

RANGPUR CITY CORPORATION POLLS

13 file nominations for mayoral post

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Thirteen candidates have filed nomination papers for the mayoral post in the Rangpur City Corporation (RCC) polls, slated for December 20.

Of them, 12 turned in their applications yesterday, the last day for submission.

As many as 357 candidates for councillor posts and 92 candidates for women's reserved councillor posts have also filed their nomination papers, said Monirul Islam, zonal election officer of Rangpur, also the returning officer of the city corporation polls.

Moshiur Rahman Ranga, presidium member of Jatiya Party (JP-Ershad), AKM Abdur Rauf Manik, former organising secretary of JP central committee and former Rangpur municipality mayor, and Mostafizar Rahman Mostafa, former chairman of Rangpur Sadar Upazila Parishad and member secretary of JP Rangpur district unit, filed nomination papers yesterday.

Earlier on November 6, the Jatiya

Party (JP) announced its support to Moshiur Rahman Ranga for contesting the Rangpur city mayoral election.

Firoz Kabir Chowdhury Gunjan, former general secretary of Rangpur Sadar upazila unit of ruling Awami League (AL), filed his nomination paper on Saturday while Sharfuddin Ahmed Jhantu, former lawmaker and member of advisory committee of Rangpur district unit AL, and Shafiar Rafman Shafi, president of AL Rangpur city unit, submitted their nomination papers yesterday.

Local leaders of AL are preparing to enter the battle of ballots although the party is yet to announce support for any mayoral aspirant.

The others who applied for mayoral candidacy yesterday include Kayser Zaman Babla, former president of Rangpur municipality unit BNP, Majirul Islam Liton, general secretary of Workers Party Rangpur district unit, Faruk Aziz Shahin of Nagorik Oikyo and

ATM Golam Mostafa of Islami Shashontantra Andolan, Mehedy Hasan, Kayumuzzaman, and Ali Haydar Dulu.

Main opposition BNP has not yet expressed any interest to contest the Rangpur city corporation polls.

Meanwhile on November 11, around 700 leaders and activists of Rangpur district committee of JP (Ershad) resigned en masse in protest against extending party support to Moshiur Rahman Ranga for the mayoral post.

Others two JP candidates for the mayoral post -- Manik and Mostafa also resigned from their party post.

After submitting their resignation letters, Manik and Mostafa also announced forming of a new party named 'Trinamool Jatiya Party'.

The Election Commission officials will scrutinise the applications of candidates on November 21 and November 22.

The last day for withdrawal of candidacy is November 29.



PHOTO: STAR
Women voters queue up at Garotto Government Primary School polling centre in Digor union of Ghatail upazila under Tangail district to exercise their right of franchise during the by-election in Tangail-3 constituency yesterday.

Kids attend classes in risky building

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Most of the 1,700 students of Khepupara High School in Kalapara upazila town have to attend their classes in a dilapidated building.

Set up in 1930 at Kalapara on the bank of Andharmanik River, the institution was later upgraded as a 'high English school'. In 1960-61, authorities built a one-story building that still serves as the main building of the school.

But it has become highly risky due to lack of renovation. Chunks of plaster fall off the roof and walls, sometimes hurting teachers and students during classes.

Damage in the pillars makes the building vulnerable to collapse anytime.

Three small buildings

were made later but their accommodation is too limited and most of around 1,700 students studying in classes VI to X have to attend classes in the main building.

"Often we look at the roof and walls instead of the teacher and books as chunks of plasters fall off. Our dress and books and khatas become dirty as sand often falls from the roof," said Siam, a student of class eight.

Md Shahadat Hossain, headmaster of the school, said, "Despite the serious risk, we have to conduct classes at the building as there is no alternative."

"We could not do necessary renovation work due to lack of fund. We sent several letters to the higher authorities including the

Directorate General of Education and the Ministry of Education, demanding steps in this regard," he said.

KM Rafiqul Islam, project director of Secondary and Higher Education, last year sent a letter, informing that the school was brought under the Model School Project and infrastructural development would be done soon. But no step is yet in sight," he added.

Md Mahbubur Rahman, upazila education officer, said, "A problem arose regarding construction of the school building under the Model School Project. I hope that the problem would be over very soon and then the work for constructing a new building will start."



PHOTO: STAR
Students of Khepupara High School in Kalapara upazila under Patuakhali district have to attend classes in such risky rooms.

BNP calls hartal in Rangpur city today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Rangpur district unit of BNP and its associate bodies called for an eight-hour hartal in the city from 6:00am today protesting the murder of a Jubo Dal leader.

In support of the hartal, the district BNP and its associate bodies brought out a procession from Grand Hotel intersection in the city yesterday. After paraded the main streets, the procession ended at Payra Chatter.

Rezaul Karim Milon, 40, information and research secretary of Jubo Dal district unit, was stabbed to death in Pasharipara area in the city by an unidentified gang on the night of November 12.

Police and local sources said the gang came to Milon's office in the area in two motorbikes at around 8:00pm and stabbed him.

Milon, also a cable operator in the area, was rushed to Rangpur Medical College and Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

Elephants kill farmer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

An indigenous farmer was trampled to death by wild elephants at Shomnathpara village in Bakshiganj upazila yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Philip Sangma, 55, of the village.

Police said a herd of wild elephants entered the paddy field of the victim in search of food at around 3:00am.

The elephants attacked Philip when he tried to drive them away. He died on the spot, police said.



PHOTO: STAR
This bailey bridge on Durgapur-Mymensingh road at Rajabazar in Purbodhala upazila under Netrakona district collapsed under the pressure of a clay-laden truck yesterday morning, causing suspension of road communication with the district headquarters.

Bailey bridge collapses in Netrakona

Road link with Purbodhala upazila snapped

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Road communication of the district town with Purbodhala upazila remained snapped as a bailey bridge at Rajabazar point on Durgapur-Mymensingh road in the upazila collapsed yesterday morning.

The 180-foot-long bridge over Rajakhal canal fell down when a clay-laden truck was crossing through it at around 6:30am.

Locals said they were facing untold sufferings due to the disruption of the road

communication. A large number of people, who used the bridge, are now crossing the canal by boats.

No steps were yet to take to repair the bridge after the Department of the

Roads and Highways declared it vulnerable three years ago, alleged locals.

Contacted, RHD executive engineer Masud Khan at Netrakona said they would take initiative soon to arrange an alternative way for movement of light vehicles.

The residents urged the authorities to repair the bridge without much delay.

Schoolboy abducted for ransom killed, 3 arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Police yesterday recovered the body of schoolboy, who was abducted for ransom from Brombhapur village in Natore Sadar upazila on November 12.

Earlier on Saturday night, police arrested three alleged kidnappers and extracted information from them about the body of the murdered boy.

The victim is Anik Hossain, 11, son of Rezaul Karim of Brombhapur village, and a Class VII student of Brombhapur High School.

"Unidentified criminals called Anik over mobile phone on November 12 and he went missing afterwards. The next day, the kidnappers

demanded Tk 5 lakh as ransom and threatened to kill Anik if I inform the police or media men about the abduction," Joly Begum, mother of the victim, said.

As Joly did not pay the ransom and informed Natore police on Friday, the kidnappers killed Anik, said Apel Mahmud, assistant superintendent of police, Natore Circle.

Based on mobile tracking, police arrested Rana, 22, Saiful, 23, and Tipu Sultan, 25, on Saturday night.

Following their confessional statement, police later recovered Anik's body from a sugarcane field in Jagodishpur Beel (a large water body) in Puthia upazila yesterday, Apel Mahmud said.

Advertorial

Knowledge Sharing on Public Labour Inspections in Germany

Photo by GIZ

In order to learn more about the role of the estate labour inspection systems in Germany, officials from the Ministry of Labor and Employment of Bangladesh along with other partners visited Germany from 9th to 18th November 2012. Officials shown on the photo are the Secretary in Charge of the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoL&E), Mr. Mikhail Shipar (fourth person from the right) with Mr. Raimund Fußeder, Deputy Director of the Bavarian State Directorate of Labour (fifth person from the right), Mr. Magnus Schmid, GIZ Program Coordinator for PSES project (sixth person from the right) and other officials from the MoL&E, GIZ and partners. The visit was organized by the project "Promotion of Social and Environmental Standards in the Industry (PSES)", a joint project of the Governments of Bangladesh and Germany, implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

Excellence in Education

British international standards & Bangladesh's achievements for the future

This is set to be an unprecedented event exploring the phenomenon of importing western standards of education to schools in the east. Both speakers have traveled the world and led implementation programmes for a number of international schools. This event is a unique opportunity to hear from them and engage them in an extended question and answer session.

This is a must attend for any parent with a concern for excellence in education in Dhaka.

Date: 23rd November, 7.30pm-9.30pm
Venue: Baton Rouge Convention Center
Pink City (8th floor), Gulshan #2, Dhaka.

Registration fee Tk 500/- with dinner @ Baton Rouge.
For registration SMS your Full Name & email id to 0161 88777 12 or e-mail: ashique.saleh@yahoo.com by 21st Nov, 2012.

Guest Speakers:
Akram Khan Cheema OBE
Senior British OFSTED Inspector
George Mardel
World Renown Education Commentator

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