



PHOTO: STAR

Mayor aspirants of the June 15 Barisal City Corporation polls are mounting loudspeakers on hundreds of battery-run three-wheelers to conduct election campaigns in Barisal city. The photo was taken from Sadar Road yesterday.

### SCC mayoral candidates promise planned city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

All three mayoral candidates of the June 15 Sylhet City Corporation polls at a dialogue committed to turn Sylhet into a planned city by ensuring all basic civic amenities. City dwellers, including students, businessmen, professionals and housewives, who attended the dialogue, organised by BBC in the city's Jalalabad Gas auditorium on Tuesday night, raised queries on the candidates' plans to resolve the city's longstanding problems. The problems include waterlogging, crisis of drinking water, traffic congestion, grabbing of footpaths, deplorable condition of roads and absence of a proper waste management system. Outgoing mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran blamed massive urbanization for the rise of the problems. The Awami League Sylhet city unit president, being backed in the polls by the ruling 14-party alliance, claimed that waterlogging had come down in many areas after nine natural canals were reclaimed. He said 2.8 crore litres of water was being supplied to meet the demand after 14 deep tube wells were set up and a Tk 110 crore water supply project, comprising two water treatment plants, was implemented. A master plan was already prepared to turn Sylhet into a planned habitat, he said. Ariful Haque Chowdhury, the BNP Central Committee member being backed by the 18-party opposition alliance, said he successfully implemented many development projects as a former city development committee convener. The city corporation would be made a service oriented organisation through immediate measures to resolve waterlogging, rehabilitate hawkers and recover footpaths. Salah Uddin Rimon also assured to work sincerely for a better city if elected.

### Electioneering intensifies in Khulna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The three mayoral candidates of the June 15 Khulna City Corporation (KCC) polls have embarked on a war of words and intensified election campaigns in Khulna city alongside councillor aspirants to woo voters. The city is now covered with placards, posters and banners while loudspeakers seeking support in favour of their respective candidates are seen running from one end to the other. Outgoing mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque, conducting campaigns in wards 17, 18, 22 and 28 yesterday, urged voters to elect him for a second time so that he could complete unfinished development works. The Khulna city unit Awami League (AL) president, being supported by the ruling AL-led 14-party alliance, claimed his major works to be construction of 1,345 kilometres of roads, resolving the waterlogging crisis and building a corruption-free KCC. Moniruzzaman Mony, who recently resigned as BNP Khulna city unit general secretary, campaigned at Daulatpur Bazar, Khulna Medical College Hospital and Gallamary areas. Mony, being backed by the BNP-led 18-party alliance, said, "I will turn KCC into a green, clean and modern city." Stating that KCC had turned into a den for corruption in the last five years, he said, "If elected, I will make a corruption free KCC and it will be totally service-oriented." Campaigning in the kitchen markets and the truck terminal yesterday, Shafiqul Islam Modhu, Jatiya Party district unit president, said, "I will implement a 19-point election manifesto, if elected." Modhu, being backed by Jatiya Party, said people were very conscious and careful these days and cannot be misguided.

### Mock voting by EVM in BCC June 9

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The regional Election Commission on Tuesday declared to hold mock voting in ward 16 of Barisal City Corporation (BCC) on June 9 to get voters acquainted with electronic voting machines (EVM). The EVM will be used only in ward 16, one of the city's 30 wards, during the June 15 BCC polls. The ward has two polling centres and 4,181 voters. Of the voters, 2,447 males will vote in six polling booths in the Zila School centre while 1,734 females will vote in five polling booths in the Commercial College centre. The centres were chosen based on their accessibility and the number of voters and their educational qualification and professional status, said Returning Officer Mujibur Rahman. Presiding, assistant presiding and polling officers would also be trained on the use of EVM on June 7 and 8. The regional EC already started spreading word in the ward on the use of EVM.

### SCC MAYORAL POLLS No smooth sailing for Kamran this time

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

With local political and development issues alongside national ones looming overhead, many Sylhet city dwellers apprehend that victory for a third time will not be smooth sailing for outgoing mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran. The Sylhet City Corporation polls are scheduled for June 15. In the last one in 2008, Kamran won by 83,000 votes against his closest contender. Though the Awami League Sylhet city unit president is being backed by the ruling 14-party alliance, Jatiya Party is yet to formally declare backing Kamran, said JP district unit President Gias Uddin Ahmed yesterday. A faction of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, a component of the alliance, has also stated to refrain from backing Kamran. After the 18-party opposition alliance decided to back mayoral candidate Ariful Haque Chowdhury, a BNP Central Committee member, four other candidates backed down. They are BNP city unit Vice-President Nasim Hossain and General Secretary Abdul Quaiyum Jalali, Swechhasebak Dal central committee Vice-President Shamsuzzaman and

Jamaat-e-Islami city Ameer Ehsanul Mahbub Zobayer. City dwellers apprehend that supporters of all but Shamsuzzaman would vote for Ariful. Shamsuzzaman has had a longstanding rivalry with Ariful and he has refrained from campaigning for him. Meanwhile, recent local issues like violence centring the burning of MC College's hostel and armed clashes between pro-ruling student organisation Bangladesh Chhatra League and youth organisation Jubo League adversely affected Kamran's image, apprehends city dwellers. Ariful intends to capitalise on the outgoing mayor's failure in resolving the city's longstanding problems including waterlogging, traffic congestion and land grabbing. National issues, like the one centring Hefajat-e Islam, are also working against Kamran. The 18-party alliance men are keeping regular contact with Hefajat men apparently to win them over. Hefajat Sylhet city unit Convener Shahinur Pasha Chowdhury yesterday claimed that Hefajat men, though apolitical, would surely support Ariful.

## DEMAND FOR COMPENSATION Rana Plaza victims demonstrate, clash with police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The victims of the Rana Plaza collapse and their families clashed with law enforcers as they tried to demonstrate in front of the ruined building site in Savar yesterday to demand maximum compensation for all the victims and the family members of the deceased and missing workers. About 600 people gathered in front of the Rana Plaza site temporarily blocking the Dhaka-Aricha highway, with a six-point demand, which also includes a complete list of the missing people, workplace safety, and punishment for all those responsible for the collapse. The nine-storey Rana Plaza housing five garment factories crumbled on April 24, killing 1,131 people so far. Lata Begum, a protester whose waist bone was fractured in the April 24 disaster, said, "I went there around 10:30am and saw police asking them [workers] to leave the place. But they moved to one side of the road and continued with the protest. The road was free on the other side." She said that at one point, she saw a group

of men with sticks approaching the workers aggressively while police stood and watched. "That's when the workers started throwing bricks, and police responded with tear gas and rubber bullets." Rafiqul Islam Sujon, president of Bangladesh Garments and Industrial Workers Federation and secretary of Bangladesh Workers' Party, Savar Upazila, alleged, "About 12-13 local Chhatra League activists chased the workers with sticks." Officer-in-charge of Savar Model Police Station Mustafa Kamal however refuted the allegation. He said, "The workers blocked Dhaka-Aricha highway for about one and half hours, demanding punishment for Sohel Rana, who has already been arrested." He claimed that the workers broke several vehicles and threw bricks at law enforcers. "Police used tear gas and fired rubber bullets to break up the agitated workers." The OC said some policemen suffered minor injuries but no workers were hurt. The situation was brought under control around 12:00pm.

## Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Sharmin Sultana, 18, is on the brink of losing her eyesight due to severe damage to her retinas. Sharmin, who passed Secondary School Certificate examination with A grade in 2012, is now admitted at Sankara Netralaya hospital in India. Doctors suggested two more eye surgeries to save her eyesight. Her family is unable to bear the treatment cost anymore due to their financial constraints. Sharmin appeals to the generous and well-off people for financial assistance for her treatment so that she can return to her normal life and continue her studies. Assistance can be sent to savings account number-7032 at Nawapara Branch of Islami Bank Ltd in Jessore in the name of Kazi Asaduzzaman or be served by contact at 01721183622.

## Death anniversary

CITY DESK  
The 13th death anniversary of Begum Lutfunnessa Ibrahim, wife of late justice Mohammed Ibrahim, was observed yesterday. On the occasion, a milad mahfil was held at her residence, food was distributed among the destitute and wreaths were placed on her grave in the capital's Banani graveyard.

## Govt giving support to Savar victims Dipu Moni tells Norwegian minister

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday said the government is providing necessary support to the victims of Rana Plaza collapse in Savar. She also said there are a number of committees which are working on improving factory conditions and are empowered to take necessary steps for further streamlining the working atmosphere in Bangladesh's RMG sector. Dipu Moni said this to the visiting Norwegian International Development Minister Heikki Eidsvoll Holmas when he met her at the foreign ministry yesterday. The discussion largely focused on the excellent bilateral relations and economic cooperation that the two countries have had for a long time, said a foreign ministry press release. During the meeting, both ministers emphasised further cooperation for development of the two countries and the Norwegian minister informed that the Norwegian government sympathises with the victims of the Rana Plaza collapse and wishes to extend support in all forms. Meanwhile, the visiting UK Minister for International Development Allan Duncan called on the foreign minister at her office yesterday afternoon. The ministers discussed various issues of bilateral cooperation including DFID's partnership in Bangladesh's development.



Dhaka North City Corporation, while digging up footpaths on Green Road for the last 20 days to lay sewer pipes, has been leaving the dug up dirt on the road in the process, causing sufferings to users of the road. The photo was taken on Tuesday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Rana Plaza victim Sujon dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sujon Roy, a victim of the recent Rana Plaza collapse, lost his month long fight against death at the capital's Square Hospital early Tuesday. He was buried at his village home in Mithapukur in Rangpur yesterday. "He was in life support for the last one week," said his cousin Sabuj Roy. Earlier on April 29, doctors at the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Nitor) amputated his gangrene afflicted left leg, fractured by a fallen pillar. The 22-year-old packaging worker was found buried under rubble and was rescued five hours after the collapse on April 24. He worked at the 2nd floor of the building. On April 26, The Daily Star talked to him at Nitor. Having been the only source of income for his five-member family, Sujon expressed his worries about educating his sisters -- students of Class IV and Class II. With Sujon's death, Rana Plaza collapse toll now stands at 1,131.

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## Britain ready to give election advices

Says UK Minister Alan Duncan

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Britain would be happy to offer any advice if invited and if it would be helpful for peacefully conducting elections in Bangladesh, said UK Minister of State for International Development Alan Duncan yesterday. Terming the next general elections an important period for Bangladesh, he said "Bangladesh's influence is growing around the world and therefore more people now than ever before will be watching Bangladesh very closely." Replying to a question on whether the election-time government would be settled according to Bangladesh's constitution, the UK minister said it is not for them to say what exactly should happen but he hoped that the constitution will work smoothly and the polls are conducted according to agreed rules. Addressing a press conference at the British

High Commission Staff Amenities Centre in Baridhara, Duncan said he told both the prime minister and the leader of the opposition that Bangladesh needs a free, fair and respectable election maintaining the highest democratic standards without any violence. He admitted that there are some uncertainties about the rules for conducting the election and dialogue is not an easy option when the parties are contesting in the election vigorously. But once again it goes back to the need to agree on fundamental rules of democratic politics, he said. The UK minister expressed his optimism that all sides would resolve their differences through a meaningful dialogue. "It is critically important for Bangladesh's reputation that the parliamentary elections are judged to be free, fair and credible," he added.

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