

Don't get on campaign trail until bail decision

HC tells Dhaka South's BNP-backed mayoral contestant Mirza Abbas; fixes tomorrow for decision on his bail in two cases, petition in graft case to go to another bench; directs govt not to arrest or harass him until order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed BNP-backed mayoral candidate Mirza Abbas not to conduct any election campaign and not to talk to the media until it passes orders on his two anticipatory bail petitions in two cases tomorrow.

The HC also asked Attorney General Mahubey Alam to take steps so that Abbas is not harassed or arrested before passing the orders in the vandalism and arson cases.

The bench of Justice Quamrul Islam Siquique and Justice Gobinda Chandra Tagore also dropped from its hearing list another bail petition of Abbas in a corruption case for disposing of it with a specific bench.

Additional Attorney General Momtaz Uddin Fakir told The Daily Star that law

enforcers can arrest Abbas in the graft case but not in the two cases. However, Abbas's lawyer AM Mahub Uddin Khokon told reporters that police cannot arrest his client before the court's orders on his three bail petitions.

On Sunday, Abbas submitted the three petitions to the HC seeking anticipatory bail in the three cases. One was filed with Paltan Police Station on last December 29 while another with Motijheel Police Station on January 4 this year on the charge of vandalising vehicles. The Anti-Corruption Commission also filed a graft case on March 6 last year.

Citing a bail petition, Deputy Attorney General Bashir Ullah told The Daily Star that Abbas was not accused in the corruption case, but he sought bail apprehending that he might be arrested in this case.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

A student of the fine arts faculty of Dhaka University gives finishing touches yesterday afternoon to a giant replica of a deer, made of papier meche and bamboo, which will adorn the traditional Pahela Baishakh procession on the campus today, known as Mongol Shobhajatra.

Give symbol to DSCC councillor aspirant Abu Sayeed: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the returning officer concerned to immediately allot an electoral symbol to Haji Md Abu Sayeed, a councillor candidate in ward no 35 of Dhaka South City Corporation.

The HC passed the order following a writ petition filed by Abu Sayeed.

Petitioner's lawyer Manzill Murshid told the court that his client has not

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Pledge to make Dhaka women friendly

Mahila Parishad urges candidates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All mayoral and councillor candidates must pledge to make Dhaka city safe and friendly for women, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad said at a pre-election press conference yesterday, presenting a charter of its demands.

The rights body said females of all ages were falling victim to different forms of violence every day due to a lack of safety and proper atmosphere in the capital. Women cannot walk safely, as the streets are not sufficiently lighted, its leaders told the conference at Jatiya Press Club.

In a statement, the Parishad said one third of Dhaka city's total population of 1.45 crore, or 57 lakh, were women, and demanded more secure hostels for working women, daycare centres for their children, separate public toilets and public buses, and women-friendly markets.

The city is gradually becoming uninhabitable due to a lack of coordination among the service providing agencies, mismanagement and corruption, the statement said.

To ensure the healthy development of children, there must be more playgrounds, and adequate security and

improvement at the amusement parks, it said.

In the 44-point charter, Mahila Parishad also urged the Election Commission to hold the April 28 polls in a free, fair, and neutral manner, keep it free from muscle power and black money, and prevent the abuse of religion in campaigns.

Acting President of Mahila Parishad Fauzia Moslem moderated the press conference, while General Secretary Maleka Banu was present.

Kazi Sufia Akhter, movement secretary of the Parishad, read out the statement.

Be very prompt in maintaining order during polls

Ctg city returning officer asks law enforcers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The returning officer (RO) yesterday directed the law enforcement agencies to take prompt action if deterioration of law and order situation is reported anywhere in Chittagong city centring about the upcoming city corporation vote.

"We urged them to work in the field, examine past records, and identify the risky places," RO Abdul Baten told a press conference after a meeting with the "coordination cell to maintain law and order" at EC's office on Jubilee Road.

Officials of Chittagong Metropolitan Police, Border Guard Bangladesh, Rapid Action Battalion, and intelligence agencies like DGI were present.

"The law enforcement agencies assured us to take necessary steps to resist intrusion of criminals or terrorists from

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Manju of Ctg takes break from campaign for brother's illness

Nasir's goes on in full swing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Because of the illness of his younger brother, BNP-backed mayor candidate M Manjur withheld his campaign yesterday for the April 28 Chittagong city election.

His main challenger AZM Nasir Uddin, an Awami League leader, however, visited people of different places all throughout the day.

During his campaign, Nasir said, "I think the people will not go to the mayor, but rather the mayor will go

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Ayesha Khatun has seen more than a hundred Pahela Baishakhs (she claims she is 108 or 110), and observed how society has changed with time. Talking to the photojournalist in front of her house in Bir Nahail village at Tangail sadar upazila yesterday, she spreads her trembling hands to give an idea of how big hilsas used to be in the past. She did not remember when she tasted a hilsa last but said her husband would buy the fish for Tk 1 or 2 in their early days of marriage. Widowed two years ago, the mother of five sons thinks good food has been a rarity today, while greed has become the order of the day.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

Bangladeshi UN peacekeeper dies in Central African Republic road crash

12 of his comrades hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A member of Bangladesh Army working in UN peacekeeping mission in Central African Republic was killed and his 12 fellow peacekeepers were injured in a road accident on April 9.

Lance Corporal Md Nazrul Islam, 32, died from head injuries in a hospital, said a press release issued by Inter Service Public Relations Directorate (ISPR) yesterday.

Army officials in Bangladesh said a flatbed truck lost control and hit the vehicle, which was carrying Nazrul and other peacekeepers, at Boutli, around 80km off the country's capital Bangui.

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Prosecution gets 5 more days for charging 8 'Al-Badr' men of Jamalpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hearing a petition, International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday granted the prosecution five more days till April 19, when they have to submit formal charges against eight Jamalpur "Al-Badr men" centring about crimes against humanity committed there during the 1971 Liberation War.

Yesterday was fixed for the submission as per its March 30 order, but Prosecutor Sultan Mahmud Simon said they could not complete preparations as two colleagues were ill.

On March 25, the agency probing war crimes provided the prosecution a report and documents containing evidence against

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