

AL not waking

FROM PAGE 1
Some think a three-week gap between the June 15 and July 6 elections was not enough to turn things around. That may be true, but the party did not even initiate the process to utilise the strength of its grassroots.

But now that Gazipur too is lost, top AL leaders want to do some serious soul-searching to get back on track.

"The Awami League should learn from mistakes to avoid a debacle in the next national election as time is running out very fast," AL Presidium Member Obaidul Quader told The Daily Star yesterday.

Quader, also the communications minister, admitted that the wake-up call did not work in the GCC polls.

Talking to reporters at his ministry office, he said: "We'll investigate and analyse why people didn't vote [for the AL-backed candidate]. We'll draw on the defeat and correct our mistakes to turn the negative votes into positive ones."

People's common grievance against the AL is one of the core reasons behind the defeats of the AL-supported contenders, he said, adding that the GCC polls result was a "warning message" for the government.

"We'll do everything to bring back people's trust

during the next parliamentary elections," said the AL policymaker.

AL lawmaker Saber Hossain Chowdhury said, "We need to find out why we are not waking up and acting accordingly."

"There should be a detailed, objective analysis of the reasons behind the debacle in the city elections. We need to understand the pulse of the people and reconnect with them. To do so, a process needs to be started immediately before time runs out."

Saber, a former political secretary to the AL president, said the party needed to prepare a communication strategy and fix who the messenger would be.

Party insiders said the high command was planning to revamp the party leadership following the defeat in the four city polls. But the party is yet to decide on how it should go about it.

A special council might be held after Eid-ul-Fitr to bring in those left out in the last two councils, added the sources.

A top policymaker told this correspondent that he would talk to the party chief about bringing in the "old leadership" to gear up the party activities ahead of the general elections.



Kazi Saifuddin



Md Nazam Uddin



Rajib Chandra Karmaker



Mohammed Sadim Ali



Mahabub Morshed



Md Abdul Hakim



Nasir Uddin



Mohammed Rubel



Saiful Islam



Md Moklechur Rahman



Mohammad Osman



Md Ali Hossain



Nasir Uddin

Back from jaws of death

FROM PAGE 1
members returned to Chittagong yesterday on the same ship that had rescued them from the rough sea on July 4 in Phuket.

Deck Cadet Md. Moklesur Rahman, 4th Engineer Md. Abdul Hakim, Deck Fitter Mohammed Rubel, Oiler Mohammed Osman and GS Saiful Islam were rescued by a Liberian

freighter ship BUX MOON which was heading for Chittagong port at the time of the rescue. The five rescued men took a lift with the rescuers to return home.

At around midnight Bakar and the second officer Mobarak Hossain noticed that the ship was tilting as the cargo inside was rolling from one side. At once they called on the captain who later asked all the crew to come on the

deck. The captain hurriedly sent signals and messages to the nearby ships for rescue and tried to run the ship to the shore but the sea was so rough.

"We waited on the ship for one and a half hours before the electricity was disconnected stopping the engine," said Bakar, adding that the captain then ordered us to wear life jackets and abandon the

ship. "At one stage when it was impossible for us to stay onboard, we floated a life raft and 12 of us jumped into it but the rest five including the chief officer could not manage to jump on the raft and fell into the rough sea," he said.

Being afloat for a while, Bakar saw MV Buxmoon approaching them. When few of the crew tried to catch the ropes thrown

from it, the life raft went upside down.

"I thought I died. But when regained my sense I found myself just under the life raft. I didn't have my life jacket but managed to grasp a rope of the raft," said Bakar, adding he then managed to get on the raft.

"The crew of Buxmoon noticed me and they tried 5 to 6 times to reach me to me. But they could not as strong waves pushed the

raft away. At one stage the vessel sailed off," said Bakar who remained on the raft till morning when the vessel came back. It was raining then amid strong wind and waves and this time too the crew failed to reach me.

Several hours later Bakar could see a helicopter on the sky and finally, the men from the chopper rescued me, he said. "I am hoping to go back home soon," he added.

Mannan eager to work with rival

Ajmat congratulates mayor-elect

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Mayor-elect MA Mannan of Gazipur City Corporation yesterday expressed

willingness to work with his defeated rival Ajmat Ullah Khan for the development of the city.

"I want to work not only with my main rival [Ajmat], but also with all others for the development of the city," he told reporters at his main electoral camp in Gazipur city.

Mannan, who had been supported by the BNP-led 18-party alliance in the election, won a landslide victory in the first-ever mayoral election to Gazipur City Corporation, defeating Ajmat by about 1,06,577 votes.

Mannan, also an adviser to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, said he would undertake short, medium and long-term projects to transform Gazipur into a modern city.

"I will also form consultancy committees with renowned citizens of the city corporation to achieve it," he added.

Meanwhile, Ajmat, who had been backed by the ruling Awami League in the polls, congratulated Mannan on his election as mayor, and said he would provide all sorts of assistance to Mannan, if needed.

At a press briefing at his house in Tongi yesterday, Ajmat hoped Mannan would fulfil the voters' hopes and aspirations through his work.

"People did what they considered appropriate," he said referring to his defeat in the election.

Mannan went to Ajmat's house around 6:15pm yesterday, but Ajmat was not at home at that time.

BNP executive committee member Hasan Uddin Sarker and Gazipur Upazila Chairman Shahan Shah Alam had accompanied him, said Masud Rana, personal secretary to Mannan, last night.

"Mannan will go to Ajmat's house again around 11:00am tomorrow [today]," he added.

The Gazipur city was calm yesterday, and no incident of violence took place there.

Nothing to do

FROM PAGE 1
Grameen Bank and its founder Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus also has exposed the government's vengeful character.

The district leaders also pointed to the lack of coordination in electioneering.

They said although many central leaders and lawmakers came to Gazipur and revitalised the grassroots leaders, some did not perform their duties the way they should have done. Some even acted like VIPs and did not reach out to the public.

"The lack of coordination among the leaders and workers was reflected in the election results," said Amir Hamza, health, forest and environment affairs secretary of district AL.

Nasir Uddin George, a former organising secretary of district Chhatra League, echoed Hamza's view, saying, "Such disastrous results were waiting for us."

The grassroots leaders said the religion card was widely used in this election but central and local leaders could not come up with a strong counter campaign.

"Hefajat men ran a smear campaign portraying Awami League as an anti-Islamic party. They also convinced people to vote against Awami League candidates in the city polls," said Azgar Rashid Khan, a member of district AL unit.

The leaders said forcing AL rebel candidate Jahangir Alam to quit the race and obtaining Jatiya Party's support for Ajmat

Ullah Khan also contributed to the unexpected results.

"It would have been better if we had settled Jahangir's issue at the beginning. Jahangir's participation in the polls split party supporters," said Fazlul Haque, president of Tongi thana AL unit.

"Even we could not manage Jatiya Party's support properly. Almost all Jatiya Party men worked against our candidate."

The leaders also blamed organisational weakness and internal conflict in the district for the defeat. Before the elections, BNP got united solving the internal conflicts, but AL leaders could not do so, they said.

"Even many district Awami League leaders did not want Ajmat to win in the election in their personal interest," said a district-level AL leader wishing anonymity. "Ajmat's clean image and honesty might have appeared as a threat to those leaders."

Asked about organisational weakness, AKM Mozammel Huq MP, president of district AL, said there are some weaknesses and this is why "our success stories could not reach the people."

Rajab Ali, general secretary of Tongi thana AL, said this result was not expected as leaders from across the country campaigned for Ajmat. "Now we have to find out the reasons immediately and take steps to overcome the problems."

Mozammel echoed the same. "We have to be more careful."

PM goes

FROM PAGE 16
After their talks and a signing ceremony, the two leaders will hold a joint press briefing on the same day.

In the evening, Belarus premier will host a banquet at Frunze 15 residence in honour of her Bangladesh counterpart.

On Wednesday, Hasina will visit Khatyn State Memorial Complex and place a wreath there and sign the visitors' book.

She will attend a business council meeting of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) and Belarus Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BelCCI) on that day.

Hasina and her Belarus counterpart will deliver their speeches at the meeting.

Later in the day, she will visit Minsk Automobile Plant and Minsk Milk Production Factory.

Hasina will leave Minsk for home on the same day and reach Dhaka on Thursday.

US 'not aligned'

FROM PAGE 16
some in Egypt that we are working with specific political parties or movements to dictate how Egypt's transition should proceed," it said.

"We remain committed to the Egyptian people and their aspirations for democracy, economy opportunity, and dignity. But the future path of Egypt can only be determined by the Egyptian people," added the statement.

Egypt's presidency in a statement on Saturday said ElBaradei has not been officially appointed prime minister, after several official sources said the former chief of UN nuclear watchdog had been named premier.

The statement, however, added that ElBaradei was "the logical choice" among a list of names being considered in the wake of the military's ouster of Morsi.

Meanwhile, Putin said Egypt risks slipping into civil war following the military overthrow of Morsi.

"Syria is already in the grips of a civil war, unfortunately enough, and Egypt is moving in that direction," Russian news agencies quoted Putin as saying while on a visit to Kazakhstan.

"We would like to see the Egyptian people avoid this fate," he said.

The Russian foreign ministry has previously called on all sides in the political crisis to exercise "restraint."

Bangladesh two years ahead

FROM PAGE 1
years of growth and development, not just for the people in impoverished settlements along the coastal belts and river banks, but for the entire nation," he said in the presentation.

Speaking as the chief guest at the function, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said big countries -- both developing and developed -- should check carbon emissions.

Poverty should not exist anywhere in the world by 2030. And the world leaders should think how to keep food and energy prices stable

to make it happen, said Muhith.

In 2000, the heads of state and government of 189 countries set the MDG targets to reduce poverty and hunger across the globe by 2015.

Bangladesh is one of the signatories to the MDG charter that has eight main goals with 60 indicators. And of those indicators, 34 have specific targets.

Bangladesh has already met the target in nine indicators, including poverty reduction, attaining gender parity at primary and secondary level education, and reduction in

the prevalence of malaria and mortality rate under the age of five, according to the report.

It said Bangladesh is on track in 11 indicators and is expected to achieve the targets by 2015.

Alam, however, said Bangladesh would need more time to achieve the target in case of some MDGs.

He said too many children are still denied their right to primary education and environmental sustainability is under severe threat.

According to the report, at the time of setting the MDG

targets, the rich countries said they would provide 0.7 percent of their Gross National Income (GNI) as assistance to the least developed countries, but in reality they gave only 0.29 percent of the GNI.

Foreign assistance to Bangladesh fell to 1.6 percent of the GDP in fiscal 2010-11 from 5.6 percent in 1990-91, showed the report.

Planning Minister AK Khandker, Food Minister Abdur Razzaque and UN Resident Coordinator Neal Walker also spoke at the function.



Icons, enjoy a complimentary stay with your loved ones!

Enjoy a night of peace and serenity after a fun filled exciting day at Foy's Lake or at Fantasy Kingdom

Icons can enjoy:

- Complimentary one night accommodation at Resort Atlantis, Dhaka or Foy's Lake Resort, Chittagong
- Complimentary entry and unlimited exciting rides at Water Kingdom or Sea World
- Complimentary entry and rides at Fantasy Kingdom or Foy's Lake with lunch and refreshments
- Complimentary race at Xtreme Racing Go-Kart at Fantasy Kingdom



To join the world of icons, please call 019 20 000 000. For icons to avail this offer, contact your dedicated icon manager

* Package is applicable for two persons with one child (aged up to 12 years old) • Package needs to be booked in advance, and will be provided on first-come-first-serve basis • Offer valid till 30 June, 2014

feel special

The Premium Telecom Brand

