

Lively campaign starts for Rajshahi city polls

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

With announcement of the schedule for Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) polls on Friday, all probable candidates for the post of mayor and councillors have beefed up electioneering.

Probable candidates from the Awami League and BNP-Jamaat coalition too passing busy days meeting people as part of their election campaign even though the major parties are still dragging feet from taking part in the elections.

Several of them, speaking in return for anonymity, said, their parties would soon understand the necessity of taking part in the elections, otherwise, they would join the polls independently.

At least 17 probable candidates from seven political parties, including two newly formed ones, have already informed newsmen that they are keen to take part in the fray.

Workers' Party's politburo member Fazle Hossain Badsha is seen to be enjoying advantageous position in the present situation.

"One can call it electioneering,

but I am meeting people as usual... As far as I know, I am the candidate of Awami League-led 14-party combine," said Fazle Hossain Badsha.

Badsha, contesting the last RCC polls with Rajshahi Nagarik Committee ticket and support by Awami League, alleged polls rigging for his defeat to Minu in marginal votes and his case filed for the alleged poll rigging is still under trial.

Rajshahi city Awami League Secretary AHM Khairuzzaman Liton, an aspirant in the mayoral contest and confident of getting support of the party's central leaders, told this correspondent, "I will take part in the election. I am visiting wards on foot everyday and exchanging compliments with electorates."

City AL President Maksudul Haque Dulu said he decided to vie for the election long ago and he is working to that end.

For BNP, facing the local government race is quite difficult as it has dipped into a leader crisis following imprisonment of former Rajshahi mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu over

conviction in an extortion case.

However, eight persons from the party are intending to contest the polls.

In Minu's absence, the party's central office secretary Ruhul Kabir Rizvi who was silent during BNP-Jamaat coalition rule, started working for the mayoral fray long ago.

Many party insiders believe that Rizvi has potential but he will have to face many emerging leaders.

Rajshahi city Jubo Dal President Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul was ahead among other BNP men who are willing to vie.

Names of district BNP's former general secretaries -- Enamul Haque and Qamrul Monir, organising secretary Alauddin, former women BNP stalwart Jahan Panna, fugitive former BNP lawmaker Nadim Mostafa's brother Shahid Hasan, BNP adherent Shahin Shawkat are being heard for the mayoral post.

If the central leaders of BNP decide to go for the city corporation election, local BNP might see disagreement for the mayoral post

with Jamaat-e-Islami.

"If four-party takes part in the polls, I will be a candidate," said Rajshahi city Jamaat Ameer Aatur Rahman said, claiming that he was leading the local four-party alliance in Minu's absence.

Jamaat's city committee assistant general secretary Abul Kalam Azad and senior leader Siddik Hussain are also intending to contest.

Jatiya Party (Ershad) city unit President Durul Huda said he is hopeful of winning in the RCC polls.

Ferdous Ahmed Qureshi's newly formed Progressive Development Party (PDP) has already announced its mayoral candidate -- local PDP convenor Raihanur Rahman -- through a tele-conference on Saturday.

Abdul Matin Khan, another aspirant for the mayoral post, is electioneering under the banner of Amra Rajshahi Basi.

Many new faces are also likely to come forward following leadership crisis and internal feuds in different political parties.

Drug addict kills brother

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A drug addict youth stabbed his elder brother to death at Bhatikashar in the district town yesterday afternoon.

The victim was identified as Jahangir Alam, 28, son of Abul Kashem alias Akbar Ali of Bhatikashar of the town.

Drug addict Johirul Alam, 23, attacked his elder brother Jahangir Alam with lethal weapons following an altercation over family affairs at around 1:15pm, police and local people said.

Seriously injured Jahangir was rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) where doctors declared him dead.

Locals caught Johirul and handed him over to Kotwali police.

The body was sent to MMCH morgue for autopsy.

2 held for drug trading

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chawabganj

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) have arrested two staff of a courier office here on charge of drug trade.

Akhas Ali, 30, of Natun Hat-Mollapara and Abdul Hannan, 33, of Gogojipara were arrested on Sunday.

On a tip-off, Rab arrested the two when they were booking a carton consisting 20 bottles of phensidyl.



A rally following inauguration of weeklong tree fair at Khagrachhari hill town marches the main roads there yesterday.



Palli Kabi's Rupai passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Ahmed Ali alias Rupa Miah, the star of Palli Kabi Jasimuddin's Nakshi Kanthar Math, a masterpiece of the poet, died at his residence at village Shilashi in Gafargaoon upazila of the district on Sunday night. He was 104.

Popularly known as Rupai, he had been suffering from various old age complications for long.

His namaj-e-janaza was held at Gafargaoon Railway Station Jame Masjid ground after the jhor prayers. He was laid to rest at his family graveyard.

People of all walks of lives including poets, writers, journalists and political leaders attended the namaj-e-janaza.

Rupai left behind three sons, two daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Palli Kabi Jasimuddin came to Gafargaoon in 1928 following the suggestion from renowned folklore collector Dr Dinesh Chandra Sen. Later the poet observed a clash (locally known as kajija) between two parties at Bangaoon village in Gafargaoon, in which Rupai, then a youth of 24, took part.

The poet wrote his dance drama Nakshi Kanthar Math on the basis of the incident.

Ex-MP Shahidul's movable property attached

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Moheshpur police yesterday attached movable property of former lawmaker and district BNP general secretary Shahidul Islam master from his house.

However, police got nothing but a broken chair, an old dish antenna, a rag, some plastic pipes and a charger light from the house.

A villager told this correspondent that Shahidul's relatives and loyalists replaced valuable goods from his house a few months ago.

Shahidul Islam is an accused in 15 cases for extortion, land grabbing, loot and misappropriation of relief materials. He along with his family members had been absconding since declaration of emergency.

2 skeletons of minor boys found

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Day labourers yesterday found two skeletons of minor boys while re-excavating a derelict pond at Satghar village of Southkhali union in Sharonkhola upazila, Bagerhat.

Locals said the 2 boys might be killed during last year's Sidr.

BCL starts indefinite strike at Ruet today

Demands action against attackers

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) has called an indefinite students strike on the Ruet campus from today demanding 'proper action' against the people responsible for Thursday attack on BCL men by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).

Meanwhile accused 13 BCL activists took release from a Rajshahi court yesterday.

Former Ruet JCD general secretary Benzir Ahmed Tomal had filed a case with Motiher Police Station on Sunday accusing 13 BCL activists for Thursday's attack.

BCL Ruet unit at a press conference held in Rajshahi yesterday called upon Ruet Vice Chancellor Prof Anwarul Haque to meet their six-point demand.

Their demands are immediate resignation of Student Welfare Adviser Prof Sayed Abdul Mofiz,

arrest and punishment of responsible JCD activists, cancellation of examinations scheduled for June 29 and July 6, unconditional release of arrested students belonging to BCL and ensuring their security on the campus.

BCL men criticised university authorities for not taking any action against the responsible JCD activists who attacked on BCL men on Thursday.

"We will not withdraw our agitation programme as the university authorities did not meet our demands by yesterday," Al Amin, an injured BCL activist, said at the conference.

BCL activists urged the authorities and general students of the campus to observe the BCL called strike on the campus today.

BCL leaders Faisal, Moshir, Nazmul, BCL RU unit leader Masud, City leader Zedu Sarker and Abdul Momen addressed the conference.

'Give constitutional rights to indigenous people'

RU CORRESPONDENT

Indigenous people at a press conference held at Rajshahi Public Library auditorium yesterday demanded constitutional recognition to the indigenous people.

At the press conference organised by the committee comprising 15 indigenous organisations to celebrate 153rd anniversary of Santa revolution day also raised a 14-point demand.

The demands include a separate land commission for indigenous peoples, formation of a separate ministry for the plain land indigenous people, introduce the indigenous children's mother tongue as the medium of their primary education, ensure indigenous people's quota in higher education and government service, establish indigenous education, culture and research centre in indigenous area, distribute 'khas' land among the indigenous people, recognition of indigenous freedom fighters, ensure indigenous representative in local and national election and ensure indigenous participation in Special Affairs Division.

Santal revolution day celebration central committee Secretary

General Hopna Kisku, who read out a written statement on the occasion, announced a four-day Santa revolution day programme at Naogaon, Dinajpur, Chapainawabganj and Rajshahi.

The programmes include discussion, colourful rally, placing of wreath at the graves of Santa heroes, archery and drama depicting the life and culture of indigenous people.

The first day programme will start at Naogaon tomorrow.

The committee will also award 'Sidhu-Kanu Award' after the names of two brothers, Sidhu and Kanu, who spearheaded the Santa Hul (revolution).

The committee urged all the indigenous people of northern region to hold the programmes unitedly and peacefully.

The indigenous leaders urged the government to implement the demands of the indigenous people.

Indigenous leader Everest Hemrom, Bangapal Sarder, Sudev Malo, Noresh Orao, Bengamin Hasda and Jogendra Nath Saran also addressed the press conference.



A mobile court destroying adulterated sweets during its hygiene drive at Moulibazar town yesterday.

Dada Tapan's brother on 8-day remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court in Kushtia yesterday granted eight-day remand for Golam Hossain Akash, younger brother outlawed Janajuddho chief Abdur Rashid Malitha Tapan alias Dada Tapan.

Earlier police produced him before the court and prayed for 10 days' remand on Friday when the court fixed yesterday for the decision.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested Akash from his house at Udbari in Kushtia in the early hours of June 19.

Dada Tapan was killed in a 'shootout' with Rab on the same day at another house at Baradi, one and a half kilometre off the Udbari house. Dada also owned the Baradi house. One of the women cadres of the outfit named Rikta was also killed during the shootout.

Rab recovered huge arms and

ammunitions from Akash's house which included one 7.65mm pistol, 895 round bullets, one computer, one fax machine, one motorcycle, 2768 books and 500 leaflets of Janajuddho.

Deputy Assistant Director of Rab-12 Abul Kasem filed two cases with Kushtia Sadar Police Station -- one on charges of anti-state activities and possessing illegal arms and ammunitions and the other under Anti-terrorism Act 2008.

After interrogation at their Kushtia office, Rab handed over Akash to Kushtia police on June 19.

Akash will be taken to Dhaka today for interrogation by Task Force Intelligence, said Rab and police.

Law enforcers said whereabouts of Dada Tapan's illegal money, arms and ammunitions, absconding cadres of the outfit and their plans might be known by quizzing Akash, who always accompanied Dada Tapan.

CHEATING PILGRIMS Jebrik MD on 2-day remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Managing director of a travel agent who was arrested on June 3 for cheating 23 Hajj pilgrims was placed on two-day remand yesterday, court sources said.

The accused is Romjan Ali Dhali, managing director of Messrs Jebrik Travels, Dhaka.

Romjan was brought here from Dhaka and produced before Satkhira chief judicial magistrate's court yesterday.

Kazi Mahi Uddin, a victim filed the cheating case with Satkhira Sadar police station against Romjan and his wife on January 25.

Invitation for Tenders			
01 (2007-08)			
Ref: LGED/PD (PSB)/I-02/2008/348		Date: 18-06-2008	
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH			
1	Ministry/Division	Local Government Division	
2	Agency	Local Government Engineering Department	
3	Procuring Entity Name	Project Director, The Project for the Provision of Portable Steel Bridges on Upazila & Union Roads.	
4	Procuring Entity Code	Not used at present	
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka	
6	Invitation for	Tender <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Works <input type="checkbox"/> Single Lot <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
7	Invitation Ref No	LGED/PD (PSB)/I-02/2008/348	
8	Date	18/06/2008	
KEY INFORMATION			
9	Procurement Method	NCT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open <input type="checkbox"/>	
FUNDING INFORMATION			
10	Budget and Source of Funds	GoB <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
11	Development Partners (if applicable)	N/A	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
12	Project / Programme Code (if applicable)	5009	
13	Project / Programme Name (if applicable)	The Project for the Provision of Portable Steel Bridges on Upazila & Union Roads.	
14	Tender Package No.	PSB-J/RW-001.	
15	Tender Package Name	Rectification of White-Rust of Steel Structures of Portable Steel Bridges	
16	Tender Publication Date	18/06/2008 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
17	Tender Last Selling Date and Time	15/07/2008 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5-00 pm	
18	Tender Closing Date and Time	16/07/2008 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12-00 noon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
19	Tender Opening Date and Time	16/07/2008 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3-00 pm <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
20	Name & Address of the office(s) - Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Office of the Project Director, The Project for The Provision of Portable Steel Bridges on Upazila & Union Roads. Local Government Engineering Department. RDEC Bhaban, Level-6 Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207	
- Selling Tender Document (Others)		Office of the Executive Engineer, LGED, Dhaka. Office of the Executive Engineer, LGED, Gazipur. Project Director, The Project for The Provision of Portable Steel Bridges on Upazila & Union Roads. LGED, RDEC Bhaban, Level-6 Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207	
- Receiving Tender Document		Project Director, The Project for The Provision of Portable Steel Bridges on Upazila & Union Roads. LGED, RDEC Bhaban, Level-6 Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207	
- Opening Tender Document		Project Director, The Project for The Provision of Portable Steel Bridges on Upazila & Union Roads. LGED, RDEC Bhaban, Level-6 Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207	
21	Place / Date / Time of Pre-Tender Meeting	Date: 02/07/2008 Time: 12-00pm <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
22	Eligibility of Tenderer	1) The Tenderer shall have a minimum 5(five) years of overall experience in the related work. 2) The Tenderer shall have a minimum 3 (three) years of specific experience in the related work. 3) The minimum value of single contract in the last 5 (five) years is Tk. 3.00 (Three) Lac only. 4) The minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital or credit facility is Tk. 3 (three) Lac only.	
23	Brief Description of Goods or Works	Rectification of White-Rust of Steel Structures of Portable Steel Bridges	
24	Brief Description of Related Services	N/A	
25	Price of Tender Document (Tk)	Tk. 500.00 (five hundred only)	
26	Lot No	Identification of Lot	Location
26	1	Rectification of White-Rust of Steel Structures of Portable Steel Bridges	Gazipur
			Tender Security Amount (Tk)
			14000.00 (Fourteen thousand only)
			Completion Time in Months
			15 (Fifteen) days.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS			
30	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Abul Kalam Azad	
31	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Project Director	
32	Address of Official Inviting Tender	The Project for the Provision of Portable Steel Bridges on Upazila & Union Roads. LGED, RDEC Bhaban, Level-6 Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207	
33	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel.No. 8143120 Fax No. 8143120	
34	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders		

GD-2901

(Md. Abul Kalam Azad)
Project Director
Tel.No. 8143120



Rare species Night Queen that bloomed at Mogra Nursery at Netarkona town on Sunday night.

PHOTO: STAR