

# Rivals argue

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However, AL leaders said the main opposition's demand was aimed at making the army controversial.

Nazrul Islam Khan, member of BNP standing committee, alleged that officials and police from a certain area known as ruling party's stronghold were seen in Gazipur.

It proves the ruling party is trying hard to win the polls after the defeat of AL-backed candidates in the June 15 elections to four city corporations, he said after a meeting with the chief election commissioner at the EC office in the morning.

"The present situation demands troop deployment. And it is necessary for the sake of holding a fair and peaceful election," said Nazrul.

BNP complained to CEC Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed about the freezing of bank accounts of BNP-backed mayoral candidate MA Mannan by the National Board of Revenue just days before the polls, he said.

But ruling party leaders opposed BNP's demand and argued that the opposition wants to make the army controversial.

AL leaders approached the EC over the city polls for the first time in the tenure of the present government.

BNP has already made the army controversial by questioning the rescue of garment worker Reshma, and now it wants troop deployment in the polls to make the force more controversial, said AL Advisory Council Member Tofail Ahmed after meeting the CEC in the afternoon.

"Following the Awami League-led alliance's landslide victory in the ninth parliamentary election, BNP alleged the army brought us to power. Now, if the army is deployed as per their [BNP's] demand, they will once again make the army controversial," he told reporters.

He, however, said the EC could deploy the army if it deemed that necessary.

Referring to the BNP's allegations, Tofail said BNP will continue to bring such

allegations against the AL-led government until it emerges victorious in the Gazipur polls.

HT Imam, public administration affairs adviser to the prime minister, was also present there.

The CEC said law and order in Gazipur city is quite satisfactory and it is unlikely to change.

"We are careful and ready to tackle any situation," said Rakibuddin.

He said the commission would take necessary measures if there is any specific allegation.

Apart from holding meetings with the CEC, both the parties raised allegations against each other at separate press briefings.

Speaking at a press briefing at BNP headquarters at Naya Paltan, acting BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir alleged ministers and advisers to the prime minister have been violating the electoral code of conduct.

He said Communications Minister Obaidul Quader, PM's Adviser HT Imam, and State Minister for LGRD Jahangir Kabir Nanok had "opened a special cell at Uttara near Gazipur to rig the polls".

The results of the by-election to Kishoreganj-4 constituency proved that the government rigged the polls, and they are trying to do the same in Gazipur, he alleged.

In another press briefing at the AL chief's political office in Dhanmondi, Tofail Ahmed said the atmosphere in Gazipur City Corporation is festive, and there is no need for troop deployment in the polls.

He refuted the opposition's allegations of setting up cells at Uttara and the prime minister's residence.

"BNP always demands army deployment raising allegations before elections. If the BNP-backed mayoral candidate is defeated in the polls despite troop deployment, they will blame the commission and the army," he said.



Hefajat-e Islam supporters campaigning for opposition-backed mayoral candidate MA Mannan at Gazipur intersection yesterday.

PHOTO: RAHSED SHUMON

# Campaign over

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Ajmat Ullah Khan and BNP-supported aspirant MA Mannan tried to confirm the support of garment workers, who are considered to be the deciding factor at tomorrow's polls.

Of some 10.5 lakh voters in the city, around 3.5 lakh are garment workers.

During visits in the area, The Daily Star reporters came by allegations of money distribution among voters, particularly among garment workers.

Besides others, workers of ARCH, Pandora and Diganto garment factories received money, sources said.

Sultan Miah, a garment worker in Tongi, claimed a councillor candidate had been giving money to anyone coming to him with a voter ID card. He did not name the candidate; but his claim was supported by many other voters.

Besides, supporters of the two mayoral candidates

grossly violated the electoral code of conduct by bringing out huge processions and motorbike show-downs in different parts of the city obstructing traffic.

Top leaders of the ruling AL and the opposition BNP and their associated bodies also stayed in Gazipur under cover to work for their candidates -- another violation of the election rules.

BNP Standing Committee Member Hannan Shah and Organising Secretary Fazlul Haque Milon attended a press conference at an election camp of the BNP-backed candidate at Chaurasta around 12:15pm.

None of the two are residents of the city and therefore they should not have stayed there after Wednesday night as per an Election Commission order.

In a similar violation of the rules, Jubo League

Presidium Member Atiar Rahman Dipu, along with some other outsiders, campaigned for the AL-backed candidate in the city's Konabari and industrial area yesterday.

The office of the returning officer seemed reluctant to act against such violations.

"Our observation teams are in the field. If any outsider is found here, action will be taken as per election laws," Returning Officer Matiar Rahman told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, the BNP plans to use today's Juma prayers to campaign for its mayoral candidate while AL leaders and workers plan to counter the move, sources in the two parties said.

AL insiders who are working for the party-backed aspirants alleged the BNP had been using religion to buy votes.

"We know that the BNP backed-candidate has been

using religion against us, distributing money among the garment workers and asking them to vote for him [MA Mannan]," AL Organising Secretary Ahmed Hossain told this paper.

The BNP camp has made similar allegations against the AL-backed candidate.

Requesting anonymity, a BNP leader said the law enforcement agencies and the local administration were favouring the ruling party candidates.

Officials of the Islamic Foundation in disguise yesterday tried to hold a meeting with madrasa teachers and clerics at Gazipur Central Jame Mosque for campaigning for Ajmat. But the meeting was postponed after some teachers protested the move.

On the other hand, The Daily Star reporters found Hefajat-e Islam, an Islamist group, campaigning for Mannan in different parts of

the city. They chanted slogans like: "Greetings from Hefajat, vote for Mannan's television symbol."

In addition, teachers of Gazipur Govt Mohila College in violation of their service rules campaigned among the students for Mannan, who is the founder of the college.

Many students and teachers were present when Mannan went to the college to ask for their votes.

Allegations are also rampant that supporters of the BNP-backed candidate have been using schoolboys aged between nine and 16 to campaign for their candidate at almost every ward of the city corporation.

"See, I have to promise to someone like my grandson to vote for a candidate of his choice. I'm surprised that a boy of his age [nine years] asks for votes and that he and his friends are being used in the campaign," said a tea stall owner at Shib Bari area.

# What Dhaka

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safety systems," Galanchuk Uri, director of construction of the plant, told a group of foreign journalists visiting the site.

The VVER-1200 reactor has a service life of 60 years, thus making power generation very cheap. Such reactor has four "safety trains", which back up for each other. These are core melt trap (or core catcher), passive system for heat removal from the reactor and passive system for heat removal from the steam generator.

The core melt trap is the top safety feature to minimise consequences in case of severe accidents like the one in Fukushima in Japan in 2011, where an earthquake caused partial meltdown.

Rosatom documents say, the core melt trap is immediately under the reactor pressure vessel. It is a cone-shaped metal structure of more than 800 tonnes in weight. In case of an accident, it traps

the melt fuel and prevents it from leaking onto the concrete footing of the reactor building.

This trap also prevents radioactivity from spreading beyond containment into the environment.

The core melt trap developed by Russia was installed in Chinese Tianwan plant in 2007, and later in Kudunkulam in India.

Russian company Rosatom has recently signed a contract for conducting three major studies required to design the nuclear plant in accordance with the project site and build it.

After these studies are complete, Russia will offer the design to be developed in a three-dimensional reactor modelling software, and construct the plant following negotiation over other aspects of the plant.

Rosatom currently has foreign orders worth \$70 billion and is building 19 plants overseas.

# Same old Ershad

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Both AL-backed aspirant Ajmat Ullah Khan, and Mannan met Ershad on Monday and Tuesday respectively seeking his "blessing and support".

"I blessed both of them. But I did not extend support to any," Ershad said yesterday.

But Mannan claimed that Ershad extended support to him. This created confusion, the JP chief added.

"To clear this confusion, I am extending support to Ajmat. As a component of the Awami League-led grand alliance, Jatiya Party will work for Ajmat," Ershad said at the press briefing at a bank in the capital's Gulshan area.

On Wednesday, the office of the JP chief, however, issued a statement saying it was not true that his party was favouring Mannan. JP leaders and workers could vote for candidates of their choice.

But yesterday, Ershad

urged them to vote for Ajmat.

A senior JP leader alleged that Ershad was forced to change his position. The ruling party might have warned him of an unwanted consequence like the one he had to face in 2000 when the AL was in power.

At that time, the JP chief was made to quit the BNP-led four party alliance. Pending corruption cases against him were used to this effect.

"He [Ershad] is still facing some cases which are under trial. He does not want to face any embarrassing situation now," the JP leader said, seeking anonymity.

Ershad's hurried announcement yesterday, however, proved again his unpredictable character. And it also surprised party's leaders and supporters.

"Initially, Ershad started acting like a kingmaker in Gazipur city polls. But he

finally appeared as a joker in the pack," another senior leader of his party told The Daily Star yesterday.

He mentioned that people usually consider him as a man of unpredictable character. "Now, the party's (JP) local leaders will also consider him as a really unpredictable man," he added, wishing not to be named.

Irked by the Ershad's announcement, his party's Gazipur district leaders, who have been working for Mannan, said it would not be possible for them to honour the party chief's directive now.

"We have been working for Mannan. I can't task party leaders and supporters now to work for Ajmat," Nurul Islam, general secretary of Gazipur district unit of JP, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Asked, JP district unit President Kazi Mahmud Hasan, who was reportedly working for Mannan, said

he withdrew from the city electoral race as he wanted to contest the next parliamentary polls.

"I have refrained from campaigning for anybody. But I cannot ask the local leaders and workers to change their position. If I do so, it will not be good for me when I will contest for the parliamentary polls," he added.

Gazipur city JP President Monwar Hossain, who along with some other party men has been working for Ajmat, however said party leaders and workers always follow the party chief's directive.

Welcoming Ershad's announcement, Ajmat said, "Now, Jatiya Party leaders and workers can work for me with open mind."

Contacted, Mannan, however said JP men were working for him.

Ershad's declaration came only hours before the end of campaign for the city

elections.

**JP STRENGTH**  
The JP could not win any parliamentary seat in Gazipur district in three elections since the restoration of democracy by ousting autocratic ruler Ershad in 1990.

Earlier, JP candidates had won three of the four Gazipur seats in the 1986 election which mired in controversy due to lack of fairness. Then its candidates won two seats in the 1988 polls held amid boycott by the major political parties including the AL and the BNP.

The JP did not nominate any candidate in the 2008 parliamentary polls since it was a component of the AL-led alliance at that time.

The party contested the polls in 1991, 1996 and 2001 on its own. In all these polls, its candidates lost miserably and almost all of them lost their security deposits.

# Blast kills 4 Afghan girls

AFP, Kandahar

A bomb attack killed four girls attending an Afghan wedding, officials said yesterday, blaming the attack on Taliban rebels intending to target government employees at the event.

The children, aged between seven and 12, died when an improvised explosive device (IED) detonated as they collected water from a river during celebrations in the southern province of Helmand.

"The children were at the wedding party and this morning they went to collect water when the IED exploded on a footpath," provincial administration spokesman Omar Zwak told AFP.

# Egypt swears in interim president

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ultimatum in the wake of massive demonstrations since June 30 against his turbulent rule.

Military chief General Abdel Fattah al-Sisi announced Morsi's overthrow, citing his inability to end a deepening political crisis, as dozens of armoured personnel carriers streamed onto Cairo's streets.

And yesterday, the army turned the screws on the Brotherhood, with military police arresting supreme leader Mohammed Badie "for inciting the killing of protesters", a security official told AFP.

A judicial source said the prosecution would on Monday begin questioning members of the group,

including Morsi, for "insulting the judiciary" as the charges began to pile up.

Other Brotherhood leaders would be questioned on the same charges, including the head of the group's political arm Saad al-Katani, Mohammed al-Beltagui, Gamal Gibril and Taher Abdel Mohsen.

Morsi and other senior leaders have also been banned from travel pending investigation into their involvement in a prison break in 2011.

The arrests came after chief justice Adly Mansour, 67, was sworn in as interim president at a ceremony broadcast live from the Supreme Constitutional Court.

He will serve until elec-

tions at a yet-to-be determined date, said Sisi, as he laid out a roadmap for a political transition that includes a freeze on the Islamist-drafted constitution.

As the world debated whether the military's action amounted to a real coup, analysts agreed that Morsi and his Islamist movement brought about their own rapid demise.

"Morsi and the Brotherhood made almost every conceivable mistake... they alienated potential allies, ignored rising discontent, (and) focused more on consolidating their rule than on using what tools they did have," Nathan Brown wrote on the New Republican website.

Morsi had issued a defiant call for supporters to protect his elected "legitimacy", in a recorded speech hours after the military announced his ouster.

"We had to confront it at some point, this threatening rhetoric," the officer said. "He succeeded in creating enmity between Egyptians."

Morsi's rule was marked by a spiralling economic crisis, shortages of fuel and often deadly opposition protests.

Thousands of protesters dispersed after celebrating wildly through the night at the news of his downfall.

Egypt's press almost unanimously hailed Morsi's ouster as a "legitimate" revolution.

"And the people's revolution was victorious," read the

front page of state-owned Al-Akhbar. Morsi's opponents had accused him of failing the 2011 revolution by concentrating power in the hands of his Brotherhood.

His supporters say he inherited many problems from a corrupt regime, and that he should have been allowed to complete his term, which had been due to run until 2016.

US President Barack Obama said he was "deeply concerned" over Morsi's ouster and urged the army to refrain from "arbitrary arrests".

In May, Washington approved \$1.3 billion in military aid to Egypt. That was now under review, said Obama, as he called for a swift

return to democratic rule.

Germany termed Morsi's ouster by the military "a major setback for democracy in Egypt", while Russia called on all Egyptian political forces to "exercise restraint".

UN chief Ban Ki-moon said civilian rule "should be resumed as soon as possible" and that Egypt's future should reflect the people's will, in a statement echoed by Nato.

At least 10 people were killed in clashes in Alexandria and in the southern province of Minya during the night, security officials said.

In addition to rounding up Brotherhood members, the security forces also turned off broadcasts by the group's television channel, a Morsi aide told AFP.

# Tripura ready to help find war heroes' graves

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

A Bangladeshi delegation was assured today that efforts would be made to find the graves of the "freedom fighters" who died during the 1971 Liberation War against Pakistan.

"If Bangladesh gives us a list of cemeteries and possible locations, we would definitely try to find them with their help and hand over the mortal remains to them," said West.

Tripura District Magistrate Kiran Gite after yesterday's meeting with the visiting delegation in Agartala, the capital of Tripura.

The two-day Indo-Bangladesh district collector level meeting began in Agartala yesterday to discuss identification of the cemeteries of the soldiers of the Liberation War.

More than 2,000 Bangladeshi freedom fighters are believed to be buried in remote areas of Indian border States like Tripura, Meghalaya, Assam and West Bengal.

Tripura, sharing 856km border with Bangladesh, was headquarters of the Bangladesh Liberation War. The state also accommodated 16 lakh refugees from Bangladesh at a time when its own population was 15 lakh.

While Gite led the Indian delegation at the meeting, the Bangladesh side was led by Brahmanbaria Deputy Commissioner Nur Mohammad Majumder.

The meeting, which concludes today, is also expected to discuss issues like barbed wire fencing, smuggling and infiltration.

# 11 crew missing

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As the ship had started to tilt, all the 17 crew of Bangladeshi origin abandoned it fearing that it would capsize, said Shafiqul.

The rescuers of Thailand Navy -- who immediately launched the rescue operation with rescue ships, speedboats, and helicopters -- rescued six of them.

The rescued are Md Abdul Hakim, Moklesur Rahman, Abu Bakkar Siddique, Md Rubel, Md Osman, and Saiful Islam.

Eleven others, who jumped into the sea with lifeboats, remained missing till filing of the report as of 8:00pm, said Captain Mohiuddin Abdul Kadir, who was keeping contact with the rescuers on behalf of the ship owner's firm Trade Breeze Shipping Limited.

The missing crew are Rajib Chandra Karmakar, Md Mahub Morshed, Mubarak Hossain, Faizur, Kazi Saifuddin, Md Najam Uddin, Mushfiqur Rahman, Chadim Ali, Nasir Uddin, Ali Hossain, and Nasir Uddin.

They were yet to be rescued after several hours of the search operation, Kadir added.

The MMD principal officer said the cargo goods inside the ship had been displaced due to the rough condition of the sea, which might have contributed to the tilt.

The MV Hope left Port Lumut of Malaysia on July 2 with the cargo, and was scheduled to reach Chittagong Port by July 8.

# Correction

In our yesterday's front-page report headlined "Airport can now expand", it was inadvertently mentioned that Summit Group is owned by Civil Aviation Minister Faruk Khan. In fact, Faruk Khan has no stake in the company. His brother Aziz Khan and a few others own the company.

We regret the error.