

Ranga quits Rangpur polls

12 in mayoral race

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A total of 12 candidates will contest for mayor in the Rangpur City Corporation polls as the Jatiya Party...

Earlier, the Election Commission gave the nod to all 13 candidates who had submitted their nomination papers to contest for the mayoral post.

Ranga went to the zonal election office of Rangpur on Thursday afternoon and withdrew his nomination from the poll slated for December 20.

Meanwhile, Monirul Islam, returning officer of the city corporation election, yesterday allotted poll symbols to 12 mayoral contestants.

Soon after getting allotment of poll symbols, the candidates began their campaign in the city.

Before withdrawing his nomination paper, Ranga at a press conference in Rangpur told reporters "As a leader of Jatiya Party, I must comply with the decision of the party's high-up. Therefore, I stepped aside from the contest."

Leaders and activists of the party, who mainly support Ranga, became aggrieved by his decision but hailed the party chairman's decision of expelling its two leaders -- Abdur Rouf Manik and Mostafizar Rahman Mostafa.

Tigers' teamwork

FROM PAGE 1 ahead in terms of talent and experience. Those assumptions were based on West Indies' 2-0 white-wash in the Test series, but the Tigers put the Test results behind them and picked up from where they had left off in ODI cricket -- their rabble-raising performance in the Asia Cup in March.

It was almost as if eight months had not passed since. For opener Tamim Iqbal it may as well not have as he gave the Tigers the perfect start to the modest chase with a 51-ball 58, his fifth successive half-century dating back to the first match of the Asia Cup against Pakistan. To the very second ball he stepped out to off-spinner Marlon Samuels and lofted him over mid-off for four, stamping his authority early much like his West Indian counterpart Chris Gayle likes to do.

He put on 88 for the first wicket with debutant Anamul Haque at close to a run-a-ball, and while Anamul took his time and struggled early against the pace of Roach, Tamim was in imperious form, treating all bowlers with disdain. Before being caught at point off a bad ball from Sunil Narine, he hit eight fours and a six, the stand-out shot being a unique looking slash in front of point off Roach that carried for six.

Tamim's departure expectedly slowed down the pace of scoring but it did not cause any jitters. Anamul, on 26 at that point carried on the good work. His growing confidence was signalled by a hook off Caribbean skipper Darren Sammy that perfectly

bisected the square leg and fine leg fielders. Another four in the punishing shot off Sammy in the 23rd over was however followed by a top-edged pull which the West Indian skipper pounced in his big hands.

But the measure of Bangladesh's maturity, especially in the ODI format came in the fact that they did not panic even when the West Indians scented blood. Naem Islam and Nasir Hossain carried the score to 157 before Nasir departed to a cut straight to Kieron Pollard at point off Andre Russel. Captain Mushfiqur Rahim came in and supported Naem as they crossed the finish line in the 41st over without much fuss.

Earlier, West Indies were met with a disciplined bowling effort by Bangladesh opening bowlers Mashrafe Mortaza and Abul Hasan. Mashrafe stuck to an off stump line to the dangerous Gayle, beating the big West India on numerous occasions. At the other end Hasan bowled with good pace and troubled Lendl Simmons, who looked scratchy throughout the innings.

Gayle threatened to break free when in the fifth over he smashed Mashrafe over long on for six before guiding two poor deliveries that followed to the fine leg fence. Other than that over however, the Narail fast bowler was immaculate in line and length finishing his first spell with the wicket of Simmons, trapped in front for 13, for 24 runs from seven overs.

Gayle repeated his 6-4-4 dose to Hasan but off the second ball of the first over from Gazi, was caught brilliantly by Tamim at the

long on fence, making it the third time the newcomer has dismissed the big Jamaican on this tour.

The new ODI regulations that many feared would hamper Bangladesh's spinners as they allow only four fielders out of the 30-yard circle in non-Powerplay overs actually helped them in this match as new batsmen struggled to find singles against the discipline of the spinners. Marlon Samuels, Kieron Pollard, Darren Sammy and Devon Thomas all fell trying to force the pace. Thomas's wicket had the tourists at 133 for eight. Skipper Mushfiqur stopped Gazi in his run-up and told the long on fielder to take a few steps to his right. Thomas obliged by hitting the next ball straight down long on's throat.

That it was not a bad pitch was proven by tailenders Ravi Rampaul and Sunil Narine, who put together 57 runs for the ninth wicket utilising the batting Powerplay during which they scored 45 runs. The resistance ended when Rampaul's sweep off Abdur Razzak popped up for the keeper to pouch, and nine runs later Gazi trapped Narine in front to finish with 4 for 29 off nine excellent overs.

Western shoppers' habits

FROM PAGE 1 however, that is rarely considered: What are the conditions like for the workers making the shirt?

A horrific fire that raced through a Bangladesh garment factory last week, killing over 100 workers, has put the spotlight -- at least temporarily -- back on those workers and their sometimes treacherous work environment.

The factory, owned by Tazreen Fashions Ltd, made clothing for several retailers around the globe including Walmart, Sears and The Walt Disney Co. All three companies have distanced themselves from responsibility for the incident, saying they didn't know that their subcontractors were using the factory.

Holiday shoppers have also maintained their distance from the tragedy.

"Truthfully, I hadn't even thought about it," said Megan Miller of Philadelphia as she walked out of the Disney Store in Times Square. "I had Christmas on my mind and getting my kids something from New York."

Shoppers from Cincinnati to Paris to Singapore all said the same thing: They were aware of the fatal factory fire, but they weren't thinking about it while browsing stores in the days since. Brand name, fit and --

above all -- prices were on their minds.

"Either our pockets get lighter or we have to live with more blood on our hands," said Amy Hong, a college student who was at a store in Singapore. "I try not to think about it."

Experts who survey shoppers say the out-of-sight, out-of-mind attitude is nothing new.

"When you talk to them about their biggest concerns, where something is made, or the abuses in some country, almost never show up," said C Britt Beemer, chairman of America's Research Group, which interviews 10,000 to 15,000 consumers a week, mostly on behalf of retailers. "The numbers are so small, I quit asking the question."

Convenience is much more important to shoppers.

Take Tammy Johnson who was at a Walmart in Bloomington, Minnesota this week. She lives nearby and appreciates that the store has a large grocery section in addition to clothing and other goods.

"It's easier and it's cheaper," she said of her decision to shop there. "I hate that, but it is true."

Even those who want to make socially responsible purchases a priority have little information available to work with.

There's no widespread system in place to say where all the materials in a shirt come from let alone whether it was made in a sweatshop or not.

A label saying "Made in USA of imported fabrics" doesn't provide as much information to shoppers as they might think. Maybe tailors assembled it under good working conditions, but what about the people who wove the fabrics? Another label saying that a shirt is made from 100 percent organic cotton fails to say anything about the conditions of the factory in which it was made.

"What do they know at the point of sale about where it comes from, other than the tag?" said Paco Underhill, founder of Envirosell, which studies consumer behaviour. "Our hearts are generally in the right places. It's the question of making sure we have the knowledge and pocketbook to follow."

Companies selling products say they even struggle to tell. Work is often given to subcontractors who themselves use subcontractors. While many major companies stipulate ethics and standards that their subcontractors must follow, policing them is a costly, time-consuming process that sounds easier than it is.

In the case of the

Bangladesh factory, Walmart said it had received a safety audit showing the factory was "high-risk" and had decided months before the blaze to stop doing business with Tazreen. But it said a supplier had continued to use Tazreen without authorisation.

In recent years, consumers have become much more aware about the food they eat, and where it comes from.

The difference: They perceive a direct benefit, since the food is going into their bodies.

Ethical choices when buying clothing are much more blurred.

Jean MacLeod, who was shopping at a Walmart on the south side of Indianapolis, is willing to pay more for goods if they are made in an ethically responsible manner and does it all the time when she buys food.

Walmart wants the best prices for its customers, she said, but the company also has power as a buyer to make sure factories have decent working conditions.

"They should be able to say, 'Look it, we don't want to buy from you unless you do things a little more our way,'" MacLeod said.

Change can only come after persistent public pressure.

Admission worry for parents

FROM PAGE 20 schools in the capital begins today and continue until 5:00pm December 9.

Private schools have already started the process of lottery and admission as per their own schedules.

The lottery for class-I admission for the government schools in Dhaka will be held on December 27 in presence of parents, teachers, school managing committee, and officials concerned, said Prof Nomanur-Rashid, director general of the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE).

"The lottery results will be announced the same day," the DG told The Daily Star.

The government is going for lottery to select pre-schoolers in 317 secondary schools across the country. There are 24 government high schools in Dhaka and 13 of them offer education for class-I, accommodating around 2,000 children.

These 13 schools usually remain on top of the limited-income parents' wish list.

Children trying to get into class-II to class-VIII of state-run high schools would have to sit for a written test on Bangla, English and mathematics.

Candidates for class-IX would be selected on the basis of their performance in the JSC and JDC exams.

Like previous years, the DSHE has divided the capital's 24 government schools in three zone groups -- A, B, and C where the admission tests would be held on December 14, 15 and 17.

Every school will arrange the test in its own facilities. Results of the tests would be published on December 30, according to DSHE sources.

A candidate would be able to sit for the test for one school in each zone group, they added.

Schools of Group-A include Government Laboratory School, Mirpur Government High School, Motijheel Government Girls' High School, Khilgaon Government High School, Islamia Government High School, Nawabpur Government High School, M o h a m m a d p u r Government High School and New Government

Girls' High School. Group-B has Motijheel Government Boys' High School, Narinda Government High School, Government Muslim High School, Banglabazar Government Girls' High School, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Government Boys' High School, Government Bigyan College High School, Dhanmondi Government Girls' High School and Dhanmondi Kamrunnesa Government Girls' High School.

Group-C schools are Dhanmondi Government Boys' High School,

Armanitola Government High School, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Government Girls' High School, Tikatuli Kamrunnesa Government Girls' High School, Tejgaon Government Girls' High School, Dhaka Collegiate School, Gonobhaban Government High School and Tejgaon Government High School.

PRIVATESCHOOLS The process of lottery and admission in most of the reputed private schools is going on as per the schools' own schedules.

Viqarunnisa Noon School, one of the most

sought-after schools for girls in the capital, has already started the lottery process.

The school has around 1,500 seats in class-I. It has already completed form distribution and interviews of the students to verify their age.

The date for the lottery would be announced after December 16.

"Since the annual exams would begin on December 1 and continue until December 15, we would announce the date after that," said Manju Ara Begum, principal of Viqarunnisa Noon School

and College.

Ideal School and College, Motijheel, another reputed private school in the capital, distributed admission forms in the first phase until Thursday from November 20.

The second phase has started on November 26 and continued till yesterday.

The last date of submitting forms for class-I is November 30 and the school is likely to hold lottery on December 17, 18, and 19.

Most private schools hold admission tests for higher classes subject to vacant seats.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার... উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি... ২০১২-২০১৩ অর্থ বৎসরে ৩য় কোয়ার্টারের ০১ জানুয়ারি/২০১৩ হতে ৩১ মার্চ/২০১৩ পর্যন্ত...

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Bangladesh is seeking applications from Bangladeshi Nationals to fill the following positions: Vacancy No., Post Title, Category, Duty Station, No of Position...

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