

Fazlul Karim
new envoy
to Mexico

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to appoint M Fazlul Karim, currently serving as ambassador in Jordan, as the new Ambassador of Bangladesh to the United Mexican States, according to a foreign ministry announcement yesterday.

A career diplomat Fazlul Karim belongs to the 1984 batch of BCS (foreign affairs) cadre and currently holds the rank of secretary/grade-A ambassador.

In his diplomatic career besides his ambassadorship in Italy, Saudi Arabia and Jordan, he served the Bangladesh Permanent Mission to United Nations in New York, Bangladesh embassies in Jakarta and Washington D.C., Bangladesh High Commission in Islamabad and Bangladesh Consulate General in Hong Kong.

অফিস স্পেস ভাড়া

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(বিদ্যুৎ, পানি, লিফট ও
জেনারেটর সুবিধাসহ)
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FOUR CITY CORPORATION POLLS

Candidates get symbols, start campaigns

CITY DESK

The mayoral and councilor candidates in four city corporation elections in Sylhet, Khulna, Barisal and Rajshahi, all scheduled for June 15, officially launched campaigns after being allocated symbols by the respective returning officers yesterday.

Three mayoral aspirants are contesting in each city. Meanwhile, the BNP-led 18-party alliance yesterday officially declared to back Rajshahi city unit Jubo Dal President Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul in the mayoral run.

Our Sylhet correspondent reports, Awami League-led ruling alliance-backed mayoral hopeful Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran got "pineapple" as his electoral symbol, BNP-led opposition alliance-backed Ariful Haque Chowdhury was allotted "television" symbol and independent candidate Salah Uddin Rimon got "lock" symbol.

Kamran, also outgoing mayor and AL city unit president, set off his campaign by visiting the shrine of Hazrat Shahjalal (RA). His campaign is being facilitated by Sammilita Nagorik Committee. BNP central committee member Ariful Haque, also backed by Sammilita Nagorik Jote, began his campaign through a meeting of the committee last evening.

Meanwhile, Shahana Begum was declared elected uncontested as she was the lone candidate for the reserved councillor seat-6 for women. Now, 136 persons are vying for 27 posts of general councillors in the city corporation election and 35 for eight reserved councillor seats for women.

In Khulna, ruling alliance-backed Talukder Abdul Khaleque got "lock and key" symbol, BNP-led alliance-backed Moniruzzaman Mony "pineapple", and

Jatiya Party (Ershad)-backed Shafiqul Islam Modhu "inkpot". The outgoing mayor Khaleque, also city unit AL president, launched his campaign by visiting ward-31. He is also backed by Sammilita Nagorik Committee.

Mony, who resigned as BNP city unit general secretary recently, started canvassing for votes in ward-23. His campaign is being assisted by Oikyobodhdo Nagorik Forum.

JP-backed Modhu is campaigning through Nagorik Unnayan Samonay Committee. In Barisal, AL city unit president and ruling alliance-backed Shawkat Hossain Hiron got "television" symbol. Sammilita Nagorik Committee is conducting campaign for him.

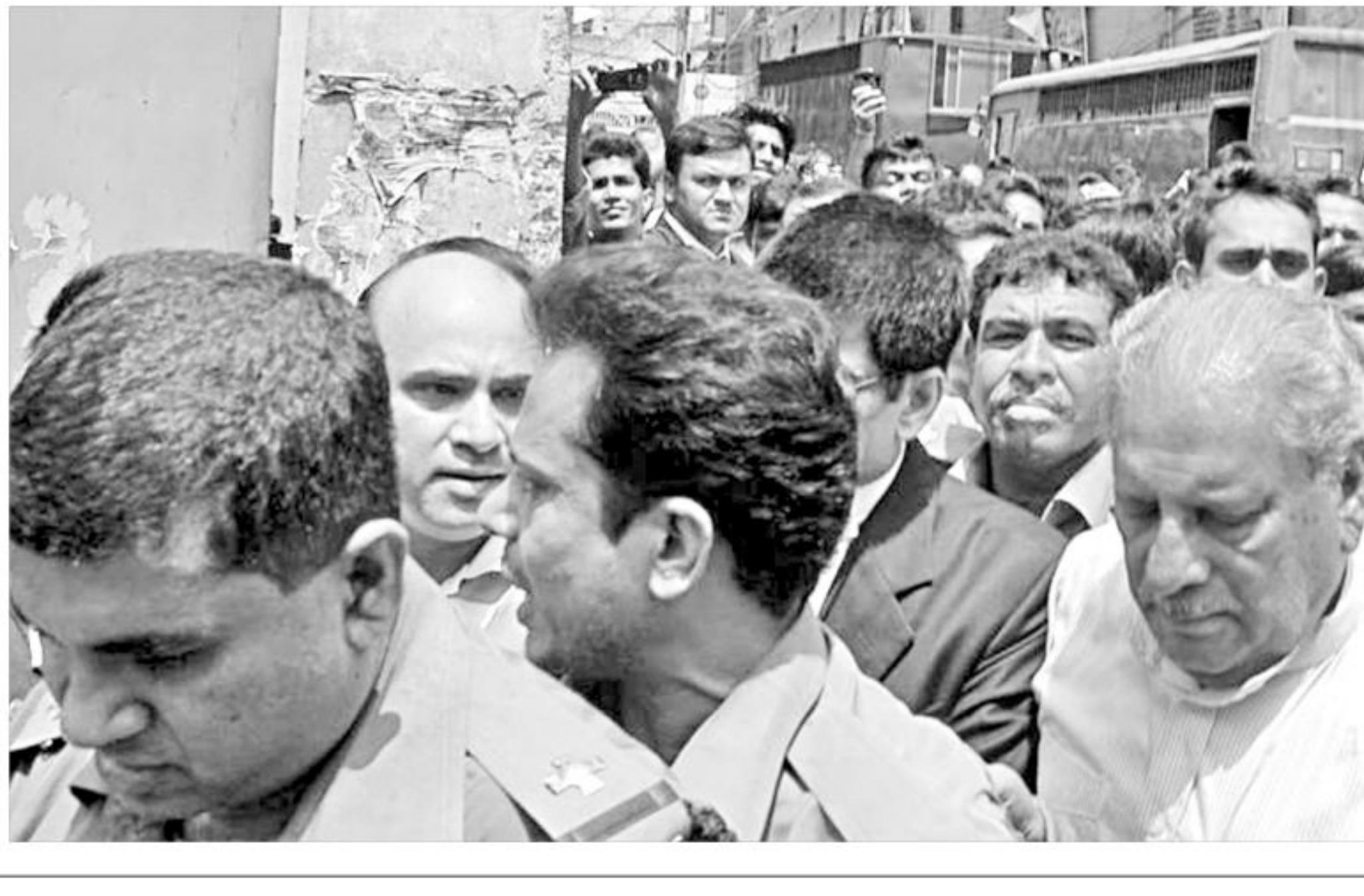
"Pineapple" symbol was allotted to BNP-led alliance-backed and former mayor Ahsan Habib Kamal. The BNP district (south) unit president is campaigning with the help of Jatiyatobadi Nagorik Parishad.

The third candidate Mahmudur Rahman Khan Mamun alias Khan Mamun, also Jubo League district unit joint secretary, got "pen-inkpot" symbol. A total of 115 persons are vying for 30 posts of general councillors and 45 for 10 reserved councillor seats for women.

Our Rajshahi correspondent reports, outgoing mayor and ruling alliance-backed AHM Khairuzzaman Liton got "lock" symbol, BNP-led alliance-backed Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul "pineapple" and independent candidate Habibur Rahman "eyeglasses".

Liton, also backed by Rajshahi Nagorik Committee, and Bulbul, backed by Sammilita Nagorik Forum, went on campaign trails after separately offering prayers at the shrine of Hazrat Shah Makhdom (RA).

There are 154 candidates vying for 30 posts of general councillors and 66 for 10 reserved councillor seats for women.



BNP Standing Committee Member MK Anwar being taken to jail yesterday after he surrendered to a Dhaka court and was denied bail in a case filed against Sweekhasebak League leader Debasish Biswas.

PHOTO: BANGLA CHOKH

VIOLENCE AHEAD OF GENERAL POLLS Mahila parishad expresses concern

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad yesterday expressed concern over the continuous violence in the country due to political instabilities ahead of the general election.

At a press conference in the capital's Jatiya Press Club, Jana Goswami, advocacy director of the parishad, read out a paper with Ayesha Khanom, president of the parishad, and Maleka Banu, its general secretary, present.

The organisation said the political conflicts are damaging the country's economy, education system, communal peace and good governance.

Criticising the communal and fundamentalist communities, the parishad also slated the role of the present opposition party for their direct and indirect support to the communities.

The organisation made some demands including ensuring safety of women and ban on the use of religion in politics.

Two found dead in Gazipur

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Two persons were found dead in different areas of Gazipur yesterday.

A teenaged boy was found dead inside a truck in Sreepur upazila.

The deceased, Suruj Mia, 16, son of Imrul Islam of Rajshahi district, worked as a helper of the truck driver Somir Uddin.

Somir was fueling up the vehicle at a filling station while locals noticed blood drops falling from the truck deck. When they checked the deck, they found the body wrapped in a plastic sheet, meanwhile the driver managed to escape.

Quoting National Poultry Farm authorities, Sreepur police said the incident occurred when the truck started rolling on the farm premises, however, the driver did not know that Suruj was sleeping underneath the vehicle.

Meanwhile, another body of a man was found behind Kulsum Confectionary in Chandana intersection area of Sadar upazila.

The victim is Shafiqul Islam, 42, of Chapainawabganj Sadar upazila.

Shafiqul was strangled, said police, adding that the body bore several injury marks.

Both the bodies were sent to Gazipur Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsies.

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