



In violation of the electoral code of conduct, campaigners wear shirts emblazoned with the picture of elephant, the electoral symbol of Awami League-backed mayoral candidate AZM Nasir Uddin, in Chittagong city's Pathantuli area yesterday. PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

# Dhaka mayoral races see new campaign methods

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

From cleaning the street with a broomstick to visiting the rival's home, leading mayoral aspirants in Dhaka city are coming up with innovative ideas of campaigning every day to woo voters.

The new approaches get going when the streets, lanes and alleys remain all abuzz with the loudspeakers seeking votes for both mayor and councillor candidates at every part of the capital.

In Gulshan Shooting Club area, Awami League favourite in the north Annisul Huq was seen sweeping the street yesterday with a broomstick as a token of his commitment to make the city clean.

"It is not possible for a mayor alone to keep Dhaka city clean. For that, a concerted effort is needed. If we all try together, we can have a clean Dhaka," he told reporters.

Celebrities including Tarana Halim, ATM Shamsuzzaman, Ramendu Mazumdar, Dr Inamul Huq, Sharmilee Ahmed, Tamalika Karmakar, and Murad Parvez participated in the programme and sought votes for Annisul.

Besides, Sahasra Nagorik Committee, a citizens' platform, urged all to vote for Annisul and Sayeed Khokon, the AL-backed mayoral hopeful in Dhaka south.

The Committee will start campaigning for the two AL favourites today, announced its Convener Syed Shamsul Haque through a press conference yesterday.

The Committee also dismissed BNP's demand for deployment of army, saying there would be no need of it because there had been no fear, so far, about holding the elections peacefully.

Jatiya Party-backed Dhaka north mayoral candidate Bahauddin Ahmed Bablu campaigned in Uttara Sector 1 and 10, while Tabith visited Gabtoli and some other areas.

Talking to reporters, Tabith alleged that BNP-backed councillor candidates were facing troubles in conducting campaigns.

Bikolpo Dhara Bangladesh-blessed candidate in Dhaka north Mahi B Chowdhury campaigned in Uttara Sector 3, 12 and 13.

In Dhaka south, Sayeed Khokon started off from Jhauchar Baro Masjid at Hazaribagh SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

# Most CCC candidates own businesses

Shows SHUJAN analysis; it fears violence, says army should be deployed if EC feels necessary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two-thirds of the total 286 mayor and councillor candidates in Chittagong city own businesses and one fifth face cases, shows an analysis of their profiles by civil society body SHUJAN.

Shushashoner Jannoy Nagorik (SHUJAN) revealed the report through a news conference at Chittagong Press Club yesterday.

The findings show that 188 candidates, or 65.73 percent, are involved with businesses, while three mayoral aspirants -- AZM

Nasir Uddin, M Manjur Alam and Solaiman Alam Seth -- have properties worth over Tk 5 crore.

Sixty-three candidates, or 22 percent of the total, are accused in at least one case, while the educational qualification of 156 candidates (54.54 percent) is SSC or below SSC, and only 71 aspirants (24.82 percent) are graduates and postgraduates.

Prof Sikander Khan, president of SHUJAN, Chittagong chapter, said the information of candidates would help voters choose their favourites.

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# CHITTAGONG Attacks on pro-BNP candidates on rise

Alleges party leader Amir Khasru, demands army deployment during polls; Khandaker Mabhub wants CCTV cameras in polling centres

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

BNP leader Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday alleged that criminal activities "in favour of the ruling party-backed mayor candidate" were rising in Chittagong city, which he said might destroy the environment conducive to a free, fair and acceptable election.

He referred to two attacks on the 20-party affiliated candidates and accused the law enforcement agencies of being apparently inactive. The city BNP president reiterated

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# EC decides today whether to deploy army

Most Dhaka mayor aspirants for deployment

STAR REPORT

The Election Commission will decide today whether it will deploy army to ensure a free and fair voting in the April 28 election to Dhaka and Chittagong city corporations.

Meanwhile, most mayor candidates outside the Awami League camp have demanded deployment of army, saying the people do not have trust in the regular law enforcement agencies.

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# AL MEN'S VIRULENCE AT RU VC'S OFFICE Demand for exemplary punishment ringing

BCL submits memorandum to university admin with seven-point demand

RU CORRESPONDENT

Demands continued to come in protests and through social media and statements yesterday for arrest of and trial-based exemplary punishment for Awami League lawmaker Omar Faruque Chowdhury and Rajshahi city unit General Secretary Dablu Sarker over their "virulent" behaviour at the Rajshahi University (RU) vice-chancellor's (VC) office recently.

RU's 30,000 students and teachers have been abused since the VC represents them said the protestors, adding that such deeds, to make RU a political party's assets, were unacceptable.

On Wednesday, Omar barged into VC Muhammad SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Bangladesh Christian Association, and National Church Association Bangladesh form a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday in protest against grabbing of an 165-year-old pond belonging to Saint Peter's Church adjacent to a Barisal court. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

# Govt formed in Mujibnagar was not temporary

Says Sector Commanders Forum chief KM Safiullah

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sector Commanders Forum (SCF) Chairman Maj Gen (ret'd) KM Safiullah yesterday said the Mujibnagar government, which was formed on April 17, 1971, was the first government of Bangladesh and was not a provisional one.

"The government conducted the war, and we were under its command. That was the real government," he told a discussion in the capital's Bangladesh National Museum.

Led by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as president and Tajuddin Ahmad as prime minister, the Mujibnagar government is also known as the government in exile.

Safiullah said many had confusions about who proclaimed independence but Ziaur Rahman, a former president, himself never claimed that he did it.

Zia in his article in the SEE PAGE 5 COL 7

বাংলাদেশে প্রস্তুত আন্তর্জাতিক মানের একমাত্র এবং সর্বপ্রথম ISO 9001:2008 স্বীকৃত

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# Stop tobacco farming on paddy, jute fields

Prothom Alo roundtable puts forward demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Conversion of fertile paddy and jute lands into tobacco farming has to be halted immediately and expansion of tobacco acreage has to be stopped in the country, demanded discussants at a roundtable in the capital yesterday.

Addressing the programme, State Minister for Home Affairs Asaduzzaman Khan expressed deep concern at rapid expansion of tobacco cultivation and said, "We must stop conversion of paddy and jute lands into tobacco farming."

Data were made available at the roundtable showing that national health costs due to tobacco-induced illness and health vulnerabilities is much higher than the amount of money state earns from tobacco tax.

Bangla daily Prothom Alo and anti-tobacco group Progga jointly organised the roundtable "Tobacco control law and tobacco-free environment" at the newspaper's office.

Lawmaker Fazilatunnessa Bappy called for making sure that state-provided farm input facilities do not reach tobacco farming. She expressed concern at promotional tetchiness of tobacco companies resulting in an increase in the number of young smokers.

Prothom Alo Editor Matiuur Rahman committed himself to devoting the paper's space for free to anti-tobacco campaigns. The daily's Associate Editor Anisul Hoque called SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

## এই নববর্ষেই হোক আপনার নতুন চিহ্নানা

সকল প্রকার ইউটিলিটি সংযোগসহ ইস্টার্ন হাউজিং লিমিটেড -এর প্রকল্পসমূহ আপনার অপেক্ষায়

- পাহুপথ
- উত্তরা সেক্টর ১৩
- উত্তরা সেক্টর ৩
- উত্তরা সেক্টর ১১
- নওয়াব কাটারা
- কমলাপুর (অফিস)
- বিজয়নগর (অফিস)
- সিলেট (অফিস)

বৈশাখী মূল্যছাড়

আজই যোগাযোগ করুন

০১৮১১ ৪৮৫৪১১-০১৮১১ ৪৮৫৪১৫ (মতিঝিল)  
০১৮১১ ৪৮৫৪১৬, ০১৮১১ ৪৮৫৪৩৬ (গুলশান)