with financial support from the European Commission, UNDP and DFID.

Replying to a question, Anwarul

Iqbal said like any other Third World countries, political governments in Bangladesh had influenced the police department. On completion of the Police Reform programme, he believes, police would be independent and be able to work in an atmosphere to be free from political interference.

British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury who was present on the occasion said the UK and the European Commission will provide financial support to the Election Commission unconditionally.

The British envoy said he believes that the EC is working independently and working very hard.

About the time for the general election, he said the polls should be held as soon as possible. The chief adviser earlier stated that it would be held by the end of 2008, he said.

The High Commissioner said, "Not necessarily the election will be held by December next. It could be held in January next, it could be held in March, September or June."

Earlier, the LGRED adviser addressed the inaugural ceremony

of the Police Open Day and Bhaluka Model Thana as chief guest on the police station premises.

Anwar Choudhury, Head of the European Commission Delegation to Bangladesh Stefan Frowein, Home Secretary Abdul Karim, IGP Noor Muhammad and National Director of Police Reform Programme and Additional IGP NBK Tripura also addressed the function.

Mymensingh Police Super Rafiqul Islam presided.

Anwarul Iqbal emphasised friendly relations between the communities and the police based on mutual understanding, trust and cooperation to prevent crimes.

He said partnerships between the police and the communities, especially vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, can pave the way for the general people to voice their grievances as well as their suggestions to improve the police service.

Saarc Youth Camp in Bangladesh this year

UNB, Dhaka

The first Saarc Youth Camp-2007, rallying the youths aged 18-24 from the eight member-countries of the forum, will be held in Bangladesh at this year-end.

A total of 120 youths, including 50 from the host-country Bangladesh, will join the maiden meet of this kind. Of the rest 70 participants, 10 each will come from the seven other Saarc member-countries.

The programme was disclosed at a meeting in the city yesterday with acting secretary of Youth and Sports Dr M Golam Mostafa Talukder in the chair.

A national organising committee, headed by the secretary, was formed for successfully holding the Saarc Youth Camp.

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Poet Nazrul's birth anniversary programmes

Bss, Mymensingh

Mymensingh district administration has taken up a three-day programme to observe the 108th birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam at Darirampur in Trishal.

The celebrations will begin tomorrow. All necessary preparations in this regard have been completed, said district administration sources.

The programme will begin with a colourful procession.

Chairman of the Divisional Commissioner Kazi Ahmed will inaugurate the programme as the chief guest, with Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh Md Shamsul Alam in the chair. Mymensingh Police Superintendent Md Rafiqul Islam will attend the programme as special guest.

Nazrul spent a few years at Darirampur and studied at Darirampur High School.

Our DU Correspondent adds: The Dhaka University (DU) authorities have also taken up an elaborate programme to mark the birth anniversary of the poet tomorrow.

Teachers, students, officials and employees will place floral wreaths at the grave of the poet beside the DU central mosque at 6:15am on the day, a DU press release said.

Later, a discussion will also be held on the grave premises, with DU Vice-chancellor Prof SMA Faiz in the chair.

Nazrul was born on May 25 in 1899 at village Churulia of 24 Parganas district in West Bengal, India. Through his powerful poems, Nazrul had inspired people to fight against injustice and repression of the British colonial rule.

Nazrul's songs and poems were also a great source of inspiration for freedom fighters during the Liberation War in 1971.

One killed in Satkhira blast

UNB, Satkhira

One of the miscreants was killed while blasting a series of bombs at a house at Magura village in Tala upazila, leaving four house inmates injured on Tuesday midnight.

Tala Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Abdur Razzak said a conflict was on between Abdul Majid and his stepbrother Taibur Rahman over the ownership of a piece of land.

Taibur along with his supporters came to the house of Majid and tried to kidnap him around midnight. At one stage of scuffle with Majid and his family members, Taibur's men exploded 7-8 bombs, leaving one of their members dead. The identity of the deceased could not be known immediately.

Abdul Majid, his wife Shahanur Begum, sister-in-law Zahura Khatun and Abdul Aziz were injured during the bomb blasts. They were rushed to a local hospital.

New chairperson of Lions Multiple District 315



Md Omar Shafayat Kawsar MJF, district governor, Lions District 315 B-2 Bangladesh, has been elected the council chairperson of Lions Multiple District 315 Bangladesh for the year 2007-2008, says a press release.

The election was held at the 20th Annual Multiple Convention 2007 at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city on Friday.



PHOTO: AL Awami League President Sheikh Hasina listens to song performed by Chaitanno Shilpi Gosthi when leaders of Shariatpur district Jubo League meet her at Sudha Sadan in the city yesterday.

KCC faces crisis due to corruption by mayor, officials

Allege contractors

UNE, Khulna

Contractors Welfare Association of Khulna City Corporation yesterday alleged that the city corporation is now facing financial crisis due to corruption of its officials and employees, including the mayor.

Addressing a press conference at the local Press Club, Association President M Iskandar Ali said contractors are yet to get their bills of various development works done by them in 2004, 2005 and 2006.

They said they face harassment when they press for their due bills.

Additional manpower was recruited in different sections of the KCC while many officials and employees were suspended. But most of the suspended were reinstated in exchange of bribe, they said.

Two drown in well in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Two people, including a teenage boy, drowned after they fell into a well at village Babupur in Trishal upazila here yesterday afternoon.

The dead were identified as Billal Hossain, 15, son of Lal Miah of village Babupur and Hachu Miah, a neighbour of Lal Miah.

The villagers said Billal fell into a well of his village accidentally. Hachu Miah fell into the well when he came to rescue Billal hearing his cry for help.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Abdul Jahur, a former lawmaker and president of Sunamganj district Awami League, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital on Tuesday night at the age of 85.

Jahur, also an organiser of the Liberation War, was elected a member of parliament from Sunamganj-4 constituency thrice.

He left behind his wife, two sons, four daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death. He was buried at his family graveyard.

Noorjahan Begum (Jyotsna)

Noorjahan Begum (Jyotsna), wife of Mohammad G Mustapha, copy editor of The Bangladesh Today and former deputy director general (News) of Bangladesh Betar, passed away at Birdeem Hospital in the city on May 5 at the age of 60, says a press release.

She was laid to rest beside the grave of her father and mother in her family graveyard at Sonkanda Miabari in Sherpur.

She left behind her husband, one daughter and three sons to mourn her death.

Rawshan Ara Begum

Bss, Chittagong

Mosammat Rawshan Ara Begum, mother of Chittagong South District Unit President of Awami League Mosleminuddin Ahmed, passed away at a clinic here yesterday at the age of 78.

She left behind her three sons and three daughters to mourn her death.

She will be buried at Hajrat Garibullah Shah Major graveyard after namaz-e-janaza on the Jamiatul Falah Mosque premises at 10:00am today (Thursday).

Death anniversary

Today is the 24th death anniversary of Barrister Saleh Uddin, a former lawmaker and freedom fighter, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhani and milad mahfil will be held at his son's house at 131/1, North Bashabo after Asr prayers. Barrister Saleh Uddin Smriti Sangsad will hold a milad mahfil in his village home at Bonomalidala at Modhukhali in Faridpur.

All have been requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Dr Malika Khatun

Today is the 5th death anniversary of Dr Malika Khatun, founder-chairperson of Bangladesh Development Partnership Centre (BDPC), says a press release.

She was an educationist and recipient of the Ekushey Award.

The BDPC will hold a discussion at its office in Jessore today and a doa mahfil at the Jame Masjid at Block # K, Pisciculture, Shyamoli in Dhaka after Asr prayers on May 28.

Fish oil treatment for heart attack victims

BBC ONLINE

DHAKA TODAY

Public forum

Asian University for Women (AUW) will host a public forum to unveil the AUW master plan. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Centre. Time: 3:30pm.

Roundtable

Transparency International Bangladesh organises a roundtable on the occasion of the launching of the Global Corruption Report internationally. Venue: Biam auditorium. Time: 10:30am.

Seminar

Human Rights and Legal Aid Centre Bangladesh will hold a seminar on 'Prophet Muhammad (SM) in the development of human rights'. Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity. Time: 10:00am.

Seminar

The American Centre of the United States Embassy organises a Fulbright seminar. Venue: American Centre Library. Time: 10:00am.

Oily fish

Doctors are being advised to prescribe oily fish or omega-3 fatty acid supplements to heart attack patients.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) believes this is an effective way to cut the risk of further heart attacks.

It is the first time NICE has recommended lifestyle change - alongside drugs - in guidance on preventing repeat attacks.

Patient representatives said the measures could have a big impact.

The guidelines update the previous set produced six years ago, and the new lifestyle section says patients should be advised to give up smoking, be physically active for 20-30 minutes a day, and eat a Mediterranean-style diet.

Professor Gene Feder, Chair of the Guideline Development Group, said: "The growing evidence that cardiac rehabilitation and specific lifestyle changes reduces the risk of second heart attacks, as well as improving quality of life, is not widely recognised."

He said that while drugs could make an enormous difference to patients who have had a heart attack, there is now also compelling evidence that lifestyle changes can play a role too.

He said there was good evidence that secondary heart attacks could be avoided if patients changed their lifestyles.



Participants of a three-day training course for the personnel of Oxfam-GB partner organisations working in the River Basin Project (RBP) pose for photograph in the city yesterday. Padakhep Manabik Unnayan Kendra (PMUK) organised the training with the assistance of Oxfam-GB.

PHOTO: STAR