

Old faces show up again with belied pledges

Rajshahi city dwellers demand live TV programmes by polls aspirants

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

The electorate, 'cheated' in the past, are bewildered as old faces, many of them tainted, are showing up in the upcoming city corporation polls with old unfulfilled pledges.

Among 16 mayor aspirants, 13 are known persons belonging to different political parties. They are now making pledges anew for a 'beautiful and developed Rajshahi city' free from corruption, terrorism and drugsthe same promises they made ahead of 2002 city corporation election.

Among 236 councilor aspirants and 62 women candidates, some 100 are known political personalities.

The 26 incumbent councilors, including six having records of facing criminal charges, are also in race in Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) election scheduled for August 4.

The mayoral candidates have already started reiterating almost the same old pledges in small gatherings and party meetings.

Many citizens talking to this correspondent said the candidates should make their commitments formally in live television programmes.

According to police, four mayoral aspirants Workers' Party Politburo member Fazle Hossain Badsha, city Awami League president Masudul Haque Dulua and BNP leader Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul and Rajshahi city Bikalpa Dhara presi-



Shahadat Hossain



Moniruzzaman Sharif



Rejaunnabi Al Mamun

dent Akhtaruzzaman Bablu were accused in cases. They all were however acquitted by court.

Acting mayor Rejaunnabi Dudu, who was allegedly involved in corruption with Rajshahi Development Authority, is also an aspirant to retain the post.

Other mayor aspirants are AHM Khairuzzaman Liton and Nasir Ahmed Biddut of AL, Enamul Haque and Jahann Panna of BNP.

Durul Huda from Jatiya Party (Ershad), Ruhul Kuddus Tunu of BSD (Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal) and Raibhanur Rahman of PDP (Progressive Democratic Party).

Rejaunnabi Al Mamun, RCC councilor from ward no. 15, who is accused in 10 criminal cases, also submitted nomination. Police said he is evading arrest.

Another polls runner Moniruzzaman Sharif, councilor

from ward no. 19, is widely blamed for land grabbing, cheating people. He was arrested in January by joint forces on charge of criminal activities.

Shahadat Hossain Sahu, councilor from ward no. 17, arrested nine months ago for criminal offences, was released recently. He and his wife Nazma Ali also submitted nominations.

There are allegations of terrorism and tender manipulations against councilors Rabiul Alam Milu and Tarikul Alam Paltu, both aspirants in the coming polls.

A businessman quoting records of law an order committee meeting claimed that at least 60,000 bottles of phenisidyl flew into the city everyday, although making it drug-free was an election pledge.

Promises made ahead of 2002 RCC polls include pipeline supply

of gas to Rajshahi city to boot industries, not to increase taxes, reduce water crisis, build new educational institutes and construct new roads. All remained unfulfilled.

Despite pledges not to increase taxes, holding taxes were increased by 20 per cent and water tariff by 50 per cent in last ten years, said Zamat Khan, convener of Rajshahi Raksha Sangram Parishad (RRSP), a citizens' body. "We reminded the authorities of their pledges", he said.

Rajshahi University teacher Dr Golam Sabbir Sattar said, "We are deprived of civic amenities despite giving taxes."

Lawyer Habibur Rahman said, he can not hope a change through the upcoming election as old faces are showing up and making the same old promises.

Jamuna Fertiliser to remain silent for 12 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Production at Jamuna Fertiliser Factory (JFF) at Tarakandi of Sarishabari upazila in Jamalpur will remain suspended for 12 days due to repair work.

Production suspension at the largest urea producing factory of the country took effect from the early hours of yesterday, JFF sources said.

Meantime, a 31-member team of experts comprising local and Chinese experts reached the factory for repair work on Tuesday. JFF managing director (MD) Mir Mozaffar Hossain said to this correspondent that urea production will remain suspended for 12 days for routine mechanical repair work from yesterday. The step was taken according to the rules of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC), he said. There is sufficient stock of urea in the factory, he said.

Urea production was halted for three days last month (June 3-6) following detection of technical glitches at the plant.

Four rice mills closed in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

The district administration sealed off four rice mills here yesterday for failure to supply rice to government godowns during the ongoing food procurement drive.

The mills are Tye Rice Mills, Nakib Rice Mills, Sujan Rice Mills-2 and Ahmed Rice Mills.

The action was taken after a raid conducted in Khazanagar area in Mirpur upazila by a three-member team led by executive magistrate of Kushtia Jalal Saifur Rahman.

District food officials were also present at that time. About 30,000 metric tonnes of rice was officially targeted for procurement from Sadar upazila in the ongoing season.

But, the mill owners supplied 11,651 metric tonnes of rice only till yesterday, food officials said.

Wife Murder Husband, another remanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Two accused who were arrested on July 4 in connection with Hosne Ara Dolly murder case were placed on remand by a court here yesterday, court sources said.

They are victim's husband Shahin Gazi of Shuktiya village in Tala upazila and Abdul Hamid of Shyamnagar. Shahin was placed on two-day remand and Hamid on three-day remand.

Earlier, investigation officer sub-inspector Nazrul Islam of Patkelghata Police Station submitted the prayer before additional chief judicial magistrate's court for their five-day remand on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Shahin Gazi gave a statement to the judicial magistrate confessing to his involvement in the killing.

UP chairman sent to jail for rape attempt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A magistrate court here sent a union parishad (UP) chairman to jail in connection with a rape case after his appearance before court with a prayer for bail yesterday, court sources said.

Chief judicial magistrate Md Zahidul Islam sent Md Moksed Ali, chairman of Bhaduria UP in Nawabganj upazila to jail after rejecting his bail prayer.

Victim's father Md Ashrafur Islam filed the case with Nawabganj police on June 15 against Moksed Ali for attempting to rape his minor girl.

Body of boy recovered in Rajshahi

RU CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered body of a boy from West Bashua area in Rajshahi city on Tuesday.

Mainul Islam, 15, an employee of Electro Cottage in Saheb Bazar area in the city went missing Monday night, family member said. Residents of West Bashua found him dead near a sugarcane field the next evening.

On information, Rajpara police recovered the body and sent it to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy the same day.

SYLHET CITY CORPORATION POLLS

Gazi quits but consensus still far away in AL

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

In a dramatic move, Awami League Presidium member Dewan Farid Gazi yesterday afternoon withdrew his candidature for the mayoral race in Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) polls.

He was the second among seven AL leaders who submitted nomination papers.

Earlier on Tuesday, district AL secretary Iftekhar Hossain Shamim withdrew his nomination.

With their withdrawal, five persons are there from AL in the mayoral race. They are, incumbent mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran, former lawmaker Inamul Haque Chowdhury Bir Protik, former Sylhet Pourashava chairman Babrur Hossain Babul, city AL secretary Misbah Uddin Siraj and district AL vice-president Abdujahir Chowdhury Sufian.

Nineteen people from different parties and individuals are still in the mayoral run.

Sudden withdrawal by AL's senior most man in Sylhet, Dewan Farid Gazi, raised questions in the party rank and file.

Gazi filed his nomination following pressure from AMA Muhiit, another



Dewan Farid Gazi

AL Presidium member and some others in the party without consulting central leaders, sources told this correspondent.

They somehow convinced Gazi on the plea of a vacuum in absence of incumbent mayor and city AL chief Kamran, who is detained.

With a signal for Kamran from central leadership yesterday, things changed and Gazi took the decision to quit, the sources claimed. Bureaucrat turned politician Muhiit reached Sylhet from the capital yesterday morning.

"Considering the present political situation in the country, I withdrew from the election race", Gazi said.

"However, I will remain with the party's decision for any candidate", he added.

With the withdrawal of two AL aspirants, Kamran will have a better position. But Babul a heavy weight in the district AL, is yet in the race, a number of party men said.

Babul was elected chairman of the then Sylhet pourashava twice and became chairman of Sadar Upazila Parishad once. Former district Mukjoddha Ssangsd chief Inamul Haque Chowdhury Bir Protik has already hinted that he would not support any corrupt man.

However, district AL president ANM Shafigue told the Daily Star, "The 14 party alliance will sit in the capital today to reach a decision for a single candidate for SCC polls. After that we will request others to quit".

A number of mid level AL said many party men and supporters will be in a dilemma for want of a single candidate.

Internal feud in AL surfaced at the extended meeting of city AL on 31 June when many leaders demanded scrapping of the city committee, which is functioning as an adhoc one for three years.

Fishery in Teesta canals creates hopes for the poor

Gen Moeen's dream comes true

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Huts of poor families along Teesta irrigation canals in monga prone Jaldhaka are now lively with new hopes.

They are now getting share of the profit from fishes they produced in the canals, thanks to the initiative by army chief Gen Moeen U Ahmed.

The Teesta project, after completion of its first phase, now has a 33.57 km main canal, two main branch canals stretching 74.85 kms and 215.24 kms of secondary canals. Besides, it has many tertiary canals.

Gen Moeen during a visit to remote Chooradangi village in Jaldhaka adjoining Teesta main canal on November 27 last year realised the immense possibility to contain monga by creating fishery projects in the canals by involving the poor.

He initiated a plan and released fish fry at Chooradangi canal. At a meeting of dignitaries and locals there, he also mentioned possibility of duck rearing in the canals and creating forestry on their banks. These may help remove monga, he told the meeting.

Moeen's call created enthusiasm. The district administration, fishery, live stock and forest departments came forward with plans. The army coordinated.

Fishes was cultivated in about 101 km water bodies of the main canal and branch canals- 75 kms in Nilphamari, 13 kms in Rangpur and 13.5 kms in Dinajpur. A total 3,094 beneficiaries from the



STAR FILE PHOTO

A man holding a big fish netted from a Teesta canal in Jaldhaka upazila at a function recently.

extreme poor were engaged in 17 groups to maintain the projects.

The army funded most of the Tk 18 lac to release fish fry. Fishes like sor pury, rui, katla, mirgal, grasscur which do not harm canals were cultivated. "An excellent success was achieved within six months", said MI Golder, Nilphamari district fishery officer.

GOC of 66 Division Maj Gen Sayeed Fatemi Ahmed Rumeed inaugurated fish netting in Teesta main canal at Horish Chandra Pat area in Jaldhaka on 28 May.

Seventy-five per cent of the money from sale of the fishes is distributed among poor stakeholders and the rest is used to buy fish fry.

Till July 8, about 35 tonnes of fish worth about Tk 38 lakh were netted from the canals. Fishes less than 500gm weight were released again in the canals to become bigger.

Local farmers said the fishery project did not harm irrigation to fields in the last Boro season.

Brigade Commander of 222 Brigade, Brig Gen Abu Belal Muhammad Shafiqul Haque inaugurated distribution of the profit money among the stakeholders on June 30, which will continue through out the current month, project sources said.

Nominate 33pc women in polls Satkhira meeting told

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Speakers at a meeting held here yesterday urged the political parties to nominate 33 per cent of women for contesting the next parliamentary and union parishad (UP) elections.

Steps Towards development and IRRI financed by USAID jointly organised the meeting on 'Role of Journalists in Political Empowerment of Women.' Held at Satkhira Officers' Club, the meeting was chaired by Abdus Sabur.

Speakers also demanded ensuring 33 per cent of women's quota in various committees of political parties and other organisations.

They demanded implementation of the National Women Development Policy-2008 for empowerment of women at all levels in society.

They criticised the government for soft stance against Jamaat and other communal forces who are opposing the policy. They also demanded trial of war criminals.

Correction of juvenile criminals stressed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Speakers at a seminar held here yesterday stressed on correction of juvenile criminals. Bangladesh Retired Police Officers' Association organised the seminar in collaboration with World Vision.

Kushtia superintendent of police Moshleh Uddin Ahmed was in the chair.

Terming it as a psychosocial problem of society, speakers discouraged punishment to juvenile criminals. They urged all concerned for creating child-friendly judiciary. They urged all to be cautious enough in bringing children under legal process.

Police officials, government officials, NGO workers and journalists took part in the seminar.

ATTACK BY BNP CADRES ALLEGED

AL leader Chhabi Rani critical at Khulna hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Bagerhat Awami League leader Chhabi Rani Mandol, seriously injured by alleged BNP activists on Monday night, is undergoing treatment at Khulna Medical college Hospital (KMCH).

Six people carrying iron rods and hockey sticks stormed into her rented apartment on the first floor of Sonali Bank building just opposite to Rampal Police Station, family sources said, adding that electricity was snuffed at that time.

With wounds on the head and fractures in lands, Chhabi Rani fell down on stairs, fainted.

Hearing cry of inmates of the

apartment, police and neighbours rushed there. Rampal upazila Health Officer Ashim Kumar referred Chhabi Rani to KMCH at 10:00pm as she was profusely bleeding and vomiting blood.

She has been kept in the intensive care unit for close observation, doctors at KMCH said.

Police arrested Bagerhat BNP leader Rafiq Fakir from the spot while other attackers managed to escape as it was dark due to power outage, sources said.

Rafiq Fakir was produced before court from where he was sent to Bagerhat jail, being shown arrested under Section 54.

A vigorous investigation into

this incident has been initiated although the victim or anybody else on behalf of her is yet to lodge any FIR, said Bagerhat police superintendent AKM Shahidur Rahman. Chhabi Rani told this correspondent at 1:30pm yesterday that she could recognise three attackers named Rafiq Fakir, Harun Sheikh and Alam Mallick.

Harun Sheikh is one of the accused in the case filed with Rampal Police Station in connection with BNP cadres' attack on her on August 21 in 2002, she said.

The case filed with Rampal Police Station in connection with the incident is still under trial in a Bagerhat court.

KIDNEY MISSING AFTER OPERATION

Case filed, hospital denies allegation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Authorities of Natore Baptist Mission Hospital at a press conference at the hospital yesterday denied the allegation made in a case that kidney of a patient was missing since her operation on May 5, 2006.

The victim's mother filed a case with Natore Chief Judicial Magistrate court Tuesday alleging that the right side kidney of her minor daughter Shamoly was missing since her operation at the hospital.

Court asked Natore police to take it as an FIR and probe the matter, according to court sources.

In the case, Sefali Khatun, mother of 6 year-old Shamoly, accused Dr. Masasi Tumioko, director and chief medical officer of Natore Baptist Mid Mission Hospital and its doctor Dr. Bijoni Prova.

In the case, she stated that Shamoly became sick in 2006. A tumor was detected in her abdomen in diagnosis at Pabna General Hospital, which needed operation.

The operation was done on May 11, 2006 at Natore Mission Hospital.

As she did not improve and felt complicity, another ultra sonogram was done at Natore mission hospital three days after the operation. The hospital gave a report stating that that both her kidney were normal.

As my daughter was becoming sick day by day, I took her to the hospital several times.

After another ultra sonogram done on March 31 this year, the mission hospital reported that her liver, gall bladder and kidneys are normal, but her condition deteriorated.

"Then we took her to Pabna General Hospital. On advice of doctors there, we did ultra sonogram in Pabna PDC Hospital. In the report the PDC Hospital said right side kidney of my daughter is missing."

"We then took her to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where doctors said her right side kidney is missing and that my daughter is attacked with cancer".

Mentionably, victim Shamoly's family a press conference at Pabna Press Club earlier alleged that her kidney was stolen during operation at Natore Baptist Mid Mission

Hospital. The complainant mentioned 13 witnesses in the case, including eight doctors of Pabna General Hospital and Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Denying the allegation, at the press conference yesterday, Baptist Mid Mission Hospital authorities said, "We completed the treatment of Shamoly in a proper way and she returned home well."

"The patient was admitted to the hospital on 10/05/2006 and the operation was completed the next day (11/05/2006) and (she) returned home on 17/05/2006 becoming fit."

After that we have examined the patient several times and found her all right. The complainant did not complain to us within this time."

"There is no scope to transplant kidney in our hospital. So it is absolutely a wrong complaint against us", they said.

Administrative officer of the hospital Stiphan Joydhar, medical officer Dr. Kamini and other officials were present at the press conference.

Youth generates power without fuel

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

A young boy of Dinajpur has invented an environment-friendly power plant that can be operated without any fuel inputs like gas or coal and would not emit smokes.

On Tuesday, 19-year-old Md Shahed Hossain of Pulhat village in Dinajpur town, demonstrated his 'BSDP Power Plant' in the presence of a number of people including Dinajpur Deputy Commissioner Md Nabiul Haque Mollah, Dinajpur Municipality Mayor Md Shafiqul Haque, Major Nazrul Islam and Dinajpur Press Club President Chitta Ghosh.

The 30KW power plant made at a cost of Tk 12 lakh, can be extended up to 125MW Power Plant if entrepreneurs of the country as well as government extend their hands, he told The Daily Star.

With the help of two Dhaka-based electric and agriculture



PHOTO: STAR

Inventor Shahed Hossain demonstrating power generation without fuel at his plant in Dinajpur on Tuesday.

equipment parts sellers he bought required parts to build his power plant and fitted these at his house to generate electricity. Eventually, Shahed was successful in making

his own power plant.

Shaded said he set two 3KV motors in his plant and with the help of a 12-volt battery, it produces at least 22KW electric power.

Deputy Commissioner Nabiul Haque, who inaugurated the plant by pressing the power switch, said he would provide all-out cooperation to Shahed.