

Convicts, reformists

FROM PAGE 1
Ahmed, Mosharrar Hossain Mango, Shah Abul Hossain, Rezaul Bari Dina, Ziaul Haque Mollah, GM Seraj and Abdul Manna Talukder were among the so-called reformist BNP leaders who bought forms yesterday.

Among the high-profile BNP leaders who bought nomination forms, Speaker barrister Jamiruddin Sircar bought forms for Panchagarh-1, Chowdhury Tanbir Ahmed Siddiky for Dhaka-15, Dhaka-18, Gazipur-7, Gazipur-8 and Laxmipur-2, Lt Gen (ret'd) Mahbubur Rahman for Dinajpur-2, ASM Hannan Shah for Dhaka-17 and Gazipur-4, Selima Rahman for Barisal-2 and Barisal-3, Shah Moazzem Hossain for Munshiganj-1 and Rizvi Ahmed for Rajshahi-3.

The leaders bought the forms through their representatives on the first day of the two-day selling and submission of nominations.

A significant number of fresh faces collected forms on the first day from the six booths at the office opened for the six divisions.

Since early morning, BNP nomination aspirants from across the country started arriving at the office accompanied by their supporters. The area surrounding the offices was in a festive mood. The supporters chanted slogans in

favour of their candidates.

Nomination seekers said they were happy to collect the forms but they were not sure of being able to contest the polls since BNP high-ups would decide who gets party tickets.

Yesterday BNP did not sell forms for 37 constituencies and leaders and supporters from those constituencies demonstrated in front of the party office.

The nomination aspirants must pay Tk 1,000 for buying each form and Tk 20,000 while submitting the form to the party's central office by today 10:00pm.

Many nomination seekers complained that the money BNP is taking for submitting nomination forms is a lot higher than other parties are taking.

BNP Assistant Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan on Monday said interview of the prospective candidates would start from November 27 while party Secretary General Delwar Hossain said when the submission of nomination papers is done, party parliamentary board will finalise the candidates.

However, Delwar told reporters yesterday, "Leaders would be nominated by the chairperson considering how they performed in the party after the promulgation of state of emergency."

Bomb attack

FROM PAGE 1
Mizan alias 'Bomb' Mizan, an explosives expert of the outfit, Md Shahadat Ali and Abdul Malek alias Laltu. Of them, Mizan is still at large while the rest three are in jail custody.

According to the prosecution, the four JMB men tried to enter the court of Second Joint District and Assistant Sessions Judge Abu Syed Dilzar Hossain on the first floor of Chittagong Judge's Court Building on October 3, 2005 but were halted by the on-duty constables.

Being resisted, the militants threw a bomb at the judge but it missed the target and fell on a table in front of the judge. No one was hurt, as the bomb did not explode.

Police arrested Shahadat on the spot and recovered another bomb from his possession while Javed and Laltu were arrested later.

Acase was filed with Kotwali Police Station in connection with the bomb attack the following day. Police submitted the charge sheet to the court on November 2, 2005.

Directed by the court, police did further investigation into the case and submitted additional charge sheet on May 8, 2006.

BNP grassroots

FROM PAGE 1
Naogaon district unit President Jalal Ahmed Bakul said, "The survey team collected information about candidates but did not talk to us directly."

Golger Hossain, president of Joypurhat Chhatra Dal, said, "We attended a meeting at the party's central office in Dhaka and voted to finalise candidature for our constituency but as of now we do not know the result of that poll." Golger yesterday collected BNP's nomination form for Joypurhat-1 constituency.

TIM Mohitul Ghani, president of Ghosairhat upazila in Shariatpur, and Prof Abdun Nur, president of Shapahar upazila in Naogaon, said they also did not get any direction for sending names of prospective candidates.

They said a survey team talked with the locals about prospective candidates but did not talk directly with the party leaders.

Alamgir Satu, former president of Meherpur BNP district committee, said they did not send any panel of names to the central because the party leadership did not ask them to.

"We only got forms from surveyors to mention the names of prospective candidates and we do not know anything more," Motia Haque, president of Puthia upazila Mahila Dal, told The Daily Star. She also collected nomination form from the party central office yesterday.

Selimuzzaman Selim, member of the district committee of Gopalganj BNP, said they have so far held three meetings on their own but did not prepare any panel of prospective candidates.

When asked about the nomination process, Waliullah Rabbani, general secretary of Kishoreganj district BNP, said it is going on according to the direction of the party chairperson and party constitution.

Toxic oil tanker

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another court vacated the previous court order following a petition filed by the importer of the ship.

Now the importer is dismantling the ship at Sitakunda ship-breaking yard of Madina Enterprise, locally known as Siko Steel ship-breaking yard. The importer first obtained the shipping ministry's clearance by providing wrong information, ministry sources said.

As environmentalists have raised voice against the move, the ministry's chief chemist, Dr Md Mosharraf Ashraf, later cancelled the NOC (no 08070384, issued on August 13), on the ground that the ship is blacklisted by Greenpeace.

The importer later filed a writ petition to the High Court, which directed the people concerned not to beach the tanker.

The importer then produced an inspection certificate to the court. The certificate issued by the shipping ministry said inspectors did not find anything hazardous in the ship, earning a go-ahead from the court.

The ministry, however, did not include any other party in the inspection process.

Allowing such ships into Bangladesh waters is a violation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, 1989, which Bangladesh ratified in 1993.

Kitchen market

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"We are producing fertiliser in such a process that we save half a tonne of greenhouse gas in producing one tonne of fertiliser," said AH Md Maqsood Sinha, managing director of the plant--VWR Bio Fertiliser Bangladesh Ltd.

A UN-approved body--Designated Operating Entity (DOE)--examines whether a plant generates carbon or not, and provides certificates in this regard. Such certificates have a \$25 billion global market.

Under the CDM, developed countries have to meet their obligations to cut carbon emissions by sponsoring carbon-cutting schemes in poor countries.

PRODUCTION METHOD
Organic waste is collected from the kitchen markets and carried to the fertiliser plant. Dried and fresh waste is then mixed and piled up at specially-made pre-composting site at the plant. In the composting process, temperature is kept at 60 degrees Celsius and oxygen level above 10 percent.

Composting and drying in different phases take 40 to 55 days before the production of bio-fertiliser. As much as 25 to 30 tonnes of bio-fertiliser can be produced from 100 tonnes of waste.

Fertiliser produced at this plant will be sold at Tk 4 to 5 per kg while bio-fertiliser now sells at Tk 10 to 12 per kg.

The plant built at a cost of

12.5 million euro now handles 138 tonnes of organic waste a day. Two more plants will be set up at Gazipur and Savar next year, raising the total capacity of handling waste up to 700 tonnes per day.

In the capital, 3,500 to 4,000 tonnes of waste are generated every day, of which 80 percent is organic.

Agriculture Adviser CS Karim yesterday inaugurated the plant while Dutch Ambassador in Dhaka Mrs Bea Ten Trusscher attended the opening ceremony as special guest.

Others present on the occasion included Mayor of Narayanganj Pourasabha Selina Hayat Ivy, Jan Banoo, chairman of the plant, Mohammed Reazuddin, member-secretary of Designated National Authority on CDM of Bangladesh government, and Shirin Kamal of the UNDP.

Ex-whip Zahed

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amassing illegal wealth and concealing information about it.

Zahed filed the writ petition with the HC challenging the legality of the initiation and continuation of the proceedings of the case.

Barrister Abdur Razzaq appeared for the petitioner, while Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan stood for ACC.

Emergency

FROM PAGE 1
of the emergency, which was imposed in the country on January 11, 2007, a day before the formation of Fakhruddin Ahmed-led present government.

He said the EC had fruitful discussions with political parties and both BNP and Awami League (AL) announced to take part in the polls. "We have gradually been saying our thoughts about the emergency," he added.

The commerce adviser said the political parties, government, media and others have shown their patience [regarding lifting of the emergency] and finally all came out successful, creating a strong base for transition to democracy.

"I hope we will be able to overcome rest of the challenges as all of us are now working together for the transition," Zillur told the reporters, saying that they are ready and committed to hold a free, fair and neutral election.

He also hoped that the caretaker government would be victorious in meeting the national expectation.

Two major political parties--BNP and AL--have been pressing for lifting of the emergency ahead of the election. BNP demands to lift emergency from the last date of nomination paper withdrawal while AL has been asking to remove it even before that.

ARMY CHIEF Inflation drops

FROM PAGE 1
said inflation rate on food items was decreasing gradually over the last few months. It however fell drastically last month due to adequate supply of boro and aus rice in the market following a bumper harvest. And it had its impact on prices of food items.

The sources said prices of non-food items also fell consequently.

In October, inflation rate in rural areas was 7.31 per cent compared to 10.62 per cent in September. The rate in urban areas was 7.12 per cent in October against 9.12 per cent in the previous month.

Tigers brace

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one specialist batsman and in that case Rokibul Hasan, who was dropped for the abandoned third one-dayer due to poor form after recovering from injury, came in place of all-rounder Nayeem Islam to make his Test debut.

Although the home side expected Bangladesh to offer resistance in the second Test ahead of their tough home series against Australia skipper Graeme Smith made it clear that they will not show any complacency against the Tigers.

The left-hander also said that they are very much keen to maintain their hundred per cent record against the visitors.

"Though the Australia series is in our mind but right now we are completely focussed on the second Test," said Smith in a pre-match press conference yesterday. South Africa made their

practice in the morning at the venue while Bangladesh went on the afternoon to complete their final preparations.

There was no rain yesterday but thunder while the Tigers were practicing and the sporadic rain is not unlikely during the second Test also.

TEAMS
BANGLADESH (from): Imrul Kayes, Tamim Iqbal, Zunaed Siddiqui, Mohammad Ashraful (captain), Mehrab Hossain, Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim, Nayeem Islam, Rokibul Hasan, Mashrafe Mortaza, Shahadat Hossain and Mahbubul Alam.

SOUTH AFRICA (from): Graeme Smith (captain), Neil McKenzie, Hashim Amla, Jacques Kallis, AB de Villiers, Ashwell Prince, Mark Boucher, Robin Peterson, Morne Morkel, Dale Steyn, Makhaya Ntini, JP Duminy and Monde Zondeki.

Pope prefers dialogue of cultures, rather than religions

AFP, Rome

Dialogue between religions, in the strict sense of the term, is impossible, said Pope Benedict XVI in the preface to a book published in Italy yesterday.

But a dialogue on the cultural implications of religions was "particularly urgent," said the pontiff.

The pope's comments came in a brief letter to the right-wing deputy Marcello Pera, published as the preface to Pera's book "Why we must say we are Christians."

Its publication comes less than three weeks after the pope hosted historic interfaith talks between leading Muslims and Christians, at which both sides called for religious freedom, non-violence and a fairer world.

This latest text underlines the pope's reluctance to enter into a truly theological dialogue with non-Christians.

AL gambles

FROM PAGE 1
Dhaka-12, Jahangir Kabir Nanak Dhaka-13, Aslamul Haque Aslam Dhaka-14, Kamal Ahmed Majumder Dhaka-15, Ilias Molla Dhaka-16, Dr Alauddin Ahmed Dhaka-17 and Shahara Khatun for Dhaka-18.

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon is the AL-led grand alliance's candidate for Dhaka-8.

Sanjida, general secretary of Shyamur thana AL, is a new face in the parliamentary race. She has a good image among the AL leaders and workers for standing in the court for the AL chief.

Habibur Rahman Mollah was arrested by the army-led joint force after the 1/11 changeover last year and detained for months on graft charges.

Insiders said AL might leave the seat for Jatuya Party.

Dipu, son of businessman Nazrul Islam Khan Badal, sought nomination for Munshiganj-2 in the cancelled election of January 22 last year. Sources said a relative of Hasina had influenced her to choose Dipu in place of former city mayor Mohammad Hanif's son Sayeed Khokon.

AL leaders think even Menon's selection for a city seat was not a right decision. He should have been nominated for his own constituency in Barisal (Babuganj-Ujirpur).

Businessman Rahmatullah is a corruption suspect and had been on the run after the 1/11. He returned home a few months ago.

Asaduzzaman is the president of Tejgaon thana AL and is less known among the voters. AL might concede the seat to Liberal Democratic Party if the latter joins the grand electoral alliance.

Taposh, Hasina's nephew and counsel, got the nod for Dhaka-12 constituency. Party leaders think he has a clean image among the city residents.

Nanak, president of Jubo League, had been in flight after January 11 last year and returned home only a month ago.

According to AL leaders, there are a number of allegations against Aslam including landgrabbing.

Kamal Majumder was arrested by the joint forces soon after the caretaker government launched the anti-graft drive last year. The Anti-Corruption Commission filed a case against him on September 24 the same year.

Both he and Ilias Mollah have allegations against them of patronising crime in Mirpur area.

Dr Alauddin, a member of the party's parliamentary board, is not known to party leaders and workers in Dhaka-17. Again, sources said, AL might pass the seat to JP.

Hasina

FROM PAGE 1
The AL chief said players are still around the game of election and urged people to remain alert so that a free and fair election can be held.

Talking about repeated changes in election schedule, Hasina said she has accepted the fresh polls schedule for the sake of democracy despite all these facts.

"We've accepted the election date on December 29. If there is any further delay in holding the election, then people will not accept it," she added.

Hasina said she does not believe in the politics of vengeance rather wants to put the country forward peacefully. "If AL is voted to power I'll take steps so that people can live in peace."

7 special trains

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He said of the seven special trains, one will be operated on Dhaka-Rajshahi route, one on Dhaka-Mymensingh route, one on Dhaka-Dewanganj route, one on Joydevpur-Ishwardganj route while two on Chittagong-Chandpur route and another train on Chittagong-Cornilla route.

He also said various measures have been taken to check the irregularities in ticket selling and to ensure security for the passengers.

Meanwhile, BR started sale of advance train tickets yesterday. The advance tickets are available between 8:00am to 4:00pm till December 1.

Advance tickets for journeys on December 2 were sold out by yesterday while tickets for December 3 will be sold today. Tickets for December 4 will be available on November 27 while for December 5 on

November 28, for December 6 on November 29, for December 7 on November 30 and for December 8 on December 1.

Advance train tickets are now available at Dhaka Airport, Joydevpur, Chittagong and Sylhet stations.

Nripendra Saha, Kamalapur Station Master-2, told The Daily Star that on the first day of advance ticket selling, a total of 898 tickets were sold out against its capacity of about 14,000.

He said the demand for special and advance tickets would go high before and after three days of the Eid festival. Kamalapur station sources said on the first day of advance ticket selling, several hundred ticket-seekers thronged the ticket counters to have advance tickets. Many of them reached there very early hours of yesterday. However, everybody got

Lankan troops

FROM PAGE 16
The government has vowed to crush the rebels and end their decades-old separatist campaign. Government soldiers in recent months have captured a number of key rebel bases and large swaths of land previously controlled by the guerrillas, seizing the country's entire west and forcing the insurgents into a shrinking territory in the north-east.

Sri Lanka's government, which pulled out of a Norwegian-brokered truce in January, has vowed to take the Tiger's political capital and dismantle the LTTE's mini-state.

Authorities in Sri Lanka have restricted access to the embattled areas for journalists as well as most aid workers, meaning that claims by either side in the decades-old conflict are normally impossible to verify independently.

However, the rebels have offered stiff resistance as the soldiers approach Kilinochchi.

The Tamil Tigers have fought since 1983 to create an independent homeland for ethnic minority Tamils who have suffered marginalization by successive governments controlled by ethnic Sinhalese.

More than 70,000 people have been killed in the violence.

Thai govt

FROM PAGE 16
they believed a government meeting was taking place.

Nattawut said he would not confirm where the government was meeting.

"The government is fully functional and continues to work as usual but we cannot disclose where the government is working right now because it will provoke PAD and might cause a lot of trouble," he said, speaking by telephone.

He added that the government "intends to negotiate with PAD to get the temporary government house back in a few days."

The protesters, seeking the resignation of what they allege is a corrupt government, camped overnight at Don Muang airport.

Nattawut said more than 1,000 government employees evacuated the offices at Don Muang airport Monday afternoon.

The airport's VIP section was about half a mile (1 kilometre) from the main passenger terminal and protesters showed no immediate sign of trying to disrupt travel.

However, travellers were advised to arrive early for flights, and traffic was expected to be heavier than usual because of the protest, the airport's deputy director, Viroj Ewcharen, said in a statement.

Tuesday's activities marked the second day of what the People's Alliance for Democracy calls its "final showdown" with the government.

Thousands of protesters blockaded Parliament on Monday and forced it to postpone a special joint session of both houses. Smaller rallies were held at the Finance Ministry and other government offices.

Thailand's political crisis began in 2006, when a similar campaign against then-Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra

their desired tickets.

Zahidul Islam, 35, of Kathalbag in the city who also hails from Noakhali district said he went to the station after Fazr prayers yesterday to get advance rail tickets for December 2 and he got his tickets after waiting for three hours in a long queue.

He also said during the past Eid festivals, he got three advance tickets for Noakhali after standing in a queue for over four hours.

Somali pirates

FROM PAGE 16
which has disrupted commercial traffic in the Gulf of Aden, a major world maritime trade route.

On November 15, the largest ship ever seized by pirates was hijacked in the Indian Ocean.

Pirates have demanded a ransom of 25 million dollars for the release of the Saudi-owned Sirius Star, with a cargo of two million barrels of crude oil and a crew of 25.

Somali pirates currently hold at least 17 ships and more than 250 crew.

EC asked

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Khondker Mahbubuddin Ahmed told reporters that the HC ruling means there is no bar to his client's standing for election to Jatuya Sangsad.

However, application of the stay is exclusive to the DCC mayor as he is the only petitioner in this regard.

Meanwhile, some lawyers said mayors of the other city corporations too can benefit from this order provided they move similar petitions in this court.

EC's counsel Shahdeen Malik said the commission's decision is not against any particular individual.

Rather, it was based on a section of the Representation of the People Order that says a person shall be disqualified for election as a member of parliament if he is holding an office of profit in the service of the republic or a statutory body.

Malik added that the question whether a city corporation mayor's is an office of profit would soon be settled at the court of law.

The EC on November 17 decided that mayors are not qualified to compete in the national election since they enjoy financial and other benefits from statutory authorities like city corporations and municipalities.

It also concluded that for seeking election to parliament mayors will have to resign their positions before filing nominations.

On November 23, Khoka filed the petition challenging the decision and seeking a stay on its operation.

During hearing yesterday, his counsel Ruhul Quddus Kajal argued that the city corporation is a statutory body and its mayor's office is not of profit.

The EC's decision was arbitrary and not in conformity with the existing laws, he said.

27th BCS results

FROM PAGE 16
During the second viva voce, all the 976 viva boards were completed with experts from different sectors. But 155 viva boards out of 676 were incomplete in the first viva voce," the PSC chairman also said.

"Please ask that person of the government who assured unsuccessful candidates of considering their results," Saadat said in reply to a query.

Few days ago, Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman assured the candidates, who came out successful in the first phase result but was later dropped in the second phase result, of considering the issue.

Meanwhile, a total of 5,783 candidates will not be able to sit for the 28th BCS preliminary examinations to be held on November 28.

"We have cancelled the applications of 5,783 candidates due to various faults in the applications. Many candidates did not sign applications, mentioned incorrect birth date and choose ineligible cadres," said the PSC chairman at the conference.

He, however, said conditional admit cards will be given to those candidates who did not enclose all the required documents along with the main application.

"The examinees who did not receive admit cards due to lack of necessary documents and papers along with their applications have been asked to collect their admit cards prior to Friday's exams. But the required papers, however, must reach PSC by December 15," he added.

Saadat also said that a set of questions have been prepared for the first time to check the leakage of the question papers. "Just before starting the preliminary test, all the

20 hurt

FROM PAGE 16
Ramna police said they had to charge truncheons to disperse the two groups to make the road free for traffic movement.

Delwar Hossain, vice-president of Karnaphuli Garden City Owners' Association, alleged that the students always gather and tease female customers.

UZ poll

FROM PAGE 1
Election Commissioner Brig Gen (ret'd) M Sakawat Hussain told reporters yesterday.

He said the EC will have to revise the voter list from January 2 if it cancels the upazila election schedules announced on November 2.

"But if the upazila election is held on January 22, the commission will not need to update the voter list as per the electoral roll ordinance," he added.

Sakawat said it might not be possible for the EC to hold the upazila election under a fresh schedule after the parliamentary elections, scheduled for December 29.

About political parties' demand for holding upazila elections after the parliamentary polls, he said the political parties had feared that the law and order situation might deteriorate if the campaigns for both elections go on simultaneously.

According to the new poll dates for both the elections, the campaign for upazila elections will begin after completion of the parliamentary elections.

BCS centres in the six divisional headquarters will be informed about the question paper that will be distributed among the examinees," he said.

The result of the preliminary test will be published within one month while the whole process including written examination and viva voce of the 28th BCS will be completed by December 2009, the PSC chairman added.

"Of the 1,20,946 applicants for the 28th BCS preliminary exams, 1,15,163 filled their application forms correctly," said Ehsan Shamim, member of the PSC, while reading out the keynote paper at the conference.

The 28th BCS preliminary exams will be held in 103 examination centres of Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet at 10:00am.

Meanwhile, thousands of candidates who did not get the admit card, staged a demonstration in front of the PSC office yesterday. They also threatened to file a writ petition against the PSC today if the commission does not provide them with admit cards by 10:00am.

5 powder milk

FROM PAGE 1
seeking directions to the companies